

Faculty Association Minutes

November 29, 2022

Al Snipes Board Room and Zoom

Note: this was a special meeting, a luncheon hosted by President Jones

- Dana Tuley-Williams called meeting to order opening with FA Business.
 - Chili cookoff was successful raising over \$1100
 - Recently *The Pioneer* published an article about the cookoff, however, it did not mention FA. Dana reached out and they will be meeting soon to learn more about our committee's work.
- President Jones asked for introductions from attendees then opened the floor to program highlights and general questions.
 - OTA passed their accreditation with only one note about staffing which the college quickly addressed.
 - SPLA has now hired an additional FT faculty
 - EMS has seen an increase in enrollment
 - Library is completing their Let's Talk About It series and is expanding their tech lending
 - Sociology & Political Science hosted their state-wide conferences at OCCC in November including keynote speakers Mayor Holt of OKC and Sarah Deer, legal scholar.
- President Jones asked if faculty would send the president/MPR information about successes
 - Dr. Thomas encouraged the group to share those stories to Deans so they can be shared in the Deans' reports.
 - Questions about additional ways to submit stories or initiatives to social media.
 - Suggestion to add that as a field on the MPR form
 - Suggestion that we restart a campus newsletter to share events and news on campus rather than finding things out through social media or the news.
- Question regarding supporting opportunities to take students off campus.
 - Suggestions of purchasing a new bus for campus
 - Additional pay for faculty and staff supporting study abroad trips. This comment led to additional conversation on stipends for faculty going above and beyond to support programs. Dr. Jones will investigate.
- Question about current Deans' searches
 - The committee extended their recommendations to Dr. Thomas right before Thanksgiving Break.
 - Dr. Thomas is currently reviewing.
 - The pool is "pretty good"
 - Discussion started about the lack of staffing and routine processes are being hampered by lack of staff.
 - Need timeline on when vacancy can be filled
 - Thomas stated that Faculty positions will be prioritized over staff positions
 - Thomas stated that we are losing candidates to work from home opportunities.
- Question about President Advisory Council (PAC)
 - Faculty asked if it would be returning to enable monthly meetings with Dr. Jones.

- Comprised of elected reps from faculty, staff, and students
 - Dr. Thomas stated that Deans will be brought into leadership meetings in the near future
 - Chair Tuley-Williams is going to send Dr. Jones historical information on the role of PAC and how members were selected
- Question about testing center coming back
 - Admin stated that they are concerned about the need for usage due to the online environment.
 - 65-68% online
 - Trying to balance staffing, cost, and need
 - Asked how many faculty needed a solution, everyone raised their hands
- Online Proctoring currently in pilot (Proctorio, currently in legal office over contract)
 - Concerns were shared over cheating with online exams without a proctor
 - Faculty requesting a timeline and solution
 - Students are failing out after completing online entrance exams
 - Suspected that they are cheating in those online situations
 - Dr. Jones stated needing time to vet solutions and compare options within our budget
 - Faculty requested to be involved in the process of vendor selection
 - Currently with ILC and legal
 - Dr. Jones welcomes feedback
 - Does not want OCCC to gain a reputation for allowing cheating.
- Question about the status of the Online College
 - Dr. Thomas is leaving the content of course with the individual departments
 - Currently faculty and program chairs are training on Quality Matters
 - There will be a focus on online education as we emerge from the pandemic
 - Question about how we can offer strong online programs without online proctoring
 - Suggestion of providing student with a survey prior to enrollment allowing them to learn more about the online experience
- Question about adding photos back to the online roster
 - Faculty can no longer verify that the student is who they claim to be due to the lack of photos, even with the online proctoring in place.
 - The current app does not allow any photo to be used
 - Faculty have followed guidelines provided by the app and no photos were accepted, not even professional headshots.
- Question about costs of tuition
 - It was asked if “premium” tuition would be added for high demand programs
 - Dr. Thomas stated that this is currently under review
 - Currently unsure about whether it would be a course fee or a program fee
 - Also expressed concerns with audits
- Question about evening courses
 - Can more courses be offered to better support working adults
 - Dr. Thomas stated that Deans are instructed to offer classes at all times
 - Currently there is a staffing issue
 - Initiatives will prioritize faculty

- Concurrent enrollment has accelerated and those classes are offered in the middle of the day
- Question about workloads in HP
 - Seems to change every semester
 - It is currently being reviewed as part of the compensation study
- Dr. Jones thanked all those who participated in the Brand Refresh survey and thought they had a good turnout.
 - Another session was requested by faculty since the last took place over fall break
 - Session may happen in Dec/Jan
 - January was preferred by the group
 - Session will take place over Zoom
- Strategic plan information will be going out and all the campus will be involved in the process
- Question to Tim Whisenhunt about IT support
 - Tim cited short staffing and loss of institutional knowledge for disruptions
 - “Things being held together by bandaids”
 - Currently in the process of migrating more platforms to the cloud
 - Please reach out with continuing issues
 - Dr. Jones cited an additional problem with failure to complete “End of Life” planning for many IT infrastructures.
 - Faculty will be included in feedback sessions about migrations.

Submitted by Courtney Oliphant, substituting for Johnny Hill.