

Minutes of ECU Faculty Senate Meeting for February 7, 2008

Officers:

President: Charlie Jones

Vice President: Guy Sewell

Secretary: Jean Thompson

Members Present:

School of Business

Pat Fountain

Charlie Jones

College of Education and Psychology

John Burke

Bill Heitland

Jeff Williams

College of Liberal Arts and Social Science

Brian Bentel

Robert Greenstreet

Mara Sukholutskaya

Paige Williams

Library

Angie Brunk

College of Health and Sciences

Nick Cheper

Guy Sewell

Jean Thompson

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Senate President Charlie Jones at 1:00 p.m..

2. **Dr. Rafes' Comments and Q&A**

Dr. Rafes began the meeting with a discussion of various topics:

- The Ardmore branch campus is moving forward; the University continues to work with the legislature and others to accomplish this goal.
- KGOU Radio (University of Oklahoma) should be getting a new frequency. ECU will partner with OU which should increase ECU's exposure.
- Budget: Higher education in Oklahoma needs an estimated \$43 million to break even; in Governor Henry's State of the State speech he asked for \$13 million for higher education.
- Regular undergraduate enrollment for spring 2008 is down one percent from spring 2007 (based on semester credit hours); however, graduate school enrollment continues to increase. Enrollment Management is now in place and will be assisting with this issue. They have reported that student requests for information about ECU have increased.
- Within the next few months RUSO will conduct a campus-wide survey of each state institution in the RUSO system.
- Coy Floyd, ECU graduate and consultant, will be organizing the Advancement Center Office while the University is interviewing to fill the Vice-President position.
- The University has met with some resistance from two Ada City Council members about the need to close the two streets around the Find Arts Building to continue to develop the plaza area. Dr. Rafes stressed that having a plaza is a critical component of the East Main Fine Arts District.

Q&A:

- Q: Why is there only a small area on the merit form for faculty/staff who continue to complete additional course work? A: A person may document on the merit form anything that the faculty member feels needs to be recognized. Suggestions for changes to the form will be looked at following the first year of the form use.
- Q: The narratives on the student evaluations were sent to an instructor who was upset with the comments made that did not relate to teaching. The instructor was further concerned about these types of statements since the secretaries typing the statement also read it. How can this issue be addressed? A: Some students are going to make statements that are not applicable; however, asking the secretaries who type the comments to edit them is not a viable solution.

3. **Acceptance of Minutes**

Minutes from the January 10 and January 24 meeting were accepted as written.

4. Senate Committee Reports

Committee on Committees:

The Committee would like to make standing committee recommendations in the spring as has been the custom at ECU. However, two issues that arose in the fall must be addressed before seeking nominees: 1) The failure of the new Standing Committees Structure Guidelines to specify librarians; and 2) The number of standing committees requiring a School of Business representative versus the number of Business faculty. The Committee on Committees recommended revising the Guidelines to include the library and school of business together on membership for committees.

After a discussion of this recommendation, Charlie Jones asked the senators to review the Standing Committees Structure Guidelines (he will e-mail the guidelines to each senator) and discuss at March's meeting how best to handle this problem.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee:

Nothing to report.

Elections Committee:

Nothing to report.

Emerging Technologies Committee:

MS Office 2007 for the Mac is now available to faculty.

Student Relations Committee:

Nothing to report.

Faculty Fellowship Committee:

Nothing to report. Chairman, Arlie Daniel, will be invited to the next Senate meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee on Student Ratings of Faculty:

The Committee is preparing to survey students about the modified questions on the new evaluation form to check the validity of each question. If the results are as expected, the Committee will meet with Dr. Rafes and Dr. Anderson to discuss the results. The Committee's goal is to have a pilot test completed by the end of March.

Ad Hoc Committee on Summer School Compensation:

Brian Bentel volunteered to be the chairperson for this committee.

5. Academic Affairs Council (AAC) Report

The AAC has not met since the last Senate meeting report.

6. Old Business

a. Course Syllabus Template

The course syllabus template is still being worked on.

b. Pay Stubs

Due to unforeseeable circumstances, the expected change in payroll to the new system will not be completed until February. The addition of the two lines to the check pay stub: 1) Supplemental Income (for the month) and 2) Supplemental Income Year-to-Date should appear on February's paycheck. These lines will be used for reporting "noncontract income" such as overload pay, OneNet pay, etc.

c. Review of Faculty Senate Goals for 2007-2008

The Faculty Senate Goals for 2007-2008 were reviewed for updates and completed. There continues to be a concern about adjunct faculty pay levels and the priority of any adjunct faculty pay increase. Various alternatives were discussed including the use of lecturers. Charlie Jones will talk to Dr. Anderson about any past use of lecturers at ECU and report back to the Senate in March's meeting.

7. Items Submitted by the Faculty

- A concern was expressed about the lack of student appointment/participation on standing committees? Charlie Jones will discuss the issue with Dr. Bertie and report back to the Senate.
- A concern was raised about the lack of information regarding "percent of benefit rates for grants." Guy Sewell will discuss this issue with C.J. Vires and report back to the Senate.
- A faculty member asked whether minutes from Senate meetings could be published in a more timely manner on the Senate webpage? Charlie Jones reported that the Senate Secretary and President are posting the minutes as soon as time permits.
- A faculty member inquired about the possibility of building a multi-level parking garage on the recently purchased land next to the Fine Arts Building as a means of alleviating some of the parking problems. Charlie Jones reported that there are different solutions being discussed by administration concerning parking. The issue of designated parking tags for students has been implemented. Enforcement of the new parking regulations continues to be addressed.

8. New Business

Faculty Senate meetings will continue to be on Thursdays (March 6, April 3, April 24, and May 1); however, the starting time for Senate meetings beginning March 6 will be moved from 1:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.