

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**  
**March 6, 2012**

President Matt Schnackenberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All senators or alternates were present except Vanessa Bennett, LeAnn Maupin and Daniel Helmricks. A quorum was determined.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the February 7, 2012 meeting were approved as presented.

**REPORT OF OFFICERS**

**Report of the President** – M. Schnackenberg –

- President Maples has charged the Distance Ed Advisory Council with the development of a plan to expand DE enrollment. Matt has been asked by some faculty, “If the students are going to take a class online anyway, would you rather that OIT taught it or somebody else taught it?” Matt feels that there are some classes OIT shouldn’t teach online. If others are teaching it, that’s their business. If OIT faculty don’t feel good about teaching a particular class, they shouldn’t teach it.
- Larry Powers and Mike Schell are proposing a new physical education Gen Ed requirement. So far, there appears to be general acceptance of the requirements, which are already required at the other OUS schools.
- Jim Long and Matt will be traveling to Eugene on March 9<sup>th</sup> to again meet with the presidents and vice-presidents of the other Faculty Senates in the OUS system. These meetings have been interesting and useful. On the agenda are reports from the various campuses, continued work to improve Faculty Senate connections with IFS, and Western Governor’s University, an online school, and the advisability of bringing it into the OUS system. There will also be a discussion of PEBB and ways that the three big schools can help the four smaller schools as well as a discussion of guns on campus as the rules have recently changed.

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

**REPORT OF THE PROVOST** – B. Burda – No report.

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

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Faculty Rank Promotion and Tenure** – T. Fogarty – No report.

**Welfare Committee** – D. Peterson – Dan reported on the Committee’s findings from their interviews with OIT faculty and staff regarding support for Applied Research.

Concerns about Applied Research:

- Many interviewees didn’t think that there was much institutional support for applied research.
  - \* Lita Colligan is making an effort to inform faculty of how the Office for Strategic Partnerships can provide support and assistance with grants and developing partnerships.
- Faculty are concerned about whether or not they have the time to do applied research given their current teaching and service loads.
- Faculty are wondering where the funding for applied research would come from.
- There is a lack of clarity about how important applied research might be for tenure and promotion.
- Faculty expressed confusion and suspicion about applied research. They were unsure of the definition of applied research; and they were suspicious of the administration’s intent.

#### Benefits of Applied Research:

- Faculty do recognize that there are benefits of applied research and they recognize the importance of using research to create partnerships that are beneficial to OIT, the faculty and students.

#### Committee recommendations:

- OIT administrators, faculty, and staff need to consider ways to encourage applied research by providing greater levels of support through offering additional time, finances, and weight toward tenure and promotion.
- Administrators and Faculty Senate leaders need to clarify their intentions for considering applied research at this time.
- In cooperation with the faculty, the administration needs to clearly define applied research.
- The Committee doesn't feel that additional research on applied research is necessary at this time.

During the discussion of the report, Dan said that a better, more specific definition of applied research was needed. Questions asked during the discussion:

- How will applied research be perceived with regards to tenure and promotion and faculty evaluations?
- How does applied research fit into OIT's strategic plan? Faculty need direction from the administration because it is difficult for faculty to see how applied research fits into the administration's plan.

Following the discussion, Anne HillerClark made a motion that the findings be forwarded to the administration, Jim Ballard seconded the motion. The senate voted unanimously to forward the Committee's information to the administration.

**Academic Standards** – J. Ballard – At the February Senate meeting, the proposed *Grade Change Policy* and the *Sealing of a Degree* were returned to the Committee to be reworded. Below are the rewritten proposals.

- **GRADE CHANGE POLICY** (paragraph would go under “Grading Policy” on catalog page 33.  
All grades except for ‘I’ and ‘IP’ are final when filed by the instructor during grade processing each term. Thereafter, a grade change may be made only in the case of clerical, procedural or calculation error. No grade other than ‘I’ or ‘IP’, once reported, may be revised by re-testing or by completing additional work. Any grade change by the instructor of record must take place within one year subsequent to the term in which the grade was reported. Any grade change that is to be filed later than one year must be approved by the Dean and the Registrar.

Jim Ballard made the motion to accept the *Grade Change Policy* as proposed; Jamie Zipay seconded the motion. Vote was all ayes to approve the above policy as presented.

- **SEALING OF A DEGREE** (paragraph would go under “Application for Graduation” on catalog page 36.  
All grade changes, removals of incompletes, and transfer work necessary for completion of degree requirements must be on file in the Office of the Registrar by the Friday following the end of the term of graduation. Academic records are sealed ninety days after the conferral of a degree: no changes to the record will be made following that date.

Registrar Wendy Pedersen explained that OIT and Eastern are the only universities in the OUS system that do not seal degrees. Jim Ballard made the motion to approve the sealing of a degree as presented, Tanya McVay seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous to approve the procedure as presented.

**Faculty Compensation** – D. Thaemert – David Thaemert reported that the Committee is making progress on their charge to “designate a set of criteria for departments to determine and support their selection of comparator peer institutions.” Based on information he shared at February's Senate meeting, there are two blended-faculty departments in need of additional comparators. Natural Sciences is a blend of chemistry, physics and biology; HSS is a blend of humanities and social sciences. Both department

chairs are in favor of looking at the OIT comparators from the perspective of other instructional program classifications, rather than using the blended reporting codes. David said that it seems to be a more fair process to look at the actual disciplines rather than the blended departments, and the Committee plans future meetings to continue working on this charge.

**REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR AD HOC COMMITTEES** – No reports.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None.

**REPORT OF THE AOF REPRESENTATIVE** – T. Thompson – AOF will meet on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**REPORT OF THE IFS REPRESENTATIVE** – M. Clark – The state IFS meeting was held on March 2 & 3. Due to the weather, Mark was unable to attend the meeting, but Grant Kirby did attend. Mark will forward Grant's report when he receives it.

IFS has arranged for a representative to participate in the state discussions on health care.

**REPORT OF THE FOAC REPRESENTATIVE** – J. Long – Jim reported that FOAC met on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

- Lita Colligan reported that the impact of the OUS restructuring on budgets is uncertain at this time.
- Next year's budget for OUS should be presented in May and finalized in June.
  
- The OIT Geothermal Plant is scheduled to go on-line in December 2012. Johnson Controls has been hired to design the plant, but the actual builder still needs to be hired. An RFP process is currently in legal review and has yet to be released.
- When both the large and small power plants are on-line, combined they should generate 73% of OIT's power needs.
- The generated power revenue/energy savings is expected to cover the debt service on the loans. The actual benefit can only be determined once the plants are on-line.
- The performance of the plants is based on the weather, making returns projections uncertain.
- It is projected that OIT will see returns on the investment beginning in 2020.
  
- The Chinese investor for the OSU solar project has withdrawn due to litigation and patent problems with Solar World. It's possible that another investor will pick up the project. The incentives for the project will expire at the end of June without another investor.
  
- Currently, an \$8 million capital campaign is underway with \$5 million targeted for Wilsonville and \$3 million targeted for the endowment.
- The total price tag for the Wilsonville project is \$33 million; \$25 million from lottery funds and the sales of the different Portland campuses and \$5 million from the ongoing campaign.

**REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL DELEGATE** – S. Petersen – The Council will meet on March 13<sup>th</sup> to further review their survey results.

Jan Abeita has the website up and running.

**REPORT OF THE ASOIT DELEGATE** – D. Helmricks – No report.

***OPEN FLOOR PERIOD*** – Tim Thompson stated that one of the first slides shown at the February 28<sup>th</sup> Faculty-Administrator meeting depicted OIT as having two main campuses. Tim asked how that would impact the OIT Strategic Plan.

***ADJOURNMENT*** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hallie Neupert, Secretary

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