

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES October 2, 2012

President Dan Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All senators or alternates were present except Jim Long and Tim Thompson. A quorum was determined.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 5, 2012 meeting were approved as presented.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Report of the President – D. Peterson – Dan requested that senators let Diane Buske know the name of their alternate.

- During the summer Dan attended a meeting with the Oregon Educational Investment Board (OEID). The meeting concerned the 40-40-20 plan and how universities and junior colleges can work together. Dan thinks that there is a need for the faculty to be thoughtful about the role Oregon Tech can play in this plan. The 40-40-20 plan is that by 2025 all Oregon adults will hold a high school diploma or equivalent, 40% will have an associate degree or equivalent, 40% will have a bachelor degree or more, and 20% will have a high school diploma or equivalent. Dan feels that it's important for faculty to be proactive with regard to the 40-40-20 plan. He encouraged senators to discuss this plan with their constituents for ideas and feedback.
- Provost Brad Burda stated that direct impact of 40-40-20 to the higher education system are compacts with the OEIB that are based on numbers of graduates per year, total graduates and by minority; targets set for each institution over a period of the next 13 years to reach 2025.
- A meeting is scheduled for October 9th from 2 – 3:30 pm with Denise Yunker, Human Resources Director for OUS. She is working specifically with benefits and will be talking with Oregon Tech faculty about a report entitled, "The 2012 Health and Welfare Plans Report," to get input related to this particular plan. Denise questioned whether or not Senate would want to meet with her prior to the scheduled 2 pm meeting.
 - * The 2012 Health and Welfare Plans Report is responsive to Senate Bill 242. There was a group established with the SB 242 called The Health and Welfare Plans Option Review Committee that looked at three things related to the group insurance and the PEBB plan:
 - continued participation in the Public Employee Benefits Board (PEBB);
 - transfer of employee participation to Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB);
 - participation in other alternative group health and welfare insurance benefit plans.
 - * The committee felt that it is really important to reduce the rate of increased insurance costs.
 - * Key findings of the committee were:
 - the option of transferring to OEBB did not seem viable because it would cost OUS more and disrupt participating provider relationships;
 - establishing an alternative group health and welfare insurance program would be nice for OUS, but could have a detrimental effect on other groups of people around the state also being insured through PEBB.
 - continuing with PEBB required significant movement to act and to recommend which is the reason for the meetings with Denise Yunker.

Dan feels that Oregon Tech should have a voice in the discussion.

- * One recommendation was that OUS have a specific benefits council that represents members of OUS with PEBB.
- * Another recommendation was that faculty need to "get more bang for their buck" if continuing to pay more into PEBB.

- * Questions were raised about the HEM, contribution rates, and greater coverage.
- * Normalization of cost and contribution rates was also recommended.

In discussions with other people, Grant Kirby senses that there is some suggestion that the University of Oregon and Portland State, two of the larger campuses in the OUS, are thinking about separating from the OUS. Grant is concerned that Oregon Tech have a voice about how faculty feel related to the impact that any breakaway of the larger campuses would have on Oregon Tech and our benefits, not just the overall impact on OUS.

Senators felt that there would be sufficient time in the general meeting to address any concerns so no additional meeting with Denise would be needed.

Dan read the following from the Charter Preamble:

The Faculty Senate has the sole responsibility, on behalf of the Faculty, of recommending policy changes to the president of the institute for consideration by the chancellor and the State Board of Higher Education.

Dan wants the Senate to recognize that it has the responsibility to make those changes and recommendations to the president so that faculty can be heard, not only on the Oregon Tech campus, but at a higher level as well. He feels that it's important to hear from a variety of people.

Faculty Senate has the responsibility for considering all proposed policy changes which affect the general welfare of the faculty. The Senate, furthermore, may consider and recommend specific means of insuring the continuance of academic freedom at this institute.

Responsibilities of the Faculty Senate: Members of the Faculty Senate are the uninstructed representatives of their constituents. It shall be the responsibility of the members to seek the opinions of their constituents, but having done so, the members of the Faculty Senate shall feel free to make decisions and vote on matters according to their own reasoned judgment.

Dan wants senators to share information from the Senate meetings with their constituents and bring back information to the Senate meetings. It's important for senator to be the voice of the faculty.

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

REPORT OF THE PROVOST – B. Burda –

- There is a push at the state level in terms of 40-40-20 to award credit for prior learning and to try to find a way to actually award that credit. A task force has been organized out of the Chancellor's Office with faculty representation from each of the seven universities to look at three specific types of credit for prior learning. The standard type is previous work experience, but the other two are veterans' work experience and trying to transfer some credit, and the third is Massive Open Online Classes (MOOCs). This is the MIT stuff where you have 160,000 students enrolled, 26,000 complete with a certificate, there is no college credit, is it worth something; and, if it is worth something, how might it be rated towards college credit? The task force has through June 2013 to work; the two faculty who will represent Oregon Tech are Marla Miller, Management, and Linda Young, Communication, who is also a member of Academic Standards.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL DELEGATE – D. Peterson – No report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Welfare Committee – T. McVay – No report.

Academic Standards – J. Ballard – No report.

Faculty Compensation – D. Thaemert – No report.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR AD HOC COMMITTEES – No reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No report.

NEW BUSINESS – No report.

REPORT OF THE AOF REPRESENTATIVE – T. Thompson – No report.

REPORT OF THE IFS REPRESENTATIVE – M. Clark – The next IFS meeting will be in LaGrande on October 11th.

Because of his new responsibilities as the Director of Honors Program, Mark will not be running for re-election in December. He gave the following explanation of the responsibilities and duties of the IFS. It is the primary faculty voice at the Oregon University System level. IFS serves as the Chancellor's direct connection, it's a sounding board for him. He often attends the state meetings as a way for him to directly communicate and get in touch with faculty. It is an excellent way for the faculty voice to be heard at the institutional level. IFS is also a way for other OUS administrators to communicate directly with the faculty and to obtain feedback.

Structurally, IFS is comprised of faculty members from each campus, chosen by the individual campuses. PSU, OSU and U of O each have three representatives, and the other four institutions each have two representatives. IFS does not generally vote or make policy; it operates as a coordinating body and is a way of discussing items at the state level to take back to the respective faculty senates for action.

Typically, IFS meets in Portland five times per year in coordination with the State Board meetings. Travel for the Oregon Tech rep is covered by the university. Mark suggests that the next IFS rep be someone who has been on Faculty Senate, who is familiar with what is happening on campus, and who is tenured so that they can speak freely with the Chancellor. Any faculty member qualified to serve on Faculty Senate, including Department Chairs, is eligible for this IFS position, and will also serve as an At-Large rep to the Faculty Senate.

REPORT OF THE FOAC REPRESENTATIVE – J. Zipay – No report.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL DELEGATE – R. McCutcheon – Council will meet in October and they have a number of policy reviews on their agenda.

REPORT OF THE ASOREGON TECH DELEGATE – C. Borja –

- The first general meeting was held on October 1st.
- Working on updating the OCC Handbook.
- Leadership Academy for all students will be held October 6th.
- Blood drive is being planned for November 7th & 8th.
- Voter registration is being conducted for the upcoming November election.
- Volley for a Cure will be held on October 6th.

- Wilsonville ASOIT officers are now in place and are working to establish a club system on the Wilsonville campus.
- Grand Opening for Wilsonville will be October 17th and two officers from this campus will be attending.

OPEN FLOOR PERIOD – Ron McCutcheon, Director of Human Resources, reminded senators that October is the Open Enrollment period for health care and the Benefits Fair will be on October 9th from 10 am – 2 pm.

PEBB will be on campus on October 10th to do presentations about the 2013 plan and changes with the HEM.

Matt Schnackenberg said that last year there was some concern that the Klamath Falls campus might face competition from students from the Wilsonville campus. At fall convocation President Maples stated that Wilsonville was the urban campus and Klamath Falls was the rural campus. Matt asked the Provost and College Deans what that distinction means and does it work to prevent competition between the campuses?

Provost Burda responded that Oregon Tech is changing demographics in Wilsonville. For years Wilsonville has been professionals completing degrees. Now an increase in full-time students is being seen. The Wilsonville campus is in a location where Oregon Tech doesn't have to worry about direct competition with community colleges, thus is starting to offer more General Education courses during the day for students who are enrolled in the upper level courses. Looking at the overall picture, Wilsonville is an urban campus because it is in an urban location. The clientele of students served is changing and it is going to be much more of a full-service campus. So far there really has not been competition between the campuses. Programs at the campuses are planned to be complementary, not competitive.

Mark Clark stated that 11 students have been admitted to the Honors Program.

Marla Edge reported that Oregon Tech has a statewide presence with writing and speech in the Advanced Credit Program (ACP), and other departments are being encouraged to offer ACP courses. With the Wilsonville opening and the Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) Program, Oregon Tech will be encouraging area schools to offer STEM ACP credits and entice high school students to attend Wilsonville to take General Ed and STEM courses.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wangping Sun, Secretary

/db