

# Voice

Faculty Association Bulletin

March 2011

Oklahoma City Community College

## **Agenda**

### **Faculty Association General Meeting**

**12:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, 2011**

**MEETING LOCATION: 3N0 Main Building**

- 1. Minutes for January and February — Jeff Cleek**
- 2. Treasurer's Report and Membership Report — Lisa Adkins**
- 3. Scholarship Committee Report – Jeff Carlile**
- 4. Special Guest (awaiting confirmation)**
- 5. Chair Report – Tad Thurston**
- 6. Old Business**
- 7. New Business**
- 8. Adjourn**

#### **Executive Committee members:**

Al Heitkamper, Information Technology; Vicky Davidson, Health Professions; Lisa Buckelew, Science and Math; Jay Ramanjulu, Library; Brent Noel, Arts and Humanities; Michael Machiorlatti, Business; vacant, Social Sciences; Tad Thurston, Chair; Chris Vershage, Chair-Elect; Jeff Cleek, Secretary; Lisa Adkins, Treasurer; Steve Morrow, Parliamentarian; Dianne Broyles, Past-Chair

## **Faculty Association Meeting Minutes**

**February 22, 2011**

The meeting commenced at 12:34. Approval of the minutes from January was postponed until next month.

Jeff Carlisle announced the Make-It/Bake-It sale would be on April 5, and he encouraged everyone to consider contributing an item.

Dana Glencross said she attended the state swimming finals on campus over the weekend and that the event would be a great opportunity for the scholarship committee to make money off concessions. Bertha Wise added that there were numerous similar opportunities.

Tad Thurston reminded everyone that scholarship applications begin in April.

He then introduced OCCC's new chief of police, James Fitzpatrick. Chief Fitzpatrick began by discussing the transition from a safety and security force to a police department. He compared a safety and security force to buying a car with limited options. In terms of functionality, not much will change. But he said it's what's under the hood that will change. He said national recognition and powers will change. He said anyone can arrest someone. Arrests are made by witnesses to a crime or by reasonable cause. Officers provide the brawn but witnesses are the arrestees. There are a few exceptions: an accident with a DUI or a domestic dispute. He said if he meets a couple with no marks, then one person has to make the arrest. The officer cannot do it alone. However, if there are marks, then the officer can make an arrest.

Essentially, Safety and Security could make arrests, but they could not take someone to the county jail. With a police force, OCCC could do that without an intermediary. It will be a growing process. There is a lot to policing. The process does not end with an arrest and a booking. A case must be filed with the District Attorney. Many people are arrested and never have a case brought against them. A police force needs some investigations skills in order to do follow-up. He said depending on the case, outside help (OKCPD) may be needed. He gave the example of a car in the parking lot after campus was closed with an unresponsive driver in it. If the driver was dead, then the case would be turned over to OKCPD. Colleges are not equipped to investigate homicides. But most things can be taken care of by OCCC.

Having officers who are peace officers opens up funding from Homeland Security. Security information is now available that would not have been available to Safety and Security. There is increased access to state-funded training. A police force will lead to better certification and better trained officers. He said he wants to make sure he hires CLEET trained officers. Access to better training and more information are the main advantages. He said he likes the campus and is excited about his staff and supervisors.

Tad asked about carrying weapons on campus. Fitzpatrick said he was not speaking for OCCC. He said he likes guns, but he does not believe they are appropriate everywhere. Even before licensed carry, he said, lots of people carried guns in their cars. He said the average citizen can carry a gun with no problem. He said there were a lot of "Wild West" scenarios for licensed carry that never happened. With campus carry, he believed there would be a lot of interest at first, but that the interest would eventually wane. A gun is bulky, and one has to be cognitive of it at all times. His concern would be someone walking off and leaving their gun. He also said personal carry is to protect you, not as a protector of others. Police officers are trained in weaponry retention. There is no such training for personal carry. He said he could get a gun off anyone in most instances. Horrible things have happened on campuses, but he wasn't sure campus carry was the answer as it had too many unknowns.

The question was asked if we would continue to have safety and security officers.

He said yes. He said the officers here have a basic understanding of the campus, its policies, and how to work the security cameras. He said they are an important facet of the transition.

The question was asked if the training for our officers would be similar to OKCPD.

He said no. There is too much money and time involved to do that.

A question was asked about the timeline.

He said he was in the process of talking to CLEET, getting department recognition, and posting applications. Then there will be some structured interviews. He will be looking for people with CLEET cards. Tad thanked our guest speaker.

Sue Hinton made a motion to adjourn. Daniel Benton seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:21.

### **January 25, 2011**

The meeting commenced at 12:35. The November meeting was unofficial, so there were no minutes to approve.

Misty Cowley was introduced as a student reporter. The announcement was made that student scholarships will be available in April.

Tad Thurston gave the Chair's report. He said both the north parking lot and the child care center are substantially complete. He then introduced the meeting's special guest, Dr. Paul Sechrist.

Dr. Sechrist began by discussing the decision to close the campus on Thursday of the previous week due to weather. He noted that this had happened on the same day last year.

He spoke about the tree planting project. Private donations were in the works. All current regents already donated and trees will be planted this semester.

Construction of the new theater will begin in the spring and finish in December 2012. A Steinway grand piano has already been donated.

He then moved the discussion to a new course for the fall, the President's Leadership Class. The course has been approved by the curriculum committee. It will be a two-hour elective and meet on Tuesday afternoons at 3:00. The aim of the course is retention. It is designed to keep good students here. The class is for students who are academically strong, but might be lacking experience with leadership role models in their lives. The course will include a lot of writing and speaking as well as exposure to leaders and leadership. Dr. Sechrist said he has a broad view of leadership. Anyone who moves the group forward is a leader. While there were details to be worked out, the course would offer scholarships and give students opportunities to mentor students in the spring. If faculty have students that are academically strong, and could benefit from some leadership exposure, then Dr. Sechrist believes this course can propel them to new heights.

The question was asked if this was for students who are currently freshmen. Dr. Sechrist said this for current students who will be sophomores in the fall.

A follow-up question was asked about the course's focus on completing a two-year degree here at OCC. Dr. Sechrist said that the course will have tuition waivers that are split between fall and spring to encourage this. He noted that studies show the longer students are here, the more successful they are.

The question was asked if students could include credits for classes they are currently enrolled in. Dr. Sechrist said as long as it is prior to Fall 2011, the credits can be used. Erin Logan will be running a selection committee to determine the final class roster.

A member asked if there would be an open invitation. Dr. Sechrist said there would be an announcement made in the *Pioneer*, but he added that faculty recommendations will carry a lot of weight.

A question was asked about nursing students that do clinicals in the spring. Dr. Sechrist said if they can make the fall classes then they can still be ambassadors in the spring. The class will meet in the fall once a week with twenty-four students initially.

A member asked if Dr. Sechrist would be the in-class instructor. He said yes.

The question was asked if this was a year-long class. Dr. Sechrist said it is a one semester class with the understanding that there will be continued expectation in service learning and regents meetings. He hoped students will develop bonds that will help in class and careers. He hoped for a diverse group because that diversity will benefit everyone.

A question was asked about the material for the class. Dr. Sechrist said the class would use the textbook, *Principles of Leadership* and would also include his perspective of leadership, writing and speaking, and testing the application of the techniques discussed in class.

The Chair asked if applications were online. They were not available yet, but they are available as hard copies at Marion Paden's office. They can be turned in there as well. Dr. Sechrist added that many details are being worked out, and he's looking at private sources. He is excited about teaching the course and appreciates faculty involvement.

The topic then turned to the campus carry bill currently being debated in the state legislature. The question was asked as to whether OCCC allows students to bring a weapon to school and leave it locked in their car. Dr. Sechrist replied that state law requires us to do so. He added, there is not a law enforcement agency that is for campus carry. OKCPD and the OSBI all say it will make law enforcement more difficult. College presidents in Oklahoma are passionate about this.

Someone asked what faculty can do. Dr. Sechrist said the Faculty Association could pass another resolution on the issue. He said the best approach is to call your state senator or house representative and ask them not to vote for this. That way faculty can keep it from getting to the floor for a vote.

The Chair said next month's guest will be the new police chief and we can discuss this with him. The president added that he was not naïve enough to believe we don't have weapons on campus. The reality, he said, is there are probably guns on campus. With 20,000 students on campus, there are issues of mental illness and the best prevention for a possible incident is being aware of signs. The primary purpose of the Care Team is to get to students before they hurt someone or themselves. We have a full-time mental health professional on campus, and faculty need to be proactive. The Care Team is about safety.

A member pointed out that a fall back option should the bill pass is to ask for an opt-out option for each school. Dr. Sechrist said that the opt-out option requires metal detectors and he is not ready to go there given the tone it would bring.

The discussion then moved to the future of the old child care center. Dr. Sechrist said many possibilities had been discussed including moving Safety and Security, Pathways or the president and the regents. No decision has been made, but the goal is move something that is either administrative or a part of academic support.

Finally, the discussion moved to the ability of the faculty to talk to the media after a campus event. The point was made that as long as one tells the truth, the institution could not get in the way of free speech. Dr. Sechrist said that as a citizen, this was true, but as an employee, faculty have some limitations. He added that if you speak for yourself, then I support it.

The Chair thanked the speaker. Chris Verschage made a motion to adjourn. Jay Ramanjulu seconded and the meeting adjourned at 1:20.

-- Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Cleek, secretary