

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

February 1, 2011

President Matt Schnackenberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All senators or alternates were present except Cristine Crespo, Jan Abeita and Robin Schwartz. A quorum was determined.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made to amend the President's Report from the December 7th minutes to clarify the information given concerning PREC. The last sentence of that paragraph is changed to read as follows:

- Senex will meet with President Maples and former committee members to ensure that these issues are addressed for the operation of the upcoming PREC.

Following discussion, the Senate voted all ayes to change the December meeting minutes.

The minutes of the December 7, 2010 meeting were then approved as amended.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Report of the President – M. Schnackenberg – The information packets that senators received for the February meeting contained a copy of a side-by-side comparison of the new governance proposal with the current policy. If senators support the new proposal, Senex will write a resolution of support to present at the March Senate meeting.

Matt talked with ASOIT and reiterated that they could choose to support or oppose the proposal separate from the Senate. The Oregon Student Association (OSA) probably will not support the new governance proposal. OSA has also come out against the University of Oregon partnership.

The main benefits of the new governance proposal are:

- There would be more control over budgets at the campus level.
- The interest earned on student tuition would stay on campus rather than at the state level.
- Student tuition would stay on campus to address budgetary needs.
- OIT could spend as needed instead of being so restricted by State determined, line-item budgets.

Some fears/concerns seem to be:

- If the proposal passes and OIT operates more efficiently, the state may cut support even more. If the state could no longer "sweep" OIT's budget at the end of the year, would they cut funding even more?
- Threats to benefits.

Overall:

- This might be the best time to make the change to become a public institution rather than a state agency to have the greater flexibility. This might also be the most likely time that the legislature would be willing to pass the governance proposal due to the current budget cuts. It would be an opportunity for the State to retain the quality of education at lower funding levels.

A resolution could be written to include OIT concerns and protect OIT's interests.

At the December Senate meeting, senators approved a resolution to PEBB indicating that their open-enrollment policy was too strict. That resolution has been forwarded to PEBB. The PEBB director said that the policy would be revisited in the spring, but they don't expect to make any changes.

Matt met with President Maples on Friday, Jan. 28th. One of the topics discussed was the COLA. President Maples said that it is on his radar, but the current budget situation doesn't allow for it at this time.

Report of the Vice President – J. Long – No report.

REPORT OF THE PROVOST – B. Burda – Governor Kitzhaber's new budget contains \$20 million for Wilsonville. This was put in as lottery funds, which do not require matching funds.

Provosts' Council has approved renaming OIT's schools as colleges.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL DELEGATE – M. Schnackenberg – No report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Faculty Rank Promotion and Tenure – T. Fogarty – The second charge given to the committee was:

- Currently, only full professors qualify for raises from post-tenure review. Determine the need for associate professors also to have the opportunity for raises from post-tenure review, and if so propose an amendment to Post-Tenure Review OIT-20-035.

None of OIT's 16 comparators has a policy for this in place. The RPT Committee recommends that the following statement, or something similar, be included in the policy.

- All faculty salary increases are given through the annual budgetary process. Recommendations for individual faculty salary increases begin with the relevant department chair and are reviewed by the relevant college dean and the Provost.

Following a discussion of the statement, the Senate voted unanimously to refer this to the Faculty Compensation Committee for consideration.

Another charge given to RPT was to review the variety of models which provide non-tenure-track instructors with a separate track for promotion, and recommend a model for multiple ranks for instructors that would suit the needs of OIT. The Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) currently have provisions for non-tenure track faculty. The committee will bring its recommendations to the March meeting for the Senate's consideration.

Welfare Committee – M. Marker – Action on the charges given to the Welfare Committee is as follows.

- Currently working on the development of a modified APE form to evaluate the deans and provost. Hope to present this to the Senate in March for their consideration.
- The committee's recommendations regarding the inclusion of library faculty in awards and committee appointments will be brought to the March meeting.
- The committee has compiled data related to the number of Distance Education (DE) courses faculty teach and possible staffing shortfalls. They are looking for direction from the Senate on how to present the information; exactly what is the Senate looking for with this charge. Currently, there are 39 professors teaching online courses. Four professors are teaching more than four online courses, and two of these professors are also teaching full loads this term. Three faculty are teaching three web courses, 12 faculty are teaching two web courses with four of the 12 under load this term. Twenty faculty are teaching one web course, 14 of the 20 are under load this term. This term the highest number of web students for a single professor is 78 and the highest number of web credits for a single professor is 29. However, not all courses, whether online or in class, are created equal. It might be possible to teach many DE courses with a single student in each, while it would be impossible to teach some courses online with many students.

The question was raised if students were being “forced” to take classes online or in class due to staffing issues? Provost Burda said that there are cases where students pay in class tuition for a required class that is only offered online.

- The fourth charge was to revise for consistency the *Employment of Full-time Instructional Faculty Policy*, *OIT-20-010*, and *Employment – Affirmative Action in Faculty Search Policy*, *OIT-22-050*. This will be brought to the March meeting.

Academic Standards – J. Ballard – Academic Standards was unable to find facts to support the rumors that online classes were impacting on campus class offerings. However, the committee does believe that this topic may have to be revisited in a year or two. Further, the committee strongly expressed that many issues concerning online offerings, academics, and evaluations of course content needs to be re-thought by the OIT faculty and administration.

Barb DeKalb, Director of Distance Education, has expressed concern about how much faculty should teach online. Although no one has reached the DE-established student limit for online teaching, maybe the limit needs to be reduced.

Faculty Compensation – B. Clark – No report.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR AD HOC COMMITTEES – No reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

REPORT OF THE AOF REPRESENTATIVE – T. Thompson – AOF met on Saturday, January 29th.

- State financial situation is very grim. Some members of the legislative Fiscal Office say it might be 6-8 years before there is any improvement in the public sector of the state. The governor’s budget contains a \$3.5 billion shortfall in the \$15 billion budget.
- Legislature is starting to hear bills in committees. Prior to the end of the year, 1600 bills were on the books to be introduced to the legislature.
- House Bill 2118 is the governor’s proposed bill for the OUS governance proposal.
- Senate Bill 258 establishes Oregon Institute of Technology as an independent public university, governed by Oregon Institute of Technology Board of Directors.
- House Bill 2455 limits retirement allowances or pensions payable to retired members of the Public Employees Retirement System to the final average salary of the member.
- House Bill 2985 eliminates the employer pick-up of the six percent of the employee contribution required of members of the Public Employees Retirement System.
- Twenty-three bills relating to PERS have been introduced into the legislature.

REPORT OF THE IFS REPRESENTATIVE – M. Clark – IFS will meet on February 4th & 5th. Much of the discussion could be about the OUS re-organization.

REPORT OF THE FOAC REPRESENTATIVE – J. Long – FOAC will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 8th.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL DELEGATE – T. Richey –

- *Leave Required Because of Domestic Abuse, Sexual Assault or Stalking, OIT-XX-XXXX.* The policy was passed by the Administrative Council in November and is now presented to the Faculty Senate for consideration.

Motion was made and seconded to adopt the new policy as presented. Ron McCutcheon, Human Resources Director, said that this policy is in response to a state statute. An internal audit dictated that OIT have this policy in place to agree with the OARs. Following discussion, the vote was unanimous to approve and recommend this policy.

REPORT OF THE ASOIT DELEGATE – D. Helmricks –

- Campus Life had a leadership conference after winter break. This included res hall staff, ASOIT, campus activities and other students.
- Successful blood drive was held in January.
- Five representatives from the Portland campus gave a Solar Hope presentation on January 21st.
- ASOIT hopes to bring the student senate online in Fall 2011. The senate would be comprised of one student from each major.
- Budget packets have been distributed to all clubs and they should be returned soon.
- The sixth man unveiling was held at the last basketball game. The crowd represents the sixth man with their support at the games.
- ASOIT has become aware that the gay-lesbian-transgender community on campus has been experiencing discrimination from students, staff, and faculty. Race discrimination is also an issue on campus. ASOIT is an unbiased organization asking for faculty support and assistance in making all students feel welcome. The suggestion was made that syllabi might contain a strong statement that certain behavior is unacceptable on campus. Ron McCutcheon brought up Safe Zones and training for them will be held soon.

OPEN FLOOR PERIOD – No discussion.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hallie Neupert, Secretary

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