

Faculty Association
Tuesday, August 28, 2012

Members of the Executive Council began the pre-meeting by handing out cookies and greeting the new faculty from the various divisions.

A sign-in sheet was also passed around the room for volunteering for the Arts Festival. The Coke Wagon was reported as the longest fundraising accomplishment for Faculty Association Scholarships.

The Chair began the meeting by introducing the Parliamentarian, the secretary, and the division representatives. The Chair also shared this year's vision for the Faculty Association. She reported the following ideas to promote the Faculty Association to members and non-members: make connections with each other; run purposeful meetings; provide clear, detailed explanations, and have fun.

To make the point of sharing information with each other, we played a game of beach volleyball in the classroom. Our purpose was to keep the ball in the air longer than four minutes; we achieved a weighty goal, however, of 36 seconds. No person or equipment was harmed or damaged in the exercise.

Basic rules of etiquette were added to make the meetings meaningful to all members. First, a member will raise their hand without being interrupted by other members. Next, a member will state his or her name, including the division. Finally, a member has three minutes to report the information to the group. A member may also stand, if they so choose.

The next item on the agenda focused on Old Business. The chair congratulated the previous chair for helping administrators solve the issues related to last year's discussions on the "40-hour-work week." In the past, the Regent Round Table represented a tradition at OCCC; however, the meeting has not been part of the college's agenda recently. The Faculty Association strongly recommended that this tradition be continued, especially with many new Regents representing our institution. Also, a question was asked and I paraphrase: "Do we need to be better informed or have State Capital representation to know what is occurring at the level of the Oklahoma State Regents?" Many faculty felt left out of the loop when it came to policies impacting faculty association members. One solution was provided; the Oklahoma State Regents have a link on their website that discuss in detail information related to the Oklahoma Legislative body and how it may affect our institution. The website will be provided by the current chair.

The next item on the agenda focused on New Business. A report was given related to the Faculty Association Scholarship Committee. During this year, instead of a garage sale, there will be a silent auction. Nice Donations are needed. The example given was "gently used golf clubs."

Other new business continued. This question looms in the thoughts of many faculty association members. Should there be a committee established to ensure that all divisions receive the same information at division meetings? The major concern is that not all divisions share the same information. Or, some divisions receive more information than other divisions. Currently, the

plan of action would be for the Executive Committee to share the minutes and ideas discussed at each Division. There was also some concern that some divisions may not contain minutes to share. Also, there will be time allotted in the Faculty Association Meeting to share information across divisions so that common and uncommon information is known.

Other new business includes the question: How much faculty input is given related to issues around campus. Specifically, how much input is given to technology issues. It was reported that the newer remotes in many classrooms are not user friendly, and the screens may not be large enough, even though they were before the change.

The chair reported on the closed-captioning issue. Mr. Gardner clarified information to the chair and stated that close-captioning focuses on anything new that is created by our college. In other words, if a faculty member creates a new video, it must be captioned. If there is an old video, it only has to be captioned if there is a student in the class with a disability. This issue still needs further discussion, according to a variety of questions in the room. Misinformation from various staff has kept the faculty association members confused by the rules. Some faculty still are receiving different information based on various interpretations across the campus. The chair will seek further clarification on this issue.

The faculty association members were also concerned about a lack of communication from committees across campus. Committee minutes should be available in one place for members to read and evaluate. It was reported that the Higher Learning Commission will look favorably on our institution if this kind of organization happens successfully. Other questions continued. Are health insurance rates increasing? Why? Do all committees take minutes? Are new initiatives at our college being communicated successfully?

Finally, the chair reported on providing positive and constructive feedback to our administrative body. She described making positive relationships with each other and with our administrative staff. The chair plans to offer all members of the Faculty Association an opportunity to eat lunch with her and others in the cafeteria once a month. During this time period, the chair has scheduled one administrator to visit with the faculty association members.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made followed by a second and a vote. Meeting was adjourned.