



NORTHEASTERN
STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Council

February 3, 2017 Minutes

The mission of the Northeastern State University Faculty Council is to promote communication and cooperation among the faculty and between the faculty and the administration. The Council serves as the faculty's collective voice in shared governance in order to achieve excellence in the academic endeavors of the university. Toward this goal the Council seeks to enhance the university's pursuit and dissemination of knowledge by promoting and preserving academic freedom and integrity, encouraging creative inquiry, and recognizing scholarly achievement. The Council further serves to foster the professional development and economic well-being of the faculty ~ Adopted by the Council, February 6, 2004.

The meeting was called to order by President Renee Cambiano in Bagley 121 at 3:00 p.m. on February 3, 2017. There was ITV access in Tahlequah, Broken Arrow and Muskogee.

Guests (Time is typically set aside for administrators who wish to address the council):

Sara Burnett addressed the Council. She told us about grants for students. They have a Title III, five year grant for a Native American Support Center (NASC). It started in October and they are currently filling a director and three coordinator positions. The grant is supposed to help with retention rates and academic support. They also will be involved in offering Creek language classes in Broken Arrow. They will be planning a General Education heritage block for students who are interested. Advising was not written into the proposal. They will coordinate with Student Support Services.

Karl Siewert and Tamara Kharabora talked with the Council about embedded librarians. Librarians give face to face instruction in information literacy. They also are available to be a presence in online or Blackboard classes. Librarians can share information and interact with students. They can provide video sessions and post in Blackboard. There is a list of librarians for each College on the Library website. President Cambiano said she had used this service and had good responses from students.

Chad McLane and Harrison Dragoo presented information about the Blackboard transition to the Council. We are moving from managed hosting to an SAS environment. We will have more storage and better access to



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data. We will have access to the new Ultra experience and will try to get our old URL back: bb.nsuok.edu. In February/March there will be new templates, April 7th there will be new shells for summer and May 15th new shells for Fall. The old server will be available through June.

Faculty can try out the new look at try.blackboard.com. There will be no tabs at the top and the look will be different without the colors that we have now. It will have a responsive design for smart phones. Ultra does not have all of the features, but there is a classic version that can be used. Council was asked about how much data needs to be preserved. There was a discussion about faculty having to backup data versus having data backed-up for the University. It was suggested that two years or seven semesters would take care of the normal need for course rotations. Faculty evaluations are often needed for up to seven years and grades are supposed to be kept for up to five years. Faculty would need to archive these. CTL is looking at other options for course evaluations. There will be workshops during spring semester to introduce the new interfaces. CTL can provide help with archiving classes, evaluations and grades. There was a discussion of use of organizations on Blackboard, these would not be purged at the same intervals as classes. Classes will be purged on a regular schedule.

Faculty Council noted that we want to address Faculty Evaluations at a later date. Some topics are who has access to them and where they are stored.

- I. Call to Order:
- II. Quorum Check: There was a quorum present.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the December meeting were approved.
- IV. Old Business Items:
 - A. Strategic Plan

There was a discussion about what a Strategic Plan is. It was decided that what we really wanted was goals. We want a plan about where to put our energies. It should align to the values of the University. Ron Cambiano and Rachel Green volunteered to work with Linda West. A preliminary report will be presented at the next meeting.
 - B. Delicious Dialogues

Louderback was unable to attend the meeting. We will look at the proposal at the March meeting.



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V. New Business

A. Enrollment Summary Report for Spring 2017

Council discussed the report. There was concern over the decline in SCH versus the number of students. Students are taking fewer hours. One factor is the state of the Oklahoma economy. There were questions about state and national trends. Several people liked the way OSU provides for part time and full time blocks for students. They pay a set amount and take classes within that. It leads to faster graduation rates. There was a statement that NSU is no longer a bargain, even with faculty discounts. Fees add to the cost of tuition. It was noted that there may be a 5% cut for higher education. The system has asked for a \$148 million increase.

B. Circle of Excellence

There will be a Google form to help manage the submissions. We discussed the idea of having a meal again this year. It was moved and seconded to have a meal if we can secure the funding. Diamantopoulos will check on the possibility.

C. Dr. Arant wants Faculty Council to look at the idea of an Academic Fair or something celebrating Faculty success. Send comments to Renee in an email.

Meeting adjourned 5:06 pm

Respectfully submitted, Linda West, Secretary/Treasurer
February 7, 2016