

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Minutes of Faculty Council Meeting

Friday, December 4, 2015

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Interim President Louderback in SH 204 at 3:00 pm. There was ITV access at Broken Arrow and Tahlequah.

Council Members in attendance in Tahlequah: Samantha Clifford (Library), John Diamantopoulos (Science & Health Professions), Brad Montgomery-Anderson (Liberal Arts), Dan Sisk (Science & Health Professions), Darren Tobey (Library)

Council Members in attendance in Broken Arrow: Ray Hasselman (Liberal Arts), Halil Kaya (Business), Jodi Lignon (Education), Mitch Ricketts (Business), Taka Yamaguchi (Education), Melody Yozzo (Muskogee), Victor Zhu (Science & Health Professions)

Council Members in attendance in Muskogee: None

Council Officers in attendance: Pamela Louderback (Interim President), Linda West (Secretary/Treasurer).

Guests: Renée Cambiano (Education), Ron Cambiano (Education), Shari Clevenger (Liberal Arts), J. Rachel Green (Education), Shin Yeon Jeon (Liberal Arts), Chad McLane (CTL), Chris Owen (Liberal Arts, AAUP), President Steve Turner. Broken Arrow, Tom Rink (Library)

President Turner addressed the Council:

He encourage people to read the President's Annual Report for FY 15 and the newly published Strategic Plan which outlines our real and timely commitments. He has been spending time with the Capital campaign, which has recently received significant gifts from two of the co-chairs of the campaign. Employee giving is 57% which is an all-time high. He has also been concentrating on the upcoming legislative session. We don't know where it is going to finish up. We start next year with the amount unfunded from last year and it will go up from there. The State Regents and RUSO board are projecting a 10% reduction of state appropriations. Last year was a 3.5% reduction, this year it could be 4 million dollars or more. The number will go up if the percentage goes up. NSU is looking at ways to save money. We can delay or not fill vacant positions, restrain the travel budget (last year the travel budget was overspent), and review all equipment purchases from a zero base.

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President Turner praised our President Louderback for her collegiality and thoughtful comments on the Executive Council and for her work for Faculty Council this semester. He took questions from the Council. There was a question about continued funding for the ISDC and Professional Development. He does not know about the status of the grant for ISDC. He noted that he has the President's Ambassador's Network for professional development. Will there be a tuition increase? It is too early to tell. After the February revenue certification, he will be having brownbags to talk with faculty and staff. He is making a case to fund core services and mandatory costs. He reminded faculty about graduation on December 12th.

Chad McLane spoke with Council:

McLane presented a new process to train reviewers for online courses. We will have a 3-5 year review with rotating reviews and reviewers. Faculty who have taken the certification courses plus the Quality Matters courses can go through a process to become course reviewers. There is some minimal compensation for course review. This training will start in January. There were questions from the Council members. Several faculty expressed the opinion that students who take online courses are sometimes not prepared for those courses. Are there ways we can address this problem? This is not within the scope of the quality review of courses. Are we applying higher standards to online courses than face to face courses? How do these standards vary for undergraduate versus graduate classes? Basically, this review evaluates how courses are delivered, no content. The Quality Matters rubric will be placed on reserve at campus libraries for faculty to consult.

Minutes of the November 2015 meeting were approved.

2. Committees/Standing Reports:

- A. Budget Report – \$2983 administrative + \$912 travel = \$3895.
 - i. \$297 travel money has been spent.
 - ii. We have a request from Undergraduate Research Day for \$500. There was discussion of this topic. A motion was made to sponsor the top award for the poster contest. \$250 would be given to the student and \$250 to the faculty mentor. It should be named the Faculty Council award. Faculty would rather see some recognition rather than just paying for copies and other minor needs of the event.

- B. Faculty Welfare Committee:
No report. As incoming Vice President, Diamantopoulos will chair this committee.

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C. Academic Integrity Committee:

It was clarified that there are only two members of the committee. They will meet.

D. Circle of Excellence Plaza Rededication Planning Committee:

Delegates received pictures of existing medals via email this week.

3. Old Business/Pending Issues:

A. Medallions for COE winners.

Louderback has done considerable work on locating vendors and designs, but has not found much additional information. A general design patterned after the Centurions medal, but in a different color, was proposed. A Seminary Hall image with Circle of Excellence at the foot of the image. The bottom of the medal would read: Teaching Research Services (perhaps in the forms of bricks). We would like to have green coloring and pewter metal. The RPI company is preferred but would be more than our budget allows. Tom Rink volunteered to underwrite the setup fee and Ron Cambiano volunteered another \$200 to help us start the process. Thanks to both these individuals for helping to fund this project. Individual faculty should be able to earmark donations to the Foundation for Faculty Council Circle of Excellence medals.

B. AAUP Freedom of Speech statement

AAUP is asking the Faculty Council to support making the statement an appendix of the Faculty Handbook. Owen supplied copies of the RUSO policy manual statements on Academic Freedom. Council members asked how these statements related and why we needed a more extensive statement as an appendix. Faculty are encouraged to look at the website for FIRE: <https://www.thefire.org/> to see what is going on in education. AAUP would like to have NSU on record supporting this statement. A motion was made to table this issue and allow delegates time to read all the proposals. The motion passed.

C. Reporting of Absences Procedure

There was no time for this agenda item.

D. EEO Statements for Faculty Handbook compliance

There was no time for this agenda item.

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4. New Business

A. Giving finals by semester's end per RUSO procedures

It was noted that it against policy to give a final after Friday of finals week. Someonline classes have work due by Sunday.

5. Academic Affairs Council Meeting Update

No meeting

6. Executive Council Meeting Update

Commencement will not be streamed.

There is a pilot study of a new Business Skills course.

Fitness Center news: Pool tiling will take place in December and an inspection in January.

The Circle of Excellence plaza project is being bid and will start within a month. It is a 60 day project.

There will be no opening meeting.

The President will hold Brown Bag meetings in February after the equalization notice is made.

The Faculty Council wishes to thank Dr. Pamela Louderback for her tenure and service in leading the Council and for representing the faculty so well.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Next meeting February 5, 2016.

Submitted by Linda West, Secretary-Treasurer
12/10/15