

Minutes

January 5, 2016, 6:00 PM, Mt. McLoughlin Room, College Union

Attendance/Quorum

President Robyn Cole called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All senators or alternates were present. A quorum was determined. All liaisons were present with the exception of Brad Burda, Ryan Madden, Tracie Houtz and Shellie Wilson.

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of the December 3, 2015, meeting were approved as written.

Report of Officers

Report of the President – Robyn Cole

- SenEx had a conversation regarding student harassment with all Deans (HAS Dean Leann Maupin, ETM Interim Dean Hallie Neupert, and Dean of Students Erin Foley). The need to go back to “grass roots” was discussed in talking first with the involved student(s), then the Department Chair, then the Dean of Students. Erin plans to send out an announcement this week to host a “student harassment” talk for faculty. A tentative date to host this presentation will be Jan. 26, 2016.
- We were all notified Dec. 7, 2015, that the Board of Trustees was having a “special meeting” on Dec. 15, 2015, to consider approval of a \$2 million capital project for a new on-campus soccer facility. SenEx along with a host of others on campus provided our Oregon Tech Board of Trustees with letter opinions, identifying a range of faculty concerns. In this letter we identified a lack of shared governance, the lack of apparent connections between the soccer proposal and the university strategic plan, financial concern (only identifies phase I of the multi-phase project), and addresses our affiliation with community support. The Board of Trustees meeting ended in a tie vote, so the Board will further discuss and vote at the quarterly February meeting whether to approve the soccer proposal. The Board did approve expenditure not to exceed \$125,000 to proceed with drafting plans since there are some time-sensitive items. The executive staff is putting together details that the Board had questions about. I contacted President Maples with an inquiry: “will this proposal with be vetted with the community?”; his reply was “yes.” President Maples communicated with the Board that auxiliary capital projects have never been vetted with campus stockholders prior to our current process and he did indicate that improved lines of communication would be a priority.
- Our current Faculty Senate Charter and Bylaws indicate election of the Senate president shall be conducted by the Elections Committee not later than the first two weeks of February. The Elections Committee will be sending out ballots later this month for the Senate President. All other Senate elections shall be conducted in May at the usual time.

Report of the Vice President – Terri Torres

Terri confirmed that the Academic Council will be meeting with the Provost. No other report at this time.

Reports of Standing Committees

Faculty Rank Promotion & Tenure (RPT) – Hugh Jarrard

No report.

Faculty Welfare – Don McDonnell

Don stated there were two items to be discussed and to refer to the Senate packet.

- Best Practices- the committee proposed new flow charts to document the selection process for members of both university and senate standing committees; this process was discussed and how one can move through and up. One concern was the lack of transparency, as the current method for being appointed to a committee is very informal. Welfare would like increased transparency to provide new faculty with a visual on how to get selected for a committee. Dean LeAnn Maupin discussed two issues: First, the term and composition of committees (e.g., 3 members from HAS, 2 members from IT); second, the process is not always consistent. The decision makers on a committee change from year to year. Don referred to Best Practice #6 in the outlined items in the packet [“It is recommended that committee chairs are appointed before convocation and announced during president’s breakfast. The committees should then be assembled before the beginning of the fall term.”], describing that as a personal note and not really the sixth item of the Best Practices. Terri Torres and others stated that they felt item #6 was a very good addition to the list. There was discussion about putting the Best Practices on the faculty website. Don stated that the committee wants to meet with Provost Burda and get his input. The possibility of gathering input from the VP of Finance & Administration and VP of Student Affairs was also discussed. The form and clarity of the second (senate) flow chart was highly preferred over the first (university) flow chart. It was agreed that the second chart made the progression and steps easier to follow.

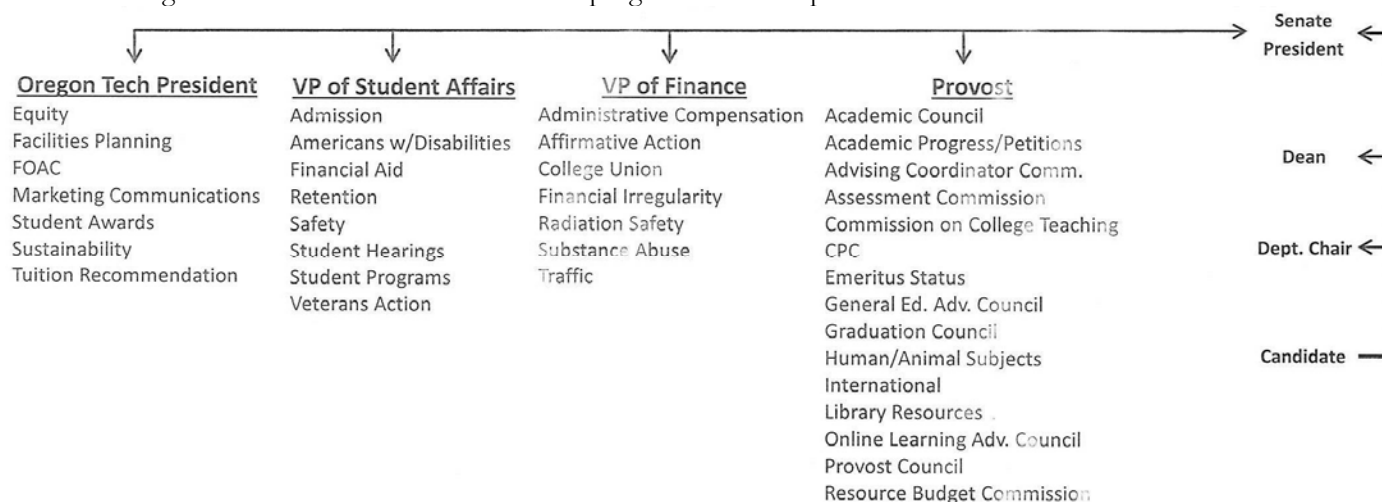


Figure 1 University Standing Committee Selection Process

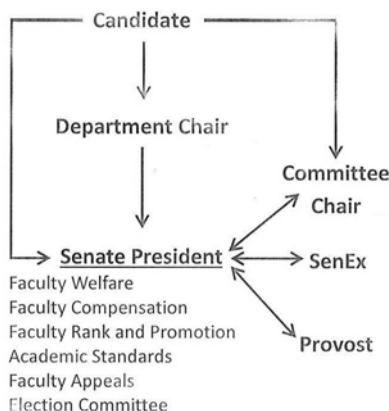


Figure 2 Faculty Senate Standing Committee Selection Process

- Welfare also discussed whether AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) were necessary in all campus buildings. The committee recommends increasing the defibrillator program. They recommend that Risk Management be in charge of this program and to have at least one unit per building, which would be a total of 15 units. Dean LeAnn Maupin stated she had no information on the Risk Management position and where it stands in regards to creating and hiring for this position. David Thaemert suggested a resolution be presented to President Maples, the four Vice Presidents and the Risk Management staff. Following further discussion, it was agreed that the Administrative Council and SenEx would be the best ones to handle this proposal.

Academic Standards – Chris Caster

Chris stated the committee met on Dec. 10, 2015, and are now presenting the second half of their charge, the first half having been discussed at the December Faculty Senate meeting.

- Regarding the policy for Credit for Prior Learning, HECC sent out the NWCCU standards. These are non-negotiable and must be followed.
- Discussion followed regarding Credit for Prior Learning, the \$50.00 fee for challenging a course and the \$25.00 per credit fee, paid in advance. He stated the committee will submit new questions and ask for rebuttals and/or changes. The committee's third charge, covering Distance Ed, will be worked on next.

Faculty Compensation (FCC) – Joe Reid

The Faculty Compensation Committee has been continuing to work on overload and are trying to find a model that works. The committee plans to have a meeting with Provost Burda to identify a way forward on compensation models.

Reports of Special or Ad Hoc Committee

Ad Hoc Welfare- Tiernan Fogerty

Tiernan stated that the committee had met with Provost Burda but has no recommendations at this time.

- The newly-received Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) have not yet been dealt with. The committee is looking at the questions of Tenure and Non-Tenure track. In speaking with Provost Burda, he stated if the Tenure/Non-Tenure model is kept, the OARs will not have to be re-written.
- On the Seven-Year Rule, the committee recommends that this policy be removed. This would require action by the Board of Trustees. Historically, the rule has been on the books but never enforced; there is concern that unless the rule is removed, it could be enforced at some point.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

- Several faculty have stated the need to have input surrounding the Board of Trustees announcement, in the minutes of the Sept. 2015 Board retreat, that there is a need to review the President's contract. Chair Graham reminded the Trustees that most University Presidents have a 3-5 year contract. Discussion followed and it was recommended that senators meet with their departments/constituents regarding the university president's performance, relay the feedback to SenEx, and SenEx will forward the information to the Board.

Open Floor Period

- Maureen Sevigny stated that she was asked to be part of a working committee on HB2973 at the Oregon capital. This bill covers "affordable baccalaureate degrees." She will report back with all information at upcoming meetings of Senate. She voiced her concerns that such a bill could have the effect of reductions in faculty due to vastly lowered tuition. Christian Vukasovich, AOF, said the committee Maureen is on will give the House time to

explore the option of an “affordable baccalaureate degree” but that the committee has no power to move the bill forward.

- Matt Beekman asked about the universities’ policy of filling vacant faculty positions and why it is so slow. He voiced concern that many desirable candidates are accepting offers from other institutions before OIT moves to open a position posting. Dean Maupin, who is on the Provost Leadership Group, said they are working to improve the process, starting with a 5-year plan. The first part of the 5-year plan will begin work this month. The second part will begin work in February and then they should be able to start implementation on the plan. This should lead to faster response times to university needs.

Report of the Provost – Brad Burda

Not present. No report.

Report of the President’s Council Delegate – Robyn Cole

No report.

Report of the AOF Representative – Christian Vukasovich

Christian Vukasovich stated that HB2973 will be addressed by AOF at their meeting January 23. Another big issue for AOF is healthcare for part-time faculty.

Report of the IFS Representative – Ryan Madden / Mehmet Vurkac

No report.

Report of the FOAC Representative – Terri Torres

The Fiscal Operations Advisory Council (FOAC) met Dec. 2, 2015. Highlights from that meeting include:

- The administration forecasts that faculty salaries will increase 2.25% next year and 2.0% the following year. Undergraduate and distance education tuition will increase, and there are also expected enrollment increases.
- It was also stated that there is no active plan for a soccer field and that the Facilities Committee was never told of the possibility of a soccer field.

Report of the Administrative Council Delegate – Tracie Houtz

Not present. No report.

Report of the ASOIT Representative – Kristen Marsters

- Kristen reported that on Jan. 25, 2016, they met with Michelle Meyer of the Business Affairs Office (BAO) and that the possibility of food trucks on campus is being explored.
- The microwave in the Dow Center is compliments of the ASOIT VP.
- Regarding the lack of coffee service in the Dow Center, students and faculty should lodge their complaints with ASOIT. The information can then be taken to the BAO as rationale to return coffee service in Dow.
- ASOIT has found that students overall are pleased with the quality, quantity and hours of Sodexo, but they did find a majority would be more inclined to eat at the foodservice if the meal prices were \$1-2 lower.
- She stated that ASOIT had no knowledge of the soccer field until public email announcements were issued.

Adjournment

Motion and second to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:57.

Respectfully submitted,

David Thaemert, Secretary

/jp