

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting

Friday, March 6, 2015

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Van Den Handel in SH 204 at 3:00 pm. There was ITV access at Muskogee, Broken Arrow and Tahlequah.

Council Members in attendance in Tahlequah: Emily Bruce (Optometry), Ron Cambiano (Education), Shari Clevenger (Liberal Arts), Samantha Clifford (Library), John Diamantopoulos (Science & Health Professions), Kendra Haggard (Liberal Arts), Christine Hallman (Liberal Arts), Jim Hicks (Science & Health Professions), Darren Tobey (Library)

Council Members in attendance in Broken Arrow: Tia Bennett (Education), Kurt Choate (Education), Ray Hasselman (Broken Arrow), Julie Mercado (Business & Technology), Mitch Ricketts (Business & Technology), Victor Zhu (Science & Health Professions)

Council Members in attendance in Muskogee: Heather Fenton (Nursing)

Council Officers in attendance: Cheryl Van Den Handel (President), Pamela Louderback (Vice President), Linda West (Secretary/Treasurer).

Guests: Debbie Bond, Patti Buhl, Taylor Malone

Taylor Malone, NSGA President, addressed the Council:

Malone asked for funding for the Big Event. Students volunteer to help out in the community. Funds are used for food, supplies, and communications. They have a budget, but regularly use more than the budget. Staff Council is going to supply \$250 and she challenged Faculty Council to do the same.

Patti Buhl spoke with Council:

She connected us with the state risk manager and operations manager through speaker phone to answer questions. We talked with Gene Lidyard, Julie Corely and Toni Blue. They outlined the basics of self insurance. We are covered for tort and auto; \$25,000 for vehicle and \$175,000 for tort claims. Faculty are covered as employees when on official duty. Students as drivers are not covered unless they are employees or are officially authorized to drive. Faculty are also covered by this insurance when driving their own personal vehicle on official business. There are forms that should be in each NSU vehicle and that you can get to carry with you in your personal vehicle. If you use Enterprise, you should make the reservation through the Motor Pool office. You would accept the collision insurance but reject the liability coverage since the state covers that. Claims are paid through state funds,

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NSU pays the deductible. We are also covered for outof state travel and international travel with these same policies.

Regarding damages charged to student funds, this policy is in the process of being changed. It will go to the Policy Committee. A suggestion was made to improve information available aboutour coverage on the website and provide access to digital copies of the three documents that should be in vehicles.

Minutes of the February 2015 meeting were approved.

2. Committees/Standing Reports:

A. **Budget Report**

\$250 transferred to URD, \$1500 in process to buy a Foundation bench leaves a balance of \$2,145. Van Den Handel is getting information on engraving sixteen bricks.

B. **Faculty Welfare Committee:**

A few more letters have been received from Faculty Council/Senates and Academicofficers. Our goal is to get responses from twelve and then the information will be compiled.

C. **Circle of Excellence Nomination Committee:**

West reported that over thirty nominations were received. Nominee portfolios are due March 13th and the Committee will meet the last wee of March to review the candidates. It was noted that the guidelines and review criteria do not include the Boyer model of scholarship. We will need to revise the documents before next year.

D. **Ad Hoc Faculty Handbook Committee:**

The Committee has concluded that the Faculty Handbook is fairly straightforward. The consistency between college/department guidelines and practices is where some problems have been identified. The Handbook Committee has been named, Kippi Wyatt will chair. It was expressed that the normal procedure for revising the handbook is to have major changes submitted in advance and approved by the FacultyCouncil and the Academic Council.

E. **Academic Integrity Committee:**

The Committee is contacting Colleges for information and will report in April.

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3. Old Business/Pending Issues:

A. **Update on Collegial Governance Document.**

A paragraph was added to the document to describe the role of the President's Cabinet in the hierarchy. It will then go through channels to be approved.

B. **COE Plaza update/Circle of Excellence Bricks**

Costing of bricks is making progress. There are two types of engraving, clay vs. concrete bricks. The old ones are sand blasted concrete. If we change, the new ones will have black laser cut lettering. Council would like to know what the color and durability of the two bricks would be.

C. **Words on Bench Plaque**

What do we want on the Foundation bench? We will develop this through email. We need to know what the limit is on words/letters.

D. **Reversal of Peer Recommendations for Tenure & Post-Tenure review by the Provost's Office.**

There was discussion about where in the process denial of tenure has happened in some past cases. In some cases it has occurred at the Dean level and more recently the reversal has occurred at the Provost level. The sentiment is that peer review should have more weight in the process and that reversal of peer decisions should come with some documentation. Instead of unilateral denial and termination, these decisions should be accompanied by a list of improvements and goals. We would like to address the issues and not put this in an adversarial framework. Some of this may be attributed to changing standards over time. A faculty member may have been hired and made progress under one set of guidelines and then have those changed right before the tenure review. No specific resolution was made to send to the Faculty Handbook committee.

4. New Business

A. **Taylor Malone – SGA President, Big Event**

The Council voted to give \$250 to SGA for the Big Event.

B. **Motor Pool Insurance Issue**

Patti Buhl and Debbie Bond - See above.

C. Dr. Turner needs 3 names from the Faculty Council and he will pick one to serve on the steering committee to search for replacement for

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V.P. Koehn. Pamela Louderback, Kendra Haggard and Samantha Clifford volunteered.

5. Announcements.

Faculty Council mourns the passing of our esteemed colleague, Randall Wagnon.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Next meeting April 3, 2015

Submitted by Linda West, Secretary-Treasurer
3/13/15