

March 7, 2025
Minutes

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.

Meetings: First Friday of the Month - 3:00 - 5:00 pm
<https://nsuok.zoom.us/j/91383954220>

Call to Order: 3:01pm

Quorum Check: 14 delegates/3 guests. At 3:47m

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

- Dr. Jim Ferrell, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs - Faculty Handbook Edits
 - AI statement. All faculty will include an AI statement in our syllabus. Three selections. Disciplines can write their own AI Policy. Students need to know where they stand and where the faculty stands. Provide resources for faculty, staff, and students. House them on the Student Affairs website. We are considering subscriptions to a program like ChatGPT. They are going to focus on training. All faculty must have an AI statement on our syllabus. Working on helping faculty to detect AI. What checkers are we using? What will be placed in the Handbook? Josh Rader is working on it. Jim is going to work with Josh on this issue. At the graduate level there will probably be inconsistent findings and appeals. We may need to refine the policy next year. What are our sister institutions using? Southwestern has a page dedicated to faculty, staff, and students and our taskforce have modeled after them.
 - Workflow: putting all faculty and adjuncts into Workflow. It will keep track of our ranks. Academic Affairs usually sends a list to Deans of who they think will be RTP. Plan to have it completed in the Fall from Faculty Success. This refers to uploading custom CVs into Faculty Success. How does Faculty Success create a CV and second, how do faculty upload their CV? Can Faculty Success give us better tools? Can we have more control about how our CV looks like when it is spit out. Personal CVs will not be changed next year. Jim says that they can talk about reconfiguring that next fall. Find equity and faculty voice.
 - Ed.D. is approved. Looking at what types of programs are used for qualitative research and qualitative research. Reach out to the colleges and tell them what is needed for faculty research. STATA was suggested. Real Statistics Excel Plug In was suggested.
 - Faculty Handbook. RTP has been the most fraught topic. New RTP calendar. For non-tenured faculty, it will make the dates more flexible. RTP will be due October 1st. Post-Tenure Review will shift. Instead of October, move it to November. It will help the Chairs not have so much stress in October. Jim will share that will Faculty Council when it's completed.

Approval of Minutes: <https://offices.nsuok.edu/facultycouncil/Minutes.aspx> Stephen motions to approve. Second by Pamela. Approved.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to amend the minutes, remove the unnecessary items that we have already discussed from the old business. Move to amend the minutes to include the faculty council officer elections in New Business. Seconded by Alex. Approved.

Old Business Items:

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- [NSU Online Policies and Procedures](#) - Appendix B (How online classes will be reviewed): Just getting started looking at the online policies. What needs to be done. No decisions have been made. Just revising Appendix B to make it more collegial. There's many faculty on the committee, so faculty have a strong voice.

- Barnes and Noble First Day Complete Program: After the last meeting, actions were taken quickly. Nathan sent the Faculty Council a memo that he wrote. No opt-out. Flat fee for all books in digital format on the first day. Money comes back to the University to fund auxiliary services. Defacto tuition increase. Brought up in Cabinet and voted it down. We might be going to bid for a new bookstore vendor.

New Business Items:

- Guns on Campus Resolution: fairly regular request for a statement on guns on campus. Every session in OKC, the legislature brings forward a bill to allow open-carry of guns on campuses. We support the current law, instead of a negatively-cast letter. Nathan does not know what Pres. Hanley's view is on the subject. The law permits the college president to make exceptions. Some feedback from a delegate from their faculty: one said yes, it is fine. Someone said that we are a target-rich environment. Historically colleges are left-leaning, and the government is right-leaning, will it hurt us to put our voice out there? Another said to stay out of it. [Nathan Green](#) has heard many faculty against the idea of students carrying firearms into the classroom. We have a well-trained police force.
 - Pamela Christol moves to accept the policy as written, Alex Cole seconds. 16 votes. 15 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstain. Passes.
- ADA compliance task force: DOJ started an initiative a year ago, a taskforce to modernize websites to bring them into compliance with the ADA. If you get government funding, everything you put online must be in compliance with the ADA. There is a massive effort to bring our website into compliance. Taskforce established. The taskforce needs to clearly delineate what the faculty's responsibility is. *We need to draw a bright line around Blackboard.* That's the material that faculty have control over. We need to look through our materials on Blackboard to bring materials into compliance. Alt-text, high-contrast. Faculty should have control over our materials. You can use a digital tablet that interfaces with the Blackboard: <https://www.wacom.com/en-us/products/pen-displays/wacom-one>. Adobe Creative Cloud has Adobe Pro. Some of the concerns, we might have a train-the-trainer model, where someone becomes proficient and then "trains others in our area." We are concerned about fliers going out, that the faculty might have to have all of our flyers approved, which can be time-consuming. Nathan discussed this with Dr. Swearingen. It's a huge lift. Why not have an A.I. do the scan and make a list, using a third-party entity. It takes one person going to any of our webpages and suing the university for being out of compliance.
- Faculty Council Officer Elections: Our last meeting is next month: April. [Nathan Green](#) has served two terms. We hold our officers are elected and their terms begin in August. You can nominate yourself. There's a lot that goes into the offices. We are very important to the shared governance of the university. Nathan will take nominations directly. The vote will be sent out after the April meeting. If you want to nominate someone, please talk to that person first. The VP is not the President-elect. To do this we would have to change the By-Laws. Suggestion to change the By-Laws to only permit VP and President to be limited to Tenured Faculty.

Committee and Standing Reports (as needed):

- Faculty Welfare Committee: Dr. Renée Cambiano
- Faculty Awards Committee: Dr. Nathan Green
- Budget Oversight Committee: Dr. Nathan Green
- HawkTalks:
- University Committee Report
 - [Enrollment Correction Committee](#): Dr. Das Bradoo
 - [Faculty Development](#): Dr. Sapna Das-Bradoo
 - [Faculty Research](#): Dr. Rick Wallace and Dr. Deborah Petrik
 - [Healthy Campus](#): Dr. Cheryl Van Den Handel
 - [Strategic Planning](#): Dr. Nathan Green
 - [University Advising](#): Tom Rink
- University Committee Reports by Dr. Nathan Green and Dr. Renée Cambiano

Important dates

- April 17th, Employee Appreciation 2pm to 4pm
- April 18th, Circle of Excellence Luncheon RSVP for headcount
- July 29th - NSUOCO Ribbon Cutting \$40mil building outdoor morning event.

Adjournment 4:50pm