

Volume 49

Number 6

February 17, 2022

Minutes of the OUHSC Faculty Senate

SENATORS (S), ALTERNATES (A), AND OFFICERS (O)

**PRESENT**

Bagley, Jennifer (S)  
Burgett, Anthony (S)  
Burks, Heather (S)  
Broussard, Kimetha (A)  
Campbell, Janis (S)  
Dacus, Zachary (S)  
Dresser, Susan (A)  
Esteban Florez, Fernando (O)  
Finneran, Denise (S)  
Hall, Beth (S)  
Howard, Eric (O)  
Jeffries, Lynn (O)  
Kathuria, Pranay (S)  
Lang, Mark (S)  
Leasure, Renee (O)  
McNall-Knapp, Rene (S)  
Mangrum, Marissa (S)  
O'Neal, Katherine (O)  
Rogers, Carol (S)  
Settle, Susan (S)  
Smith, Michael (S)  
Wickersham, Elizabeth (S)

**ABSENT**

Anderson, Michael (S)  
Beavers, Susie (A)  
Bhattacharya, Resham (S)  
Celii, Amanda (S)  
Costner-Lark, Amy (A)  
Floyd, Evan (S)  
Hord, Norman (A)  
Miller, Bernadette (A)  
Ntourou, Kat (A)  
O'Brien, James (A)  
Perrine, Jordan (A)  
Reese, Jessica (A)  
Sharpe, Amanda (A)  
Smith, Patsy (S)  
Vandyck, Kofi (A)  
Wood, Donna (A)  
Zhang, Ying (A)

**EX-OFFICERS AND GUESTS PRESENT – Dr. James Tomasek, James Spann, Dr. Yi-Yen Chen, Dr. Kate Morris, Claire Young, and Zoom Guests**

- I. **Call to Order** - Dr. Fernando Esteban Florez, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm via Zoom. A quorum was present.
- II. **Guest Speakers:**
  - o **Dr. James Tomasek, Professor Emeritus:** Dr. Tomasek provided a brief overview of what has been happening in Oklahoma in regards to biotechnology. He shared that states and regions that are leaders in biotechnology have three areas that are developed as part of the biotechnology ecosystem:
    1. Novel innovations and technologies need to be started in live startup companies.
    2. Seed funding of early stage companies as they begin to test their technology. This is critical to these companies to move forward.
    3. Investments in mid-stage companies are necessary for the continued development of these companies.Dr. Tomasek said that the speakers are happy to meet with groups to discuss their work outlined during this meeting.
  - o **James Spann, Founder & Managing Partner, Boyd Street Ventures:** After a career with the Navy & Marines, and 30+ years in the corporate sector working in the life sciences, the Boyd Street Ventures (BSV) concept was conceived in 2015 after Mr. Spann witnessed the technology being developed at OU and OUHSC. Boyd Street Ventures is an early-stage venture capital firm connecting alumni of the University of Oklahoma to high-growth investment opportunities affiliated with the University. Their investment goal is to identify OU-affiliated innovation ripe for commercialization. Technology and innovations on the OU campuses include life sciences, aerospace, fintech, weather, and energy tech. The firm is located on Campus Corner in Norman and supports the growth of the OU Community's startup ecosystem and catalyzes the OU entrepreneurial and investor community. Boyd Street Ventures will select 1-3 companies a year from OU / OUHSC to run and take them from early-stage to late-stage. BSV will provide angel funding up to \$50,000 and invest up to \$1,000,000 to a seed/series. They are raising funds from OU alumni. The University will benefit because 2% of General Partners carry will go to the OUF Foundation. OU students will also benefit from the opportunity to take classes related to venture capitals and work in BSV to learn about entrepreneurial law and business.

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- **Dr. Yi-Yen Chen, Managing Director, ECHO Investment Capital:** Dr. Chen has worked with various venture capitalist groups in Taiwan and San Francisco. She moved to Oklahoma last June to work with O-Bio. O-Bio is a \$150M life sciences venture capital fund. They are helping emerging companies save time and money by connecting them with a unified life science ecosystem. O-Bio invests in manufacturing platforms, preventive and precision medicine, biologics and small molecules, healthcare IT and digital health, advanced diagnostics, and medical devices. O-Bio focuses on late-stage companies. It is an alliance of institutions including: OUHSC, the Stephenson Cancer Center, the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center, the Dean McGee Eye Institute, the Oklahoma Blood Institute, and OMRF. Oklahoma has many assets that make it a great location for a biotech companies. We have a very diverse patient population, and unfortunately, many have very bad health outcomes. Oklahoma City is also a beneficial location for cost effectiveness. Dr. Chen shared four of O-Bio's investment companies.
  1. Luna – Match making of physical therapy services that delivers physical therapy to patients' homes. Luna has a network of over 500 physical therapists providing over 8,000 sessions every month in 24 markets. They are trying to break into the Oklahoma market and O-Bio is going to help them with this process.
  2. Deka – Preclinical stage biotech company developing biologics for patients with cancer and inflammatory disease. Deka wants to have their molecule manufactured in Oklahoma and would like to have their Phase 1 clinical trials at the Stephenson Cancer Center.
  3. Wheeler Bio – Our core for biomanufacturing. Started here in Oklahoma City with a facility at Research Park
  4. Zorion – Medical device company developing innovative solutions to treat cardio vascular disease. OUHSC faculty member, Dr. Beau Hawkins, is the PI for the clinical trials in Oklahoma City. He has said that they can recruit enough patients for the clinical trial in only one month. This is another example of how Oklahoma it a prime location for medical research.

Dr. Esteban Florez asked if O-Bio or BSV would be able to help faculty get a company or idea off of the ground. Mr. Spann said that he reviews ideas or innovations and if an idea is a high-value idea or concept, BSV would jump in with the resources on campus to work directly with the founder and coach them. John Hanak of the Office of Innovation and Corporate Partnerships is working very closely with O-Bio and BSV and he will help facilitate those connections. It's going to take time for this to develop, but that is the vision of the Office of Innovation and Corporate Partnerships.

### III. Approval of January 2022 Minutes – Approved

- **Motioned:** Eric Howard, second: Katherine O'Neal – Approved

### IV. Report of the Chair – Dr. Fernando Esteban Florez – OU Health is welcoming the inaugural President and CEO of the OU Health system, Dr. Richard Lofgren. He starts in March and is joining OU Health with previous experience at the UC Health system of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Executive Committee has met with Interim Provost Dr. Gary Raskob and Vice Provost Jill Raines to address concerns brought up by the faculty. Those concerns included the nursing shortage and the financial position of the hospital system. It was reported that OU Health is suffering financially, but Interim Provost Raskob said that is common at this time because all hospital systems are struggling. There is a \$25M investment to decrease the nursing shortage and mission support dollars will start rolling back to the University in a year or so.

Another topic addressed were potential budget cuts. It is expected that the budget from the legislature will be flat so no budget cuts are anticipated; however, expenditures are higher. Interim Provost Raskob said there are several sources of money to keep OUHSC afloat. Additionally, there will not be any massive layoffs at OUHSC.

The Executive Committee inquired about the Vice President for Research Search and the Strategic Plan. There is going to be an announcement after the March Board of Regents meeting regarding the Vice President for Research. The OUHSC Strategic Plan will be addressed at the March meeting as well. Those tasked with creating the Strategic Plan were responsible for delivering a new draft of the vision for the Strategic Plan. The Board of Regents will provide feedback/revisions at the March meeting for a final draft to be presented at the June Board of Regents meeting.

Dr. Kate Morris asked about unconfirmed reports of clinical departments not being reimbursed from the hospital. The Executive Committee will follow up with the Provost on this topic.

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### V. Committee and Council Reports

**Regents Meeting:** No report

**Bylaws Committee:** No report

**Committee on Committees:** Dr. Eric Howard, Chair – No report

**Faculty Compensation Committee:** Chair – No report

**IT Advisory Committee:** Dr. Katherine O'Neal/Renee Leasure – No report

**Academic Programs Council:** No report

**Campus Tenure Committee:** Dr. Ben Crowley – Chair – No report

**Conflict of Interest Committee** – No Report

**Discrimination and Harassment Committee:** Dr. Wendy Galbraith & Dr. Suzanne Kimball – No report

**Graduate Council:** Dr. Eric Howard – No report

**Library Advisory Committee:** Chair – No report

**Research Council:** Dr. Grant Skrepnek – Chair – No report

**Athletics Council:** Dr. O'Neal — No report

**Commencement Committee:** Dr. Denise Bender – No report

**Continuing Education Council:** No report

**Council on Faculty Awards and Honors:** No report

**Employment Benefits Committee:** University Committee – No report

**Honorary Degrees Screening Committee:** Dr. Patsy Smith – No report

**Scholars Selection Committee:** No report

**Retirement Plans Management Committee:** No report

**Shared Leave Committee:** – No report

**OU-IT Teaching and Learning Technologies Advisory Committee** – Patsy Smith & Nancy Halliday - No report

### VI. Old Business:

**Research IT Needs Meeting Update:** Dr. Leasure and faculty from OUHSC met with IT Administration regarding IT concerns previously presented to President and IT. Updates are pending, those will be shared soon. Nicholas Key of IT Administration is acting as our liaison. He is willing to meet with the Faculty Senate about these updates.

**HSC Faculty Handbook Committee Update:** Dr. Kate Morris, a member of the committee that revised the HSC Faculty Handbook, said that the full handbook will be an agenda item on the March Board of Regents agenda. The committee reviewed the entire document and brought it into alignment. If you have questions, contact Dr. Morris regarding the changes that were made.

### VII. New Business: Dr. Esteban Florez reminded the Senate of the college elections. Names of incoming senators and alternates are due to the Faculty Senate by March 31, 2022.

### VIII. Other Items

- Is this a Great University or What?

- **Key's Speech and Hearing Center Annual Donation from The United Way of Central Oklahoma – Dr. Andrew John**

Did you know that participating in the OUHSC United Way Capital Campaign benefits programs right here on campus? The John W. Keys Speech and Hearing Center in the College of Allied Health is home to two United Way of Central Oklahoma partner programs: The United Way Hearing Aid Bank and the iLEAP language enrichment pre-Kindergarten program. In the Hearing Aid Bank, Dr. Carole Johnson and teams of Doctor of Audiology student interns work with community partners to provide free hearing evaluations, reduced-cost hearing aids, and no-cost follow-up appointments to Oklahomans who qualify. In the iLEAP program, Prof Beth Lane and Mrs. Jessica Lathem supervise Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology interns who create a language-enriched pre-K experience for children with speech and language delays or who are on the autism spectrum. Visit <https://alliedhealth.ouhsc.edu/Keys-Clinic> to learn more about these programs as well as other services provided at the Keys Speech and Hearing Center.

### IX. Announcements/Other Discussion Items

- o **Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 23rd at 5pm. All faculty are welcome to attend.**

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Respectfully submitted,  
Claire Young for:  
Renee Leasure, Secretary 2021-2022  
Katherine O'Neal, Secretary-Elect 2021-2022

Handouts:  
February 2022 Agenda  
January 2022 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes