

# Voice

Faculty Association Bulletin      October 2014      Oklahoma City Community College

Oklahoma City Community College  
**Faculty Association General Meeting**  
Tuesday, October 28, 2014, 3N0 Main Bldg.  
12:30 - 1:15 pm  
Agenda

12:30-12:45 1. Welcome

2. Approval of Minutes of September 23, 2014 meeting
3. Accept the Treasurer's Report- Dana Tuley-Williams
4. Discuss the Chair's Report- Nate Vanden Brook

12:45-1:00 5. Old Business

7. Scholarship Committee- TS & AR
8. New Business

1:00-1:20 9. Dr. Jerry Steward

Adjourn

**Executive Committee members:**

Brent Noel, Arts; Jenean Jones, Business; Fabiola Janiak-Spens, Chemistry and Biological Sciences; Rachel Olsen, English and Humanities; Reeca Young, Health Professions; Al Heitkamper, Information Technology; Tricia Sweany, Library; Tad Thurston, Mathematics, Engineering, and Physical Sciences; Cecilia Pittman, Social Sciences; Nate Vanden Brook, Chair; Ginnett Rollins, Chair-Elect; Jeff Anderson, Secretary; Dana Tuley-Williams, Treasurer; Jay Malmstrom, Parliamentarian; Rachel Butler, Past-Chair

### **Treasurer's Report (as of October 12, 2014)**

Scholarship Account: \$2,288      General Operating account: \$8328.79

**43 members total. Dues \$10 per year.**

Arts: Gwin Faulconer-Lippert, Brent Noel, Sue Hinton, Abbie Figueroa.

Library: Rachel Butler, Jay Ramanjulu, Tricia Sweany, Dana Tuley-Williams

Math, Engineering and Physical Science: Jay Malmstrom, Gail Malmstrom, Sherry Ray, Fabiola Janiak-Spens, Tad Thurston, Ken Harrelson

Social Sciences: John Ehrhardt, Cecilia Pittman, Ray McCullar, Jennifer Allen, Mendy Barr, Bruce Cook, Jeff Carlisle, Nate Vanden Brook, Jeff Anderson, Dana Glencross, LiErin Probasco

English and Humanities: Linda Robinett, Michael Snyder, Pam Stout, Rachel Olsen

Business: Anita Williams, Kayla Fessler, Lisa Adkins, Jenean Jones, Myra Decker, Germain Pichop

Chemistry and Biological Science: Raul Ramirez, George Risinger

Health Professions: Kathy Wheat, Reeca Young, Karen Jordan, Michaele Cole, Peggy Newman, Jennifer Ball

### **Minutes Faculty Association Meeting September 23, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Nate Vanden Brook at 12:30 p.m. on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

Forty members were present at the meeting.

The minutes were approved after the correction of some spelling and grammar.

Dana Tuley-Williams reported that the Operating Fund has \$8225.79 and the Scholarship fund has \$2,288.90. As of September 15, 2014 the FA has 34 paid members. Ms. Tuley-Williams informed the members that the checking account has been moved to MidFirst Bank, as discussed in the August 26<sup>th</sup> general meeting.

Dana Tuley-Williams requested that we purchase a separate hard drive to digitize old documents. The purchase of the hard drive was agreed upon by the FA members present.

The Scholarship Committee passed around a sign-up sheet for the November 19<sup>th</sup> soup and bake sale fundraiser. The Scholarship Committee would appreciate participation from the faculty and staff.

Dana Tuley-Williams and Tricia Sweany organized the results of the survey for the goals faculty would like the FA to focus on during the upcoming year. The entire set of results are available electronically. Please contact Dana if you would like to receive a copy of survey results.

The idea of a Faculty Senate was presented to the members. This model is very different than the current model, and would ultimately replace the current Faculty Association. Other colleges use the Shared Governance Model, such as OSUOKC. Having a Shared Governance Model may help improve our role in addressing issues such as pay and cost of living raises.

Amending the constitution was also discussed. The FA continues to encourage adjunct employees to be active in the FA. However, due to the difficulties in defining adjuncts (i.e. administrators who teach consider themselves adjuncts) the constitution cannot be amended in a way to allow adjuncts to be voting members. Also, the quorum rules would also have to be amended if adjunct faculty were not able to come to the meetings, thus hurting the FA. Review of the constitution will continue.

Angie Christopher with Human Resources attended the FA to discuss the changes in pay frequency and the Wellness program. Ms. Christopher provided handouts that covered the important information for both topics. In review, all faculty will eventually have to migrate to bi-weekly pay schedules. All employees should be receiving pay bi-weekly by July 2016. Faculty will still be able to choose between getting paid bi-weekly for 12 months or for the contract duration (i.e. 9 or 10 months). Despite the difficulty in transitioning to bi-weekly pay schedules, this transition will be beneficial for the college and will potentially save the college money.

The wellness plan is also going through a few changes. The forms for faculty and staff have changed, so please contact HR to ensure you have the most recent and up-to-date version. The handouts provided by Ms. Christopher covered a summary of OCCC's results from last year, Waiver Criteria Guidelines, timelines to meet the Waiver Criteria Guidelines, and the updated forms.

FA members would like for faculty to take an active role during Planning and Prep Week. Rachel Olsen, Ginnett Rollins, and Nate Vanden Brook are going to meet with Glenne' Whisenhunt to discuss how Planning and Prep Week may become more faculty led.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

--Respectfully submitted,  
**Jeff Anderson, secretary**

### **Chair's Report from Nate Vanden Brook**

#### **Guns on Campus**

I was asked by Jerry Steward to attend an interim study on concealed weapons on campus earlier this month. While Dr. Steward will speak more about this during this month's meeting, I wanted to share some of my thoughts about what I witnessed, and what the faculty of OCCC can possibly do to organize around this and other potential issues.

My first thought is that several members of the state legislature are attempting to build a "silent majority" argument around why we need to allow concealed carry on campus. What I mean by this is that in some of the testimony they tried to paint a picture that faculty, students, and staff do support the law, but are afraid to speak out. While I know that there are faculty members who do support such legislation, it has been my experience that most, at least at this campus, do not. Given research done at OU by their Political Science Department, it would appear that the faculty, students, and staff at that institution are against it as well.

I think that as a faculty, we need to organize to write letters, call, and attend Higher Education Day at the capitol. While the Faculty Association can draft a letter speaking out against the legislation, acts from individual members of the campus community can be an effective and necessary tool. Beyond guns on campus, we are also looking at a proposed budget cut to higher education. It is far too easy for us to sit to the sideline while battles over our future are being fought. We all know that this is a critical time for higher education in this state, and so it is now crucial that we begin to put our money where our mouth is. Several people suggested that one of the things the Faculty Association can work toward is pay raises. This issue becomes difficult to address when we are facing yet another budget cut. To be honest I am not certain how much more political capital the regents and college presidents have to exercise. We as a faculty need to be active in our future.

### **Faculty Senate**

In relation to our future, in the faculty survey the idea was put forward by several people that we investigate creating a faculty senate. I personally think this is a good idea, and have begun looking at some of community colleges in our state to see how they structure their senates. If this is something that you would like to see happen, please let me or your division rep know, and I will bring the idea forward to Dr. Sechrist.

It should be noted that faculty senate would dissolve this association. However, if done correctly it would provide us with greater input into policy, and campus governance. I would like to stress that moving toward this model, and maintaining it as an effective institution, will take serious work on the part of we the faculty.

This is my report to you for the month of October. I submit it respectfully, and humbly.

**--Nate Vanden Brook, chair**