

Oregon TECH

FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

October 4, 2016, 6:00 PM, Mt. McLoughlin Room, College Union

Attendance/Quorum

President David Thaemert called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. All senators or alternates were present except for Ryan Madden. Josie Hudspeth attended as one of the two Administrative Council representatives. A quorum was determined.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the June 7, 2016, regular meeting were approved as corrected. The correction was the removal of the last two sentences of the first paragraph of the Faculty Rank Promotion and Tenure report given by Hugh Jarrard. Motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Ken Usher. Motion was seconded and passed with no abstentions. The minutes of the June 7, 2016 Organizational Meeting were approved as written.

Reports of Officers

Report of the President – David Thaemert

- President Thaemert stated that Faculty Senate committees have been finalized and will be posted on the website. The Senate Executive (SenEx) committee held a meeting with committee chairs regarding committee charges. Meetings of committees are being scheduled now.
- He also spoke about the Faculty-Administration meeting. The meeting was well attended by faculty. Brian Fox, VP of Finance and Administration, talked of the plan regarding salary, COLA, S&S budgets and some of the rollover accounts. Please inform SenEx if you have particular topics you would like to see addressed with the university community.
- The Presidential Search is being conducted. Currently there are approximately 30 candidates. This number will be trimmed to about a dozen well-qualified candidates; then “airport” interviews will be conducted. On-site visits and forums will probably be held during the first ten days of November.
- Senate members need to notify Secretary Don McDonnell of their alternate Senator.
- The draft of proposed changes to the Welfare committee will be reviewed by the committee this week at their meeting.

Report of the Vice President – Hugh Jarrard

Hugh stated that the Academic Council met on August 1, 2016 for the Department Chair Retreat. At this meeting they explored the use of university dollars and department strategic plans leading to university plans. Dean Maupin spoke of the rubrics that were developed by Department Chairs at the retreat and how they factor into General Education. She will read all the department reports to determine the fit of the “new” GenEd model into the current model.

Hugh stated that Faculty Fiscal Operations Advisory Council (FOAC) will not meet until the end of October. The elections committee will initiate the process to elect an IFS representative, they would like feedback on the possibility of using Qualtrics for the election.

Reports of Standing Committees

Faculty Rank Promotion & Tenure (RPT) – Ken Usher

Ken stated that they are scheduling their first meeting. They will first discuss the promotion policy and other related changes for non-tenured faculty.

Faculty Welfare – Yasha Rohwer

Yasha Rohwer stated that the committee will be meeting this Friday, October 7, 2016 to discuss what issues Faculty Senate would like to have addressed first. Is there a feeling of need for an Ad Hoc committee to “flesh out” their charge to make progress and put out work? Their second charge will be to continue to address workload and how workload can be accounted for in Banner. This charge was deferred last year due to accounting changes being made at that time. One consideration is whether this charge, workload, is larger in scope than what Faculty Senate will be able to accommodate.

Academic Standards – Chris Caster

Chris stated that the committee is trying to get a meeting time set. They will be working on Credit for Prior Learning (CPL). He stated that NWCCU was pleased with the CPL policy of OIT. The committee’s first charge to work on is degree completion and online learning. These topics will be discussed in more depth at a later date. Another area they will be reviewing is withdrawal policies for students. This may include timelines for student withdrawal as well as notification to departments of student withdrawal. This last being the responsibility of the Registrar’s office to notify departments. The third charge is regarding student transcript documentation policies of each student’s Essential Studies Synthesis Experience (ESSE). The formal charges for the committee will be posted to the Faculty Senate website when finalized.

Faculty Compensation (FCC) – Sharon Beaudry

Sharon Beaudry stated that MGT of America, the consulting firm hired to conduct the compensation study, still has several items to complete. They are trying to get results finalized so they can make their recommendations and any changes could then begin to be implemented. Dean Hallie Neupert stated that MGT is waiting for data from Human Resources. There have been some delays caused by Oregon Tech.

There were questions regarding whether there would be any Department Chair compensation for things such as time spent outside the Chair’s contracted time and what the Faculty Compensation Committee (FCC) stance is regarding COLA. Brian Fox, VP of Finance and Administration, reported that the plan is for a 4% COLA to be, made effective January 1, 2016 should enrollment goals for the 2016-17 academic year be met. This salary increase will carry over to next year.

Reports of Special or Ad Hoc Committee

None.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

None.

Open Floor Period

Kevin Pintong, from Computer Software Engineering Technology (CSET) stated that the department is trying to move to an Engineering program. The department will be requiring increased math courses, as well as adding the option for Chemistry and Biology lab based courses. All the details have not yet been worked out. At this time Kevin Pintong or Phil Howard are the contact people for anyone with questions on this change. The change is being made in order to remove barriers to graduates working for certain employers and increase available opportunities to students. The department hopes that this will be addressed by the 2017-18 academic year with the additional math and/or science courses required. This should result in the program moving to the title of "Computer Systems Engineering" with the course prefix of "CSE". There will be no changes to programmatic courses except for the prefix change.

Mark Clark stated that the Senate Executive committee is preparing a white paper with revisions of the Faculty Senate Bylaws. He asked that if anyone has questions or concerns on Faculty Senate to contact him so that he can include those comments in his report. This is in response to changes made two years ago to the Faculty Senate Bylaws and whether there is a need for more or additional changes at this time. There was a question from Wilsonville regarding the non-tenure track issues. It was suggested that this issue be brought directly to SenEx.

Report of the Provost – given by Dean LeAnn Maupin

Dean Maupin spoke of the Strategic Plan. Those involved will be working on the plan on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2016. Her goal is that she would like decisions to be made quickly on faculty and equipment. She would like to see a timeline with quicker results. Deans Maupin and Neupert will go through all reports. Approximately October 21, 2016 the Strategic Plan committee will meet with all chairs for both ETM and HAS. It is hoped that a decision can be made by early November to make decisions on faculty and equipment. She stated the Oregon's Measure 97 may affect findings. Depending on the passage or failure of Measure 97, the budget may range from 616-945 million dollars for higher education funding. A question was asked as to what decisions are being made and how these decision will fit into the strategic plan? She stated that the intent is to enable the university to be able to make quicker decisions regarding faculty and equipment and do so with hard data rather than emotion.

The general review of General Education (GenEd) is still looking into transferability between institutions. She thanked everyone for their work on this project. She also stated that accreditation will be done for Dental Hygiene (CODA) and ETM (ABET) in the coming weeks. This year is year one for NWCCU accreditation in a seven-year cycle. Year one is Mission and Core themes. She stated that at this time there are no plans to change either the Mission or Core themes because they are part of the Strategic Plan. She noted that in the NWCCU review it became apparent that OIT had too many objectives to be proved and that the benchmarks and measures need to be evaluated. There are also benchmarks and measures which need to be reevaluated. She expects that many individuals will be asked to vet these measures and benchmarks to get through year one. A report is due to NWCCU in March 2017. Dean Maupin is the NWCC accreditation liaison for OIT. Other members of the Accreditation Team include Dean Hallie Neupert, Sandra Bailey, Farooq Sultan, Erin Foley, Erika Veth, and Kelley Peterson-Fairchild. She stressed the need to have all members of the university involved, as accreditation affects everyone.

Dean Neupert spoke about the "Catalyze" project which is in its third year. This contest is twofold, 1) to encourage students to be innovative and 2) to promote graduates to remain in Klamath Falls after graduation. On October 25, 2016 there will be a faculty meeting for a Catalyze kickoff. The official kickoff will be November 9, 2016. Every student who participates will receive sponsor support.

Dean Neupert also mentioned that with the PLT will be providing weekly communications to the campus community. It is hoped that these increased communications will clarify what is being worked on. There will also be monthly meetings with the direct reports.

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Report of the President's Council Delegate – David Thaemert

David stated that several policies were approved at the President's Council meeting in June. Some of the items slated for review were tabled for later discussion due to the fact that more time or more work was needed on them.

Policies approved during this meeting included the following:

- OIT-01-002 Process for Board Application
- OIT-30-035 Smoke & Tobacco Free Campus (update)
- Campus Speech Activities Policies (update)
- OIT-01-001 Policy on Policies
- OIT-20-041 Academic Rank and Promotion for Library Faculty
- OIT-20-041 Promotion Timeline for Library Faculty

Report of the Association of Oregon Faculty (AOF) Representative – Christian Vukasovich

The following is the report given by Christian Vukasovich.

Our EOU representative mentioned that faculty salaries are no longer “centrally housed” on the Oregon.gov web site. We think perhaps HECC might be convinced they'd want this info, and be willing to collect and disseminate it on its web site.

Chris, our lobbyist, shared with us the HECC's budget requests for the next biennium. The Community Colleges are asking for about a 50% increase and the Public Universities are asking for about a 33% increase (over the current biennium). Additional significant requests are made for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, the Oregon Promise, and capital monies.

And finally... Measure 97 will have a huge impact on next biennium. PERS and other roll-up costs will create a dire situation for Oregon's budget unless more revenue is found.

As we are just entering into the legislative and campaign seasons, we will have more to report after our next meeting.

Report of the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate (IFS) Representative – Mark Clark

Mark reported that the committee plans to meet in Portland in two weeks where they will be electing a new President. Mark stated that he will serve as the IFS representative due to the fact that Mehmet Vurkac is on sabbatical. He will need an alternate for IFS. This position will require travel, as they meet at multiple locations across the state of Oregon. He asked that anyone interested contact him.

Report of the Fiscal Operations Advisory Council (FOAC) Representative – Terri Torres

Terri stated that the Fiscal Operations Advisory Council (FOAC) has not yet met.

Report of the Administrative Council Delegate – Josie Hudspeth

Josie is filling in temporarily as Tracie Houtz has left Oregon Tech. She stated that the Council will meet in approximately two weeks to fill this position. The Council is currently starting to plan annual events but no additional information is available at this time.

Report of the ASOIT Representative – Gaius Nikola

Gaius asked what Faculty Senate would like from him, as the student representative? This is his first exposure to Faculty Senate. He stated that he believes in shared governance between faculty and students, and making joint decisions.

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One concern he brings from the student body is the continuing issue of rising tuition. He also stated that ASOIT will be conducting a study on the student recreation center to see what the students would like to have done. A goal he has is to help create a student Senate. The reason being that there are only seven students in ASOIT and he does not feel that either ASOIT or faculty have been as transparent to all students as possible. He does not want this to be elitist and he would also like student involvement from the Wilsonville campus.

Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn; motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Don McDonnell, Secretary
/jp

Amended Minutes

April 5, 2016 6:04 PM, Mt. McLoughlin Room, College Union

New Business

- The General Education Review Task Force (GERTF) presented their near-final status report on update of the university's general education framework. GERTF was commissioned in Spring 2013 when a need was identified for a formal review of general education, and started with internal and external reviews, resulted in seven subcommittees. In AY2014-15, GERTF revised the Student Learning Outcomes with six tracks/outcomes, detailed in *Attachment #2*. The final results of their work will be supported by the structures of an inter-council steering committee, the Assessment Executive Committee, and the General Education Advisory Council (GEAC). A full presentation will be made April 19, 2016 to all interested faculty, for which GERTF requested support by Faculty Senate. There were no questions nor discussion from Senate members. David Thiemert moved to endorse and recommended adoption of this model. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. An affirmative vote was taken to approve and recommend adoption of "Essential Studies Programs, Pathways and Levels of Achievement" to move forward; there were no opposing votes and one abstention. Motion carried.