

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting

Friday, September 5, 2014

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), Christine Hallman (Liberal Arts), Jim Hicks (Science & Health Professions), Dan Sisk (Science & Health Professions), Darren Tobey (Library)

Council Members in attendance in Broken Arrow : Andrew Aken (Business & Technology), Kurt Choate (Education), Halil Kaya (Business & Technology), Julie Mercado (Business & Technology), Mitch Ricketts (Business & Technology), Victor Zhu (Science & Health Professions)

Council Members in attendance in Muskogee:

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

Guests: Mark Arant (VPAA), Jon Asbill (Facilities), Denise Deason-Toyne (Business & Technology), J. Rachel Green (Education), Steve Turner (President) in Tahlequah; Pam Fly (AVPAA), Jennifer Ivie-Barth (CTL), Tom Rink (Library) in Broken Arrow;

2. Special Edition New Business:

A. **President Turner**

President Turner reminded the Council about the Brown Bag discussions coming at all three campuses to present the draft Strategic Plan. He reported on several enrollment numbers: First time full-time freshmen are up 10%, graduate enrollment is up 10%. Our retention rate is 63% for returning students. The biggest losses are in juniors and seniors. They are studying how many have financial or academic holds. Other numbers were shared, although our ten year average head count is only down by 100, our number of credit hours is down by about 10,000 over a ten year average.

We continue to serve our students well and offer the lowest tuition and fees of all the regional institutions and in this area of the state. Our cost containment efforts are working. As we go forward, we need data

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driven, real time information. He encourages faculty to continue our efforts. "Faculty spend more time with students than anyone." Faculty have great influence on students and on retention.

A question was asked about the number of juniors and seniors this year versus last year. Unduplicated headcount: Freshmen down 3.6%, Sophomores down 3.9%, Juniors down 2.7%, Seniors down 6.5%, Graduate up 14.8%. We had a 1% increase in transfer students.

He briefly introduced the new Strategic Plan. NSU has had two, 2005 with Williams and 2008 with Betz. This one covers eight years to coincide with D23. We will reevaluate at five years. Our core mission should not change that much. He introduced the new service values: Consistent, Timely, Caring and Safety. He has received feedback from many students over the past year, which helped form this new plan.

B. **VP/Provost Arant**

VP Arant expressed his desire to work with students and faculty. He has some goals for Academic Affairs. He wants to establish an academic identity for Academic Affairs. He submitted a draft mission and vision statement to the Deans on Tuesday. He wants to approach what we do at NSU with the question: Why are we doing this? and find answers. He has looked over the Fall Schedule and found many low enrollment classes. He wants to get a schedule for courses to be offered and add that to the catalog. He is compiling a database of information. We need to know when students are going to want to take a class. He also wants to evaluate "legacy" courses and their relevancy.

Another goal for his area is to develop leadership in Academic Affairs. His ideas about fellowships have been sent to the Deans for input about selection and compensation. He also wants Deans to select individual faculty to send to conferences. He wants to build relationships. He is also open to ideas about new degree programs. We need to stay relevant and current or we will be extinct. He is here to help us this year.

He was asked a question about also asking Faculty Council to provide input to the draft mission and goals for Academic Affairs. He is giving it to the full Academic Council which includes the Faculty Council President. He was asked about the new data driven decisions. He wants the story behind the numbers. He is changing Institutional Assessment to Institutional Effectiveness and looking at getting

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numbers out in real time. The lag in data is frustrating and we can do a little better. He will give them the tools and organizational change to do this.

3. Budget Report

The beginning budget is \$3,895 with \$912 for travel. There was a brief discussion about funds needed for the year. We usually reserve \$1,000 for Undergraduate Research Day and we also discussed buying a bench (\$1,500) for the Circle of Excellence area. We will revisit this as plans and timelines are set for the return of the bricks to a permanent location.

4. Committees/Standing Reports

A. **Faculty Welfare Committee**

Chaired by the Vice President, Pamela Louderback with Ron Cambiano and Mitch Ricketts. This committee could look at summer salary concerns and concerns about faculty teaching without compensation. Looking at an academic identity for the Faculty Association was proposed as another task for the committee. The motion passed.

B. **Circle of Excellence Committee**

We will need nominations in November for this committee that is usually made up of previous winners of the award, including last year's winners.

C. **Bylaws and Faculty Handbook**

The committee should look at Appendix C and the RTP process and make suggested revisions. These would need to be approved by Faculty Council before going to Academic Council and eventually to the handbook. Committee members are Linda West, Halil Kaya, and John Diamantopoulos.

5. Old Business/Pending Issues

A. Introduction of new delegates to Faculty Council were made. Additional volunteers were taken for the Student Conduct Committee.

B. Grievance Committee members were elected by the Colleges.

C. **Update on Design & Location of COE Bricks – Jon Asbill**

Asbill briefly commented on projects around campus totaling 3.9 million dollars. These include repairs and renovations to current buildings. There are thirty-two active projects. The update on the COE

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bricks is that there is a budget of \$25,000 for the project including a bronze centerpiece that will be ordered. The location was clarified as the lawn area south of the library. Other plans for the south side of the library were shared with the Council. The overhang at the old entrance to the Library will be removed as it is included in the 32 projects mentioned earlier. The project may start late fall or early spring. There still needs to be a decision about the final location and orientation of the group of bricks. Asbill would also like a count of the bricks we should have now and what we anticipate needing for the future year.

D. **College Bowl Sponsor**

No sponsor was found, so we will not have a team this

E. **Adjunct Pay Chart**

The chart was distributed in August to Deans, Executive Council and Academic Council. President Van Den Handel will try to get a copy to Faculty Council.

6. New Business

A. **Inconsistent RTP between Colleges**

Some information regarding the legality of the Faculty Handbook was distributed to Faculty Council. ([see email discussion](#)) There is no language that states that the Faculty Handbook directions should be applied consistently to all colleges. There have been complaints that there is no feedback from Mentoring Committees. There was a motion and a second that the Faculty Handbook Committee of Faculty Council should work on clarifying the intent of Appendix C and make sure the wording is clear.

B. **Faculty Council website must be moved by December.**

Secretary West and President Van Den Handel will work on moving the Faculty Council web pages.

C. **Other agenda items – tabled**

Courses taught for no compensation; Pro-rating summer salaries; Enrollment Services information; idea for faculty brown bags.

D. **Cost of textbooks, Especially for General Ed Classes**

President Van Den Handel had talked to a student and had a copy of their book receipt. The University Strategies class had an iClicker (\$36+) and the textbook (\$60+), totaling over \$100. The student's bill was over \$500.

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E. Change made to Faculty Council Presidency election cycle last election

President Van Den Handel announced that she would vacate her office in May 2015. We need to look at the Faculty Council Constitution, correct version, to ascertain the correct line of succession.

F. Alignment of our Agenda with the Strategic Plan

There was a suggestion to align our agendas with the new Strategic Plan.

G. Pro-rating of summer salaries

We will find information on this for the Council. We also need to know if colleges are handling this differently.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Next meeting October 3, 2014

Submitted by Linda West, Secretary-Treasurer
9/12/14