

Volume 49

Number 2

September 16, 2021

Minutes of the OUHSC Faculty Senate

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

PRESENT

ABSENT

Bagley, Jennifer (S)
Bhattacharya, Resham (S)
Burgett, Anthony (S)
Broussard, Kimetha (A)
Dacus, Zachary (S)
Esteban Florez, Fernando (O)
Finneran, Denise (S)
Floyd, Evan (S)
Hall, Beth (S)
Howard, Eric (O)
Jeffries, Lynn (O)
Lang, Mark (S)
Mangrum, Marissa (S)
O'Brien, James (A)
O'Neal, Katherine (O)
Rogers, Carol (S)
Settle, Susan (S)
Smith, Michael (S)
Smith, Patsy (S)
Wickersham, Elizabeth (S)

Anderson, Michael (S)
Beavers, Susie (A)
Burks, Heather (S)
Campbell, Janis (S)
Celi, Amanda (S)
Costner-Lark, Amy (A)
Dresser, Susan (A)
Hord, Norman (A)
Kathuria, Pranay (S)
Leasure, Renee (O)
McNall-Knapp, Rene (S)
Miller, Bernadette (A)
Ntourou, Kat (A)
Perrine, Jordan (A)
Reese, Jessica (A)
Sharpe, Amanda (A)
Vandyck, Kofi (A)
Wood, Donna (A)
Zhang, Ying (A)

EX-OFFICERS AND GUESTS PRESENT – Jennifer Hembree, Lee Camargo-Quinn, Colin Fonda, Claire Young, and Zoom Guests

- I. **Call to Order** - Dr. Fernando Esteban Florez, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm via Zoom and in the Provost's Conference Room. A quorum was present.
- II. **Guest Speakers:**
 - **Jennifer Hembree, Ed.D, Director of Policy:** Dr. Hembree introduced herself and her new office, the Office of Policy Management. Her objective is to streamline policies on all OU campuses. She will use a program called PolicyTech to manage the policies; this will be a one-stop-shop for all policies at the University. The website for Policy Management will be available soon. Dr. Hembree and her office will eventually gather all policies across the three campuses and add them to their system.
 - **Lee Camargo-Quinn, Assistant Director of Benefits:** Ms. Camargo-Quinn gave the Faculty Senate an update on benefits for the coming year. The University, including HSC, will switch healthcare carriers in 2022. Cigna will be the new carrier. Ms. Camargo-Quinn described the process that they used to select Cigna. This consisted of assembling a committee that included members from all three campuses. They sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) and of the responses received, they considered three for final presentations. From there the committee recommended a carrier to executive leadership. The Board of Regents will approve Cigna as the healthcare carrier at the September 20th Board of Regents' Meeting. After receiving approval, an email will be sent out to faculty and staff. Ms. Camargo-Quinn assured the Senate that rates will remain flat with Cigna. Dental coverage will continue to be carried by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma. She would like to come back and update the Senate on the implementation process at the October Faculty Senate Meeting.
- III. **Approval of August 2021 Minutes** – Approved with modification (Addition of Senators and Alternate's full names who were present via Zoom).
 - o **Motioned:** Patsy Smith, second: Evan Floyd – Approved
- IV. **Report of the Chair** – Dr. Fernando Esteban Florez
 - Meeting with Provost and Vice Provost
 - o The Executive Committee met with the Provost about the turnover of administrators at OU and OUHSC. In some instances, disputes and incompatibilities caused people to resign. This was the case with the in

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Purchasing and with the Vice President for Operations. Kira Reyes will now serve as Assistant Director of Purchasing. Dr. Sanders said that she will continue to build on the improvements that her predecessor began. Dr. Sanders also told the executive committee that they are working hard to overcome this type of situation. They are also addressing the nurse shortage, which may take years to stabilize.

- The University's first Chief Innovation and Corporate Officer has been hired. John Hanak will join the university in this role and help continue to strengthen the research and innovation on campus.
- Shared Governance was another topic covered at the Executive Committee's meeting with the Provost. Dr. Sanders said that shared governance at OUHSC and OU Health will continue through the invitation of faculty to join OU Health committees. The administration wants to strengthen the faculty voice on specific committees. The Provost is excited to make shared governance a reality.
- The Executive Committee and the Provost also discussed communication and transparency with the OU Health merger. Dr. Sanders told the Committee that OU Health employees making the transition should receive letters about their benefits beginning on September 14th. They are working with OTRS and Fidelity to make sure that no one gets less pay or less benefits. A representative from Fidelity will be available weekly for meetings to talk about benefits.
- Dr. Sanders updated the Committee on the Vice President for Research search. The process should be complete by early Spring. This person in this role will be tasked with continuing to improve transparency and communication, in addition to other duties.
- According to Dr. Sanders, it is the University's goal to ramp up efforts with OU Online. At this moment there is minimal enrollment and OU Online is not financially viable so they want relevant faculty input on how to improve. They want to set targets on enrollment for colleges, especially for Nursing because they see this as an opportunity to help with the nursing shortage. This is a priority area.
- Dr. Howard was tapped to add an update about the animal facilities. He reported that there are currently issues with space, for mice in particular. This is on the radar of the Provost and the new Assistant Vice President for Research, Dr. Dean Myers.
- Lastly, Dr. Sanders also told the committee that they are pushing hard to invest in research and make sure we have the feel of a research institution. Details on how that will unfold will be forthcoming as developments are made.

V. Committee and Council Reports

Voted on slate.

- Dr. Patsy Smith inquired about Dr. Melissa Craft, CON, being appointed to the Faculty Appeals Board due to her administrative role. Dr. Carol Rogers and Dr. Howard spoke to this concern stating that Dr. Craft does not have evaluation responsibilities over faculty in the College of Nursing, therefore her appointment to the Faculty Appeals Board is not an issue.
 - **Motioned:** Patsy Smith, second: Eric Howard - Approved

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: Dr. Shari Kinney- Chair – No report

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

Athletics Council: No report

Commencement Committee: Dr. Denise Bender – No report

Continuing Education Council: Dr. Stacy Anderson – 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

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Retirement Plans Management Committee: No report

VI. Old Business: The Breastfeeding Support Policy was distributed with the agenda.

VII. New Business: In response to the topic of administrator turnover, Dr. Marie Hanigan said that the Provost and Jill Raines need to have exit interviews with faculty and senior administrators as a regular practice. She also addressed issues with Sooner Track. Sooner Track is used by anyone who has to submit grants and it was recently updated so that you cannot continue or go backwards on an application without certain fields filled in. This is frustrating and Dr. Hanigan asked who is accountable or who should to address this issue. Dr. Howard recommended Dr. Martha Ogilvie, Acting Vice President for Research, as a resource. Dr. Esteban Florez added that there is a task force looking at Sooner Track to work out the bugs. Dr. Jeffries added that the update was planned to keep the system running, but the task force is working on improvements going forward. Dr. Esteban Florez said he will personally bring this to Dr. Ogilvie.

VIII. Announcements/Other Discussion Items

- **Next meeting will be Thursday, October 21 at 5pm.** Dorothy Anderson, the new VP and Chief Human Resources Officer will join as a speaker. John Hanak will also be contacted about attending a future meeting.

Adjourned: 5:52 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Young for:

Renee Leasure, Secretary 2021-2022

Katherine O'Neal, Secretary-Elect 2021-2022

Handouts:

September 2021 Agenda

August 2021 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Breastfeeding Support Policy