

Oklahoma City Community College
Faculty Association Meeting
February 26, 2019

Meeting called to order at 12:32pm

1. FA Staff Recognition – Angela Cotner, Chair-Elect, recognized Jeffrey Sughru in Human Resources, Benefits Specialist, who took a few questions regarding health insurance wellness points, and then was awarded as this month's FA Staff Recognition recipient. In those questions, he reaffirmed that employees will need 6 wellness points for the coming year, that the deadline for collecting all points is May 3, and that open enrollment will occur late April/early May.
2. Meeting Minutes Approval – January 29, 2019
Jay Malmstrom made motion to approve the minutes, and Reeca Young seconded. The January Minutes were approved unanimously without edit.
3. Treasurer's Report - Mary Ohansi
Ray McCullar Fund: \$7,916.03
Operating Fund : \$8,278.34
Scholarship: \$14,006.57, of which \$10,000 is for the endowment
73 paid members
Jennifer Ball made a motion to approve the report, and Jay Malmstrom seconded this. The report was approved unanimously.
4. Chair Report:
 - a. Meeting with President Steward:
 - Copyright Guidance – The President will follow up with Chair Newman, in writing, since he understands faculty concerns regarding copyright law. He asked if a presentation to the faculty would be needed, and the Chair indicated it would be appreciated. The Chair mentioned that perhaps the next 5th Tuesday might work if Vice-President of Academic Affairs Gardner (VPAA Gardner) does not already have plans.
 - Cafeteria & Catering Vendor – This is one area where we're working with Rose State College to help decrease costs for both schools. An RFP went out the previous week, and interviews are occurring this week. President Steward did note that the OCCC Coffee Shop will no longer be working through our current catering service.
 - Guns on Campus – Both President Steward and VPAA Gardner are encouraged about the "carve outs" that are present in current potential bills in the OK legislature regarding guns, and many legislators appear to be in favor of the carve outs. In particular for colleges and universities, the President of the college/university will be able to control who can and cannot have guns on campus. There are other entities receiving carve outs, i.e. the NBA, which has threatened to leave OKC if guns are allowed in the

venue during a game, which gives hope that these carve outs will work out to serve OK colleges and universities as well.

-School Colors = Our "Brand" –The colors have not been changed recently. The tan background with red lettering have been the colors for the past several years, although several members present were under the impression the colors were red and white.

-End of Year Celebration – Previously at end of the school year, a celebration was held for retiring/transitioning employees. While events of this type have not been held for several years, VPAA Gardner and President Steward will be holding one this year.

On a related note, Chair Newman mentioned to the President that she had been informed of individuals in certain academic divisions who were punished for trying to organize events for retirees in their divisions. President Steward pressed the Chair for details, stating he thought this was unacceptable.

-Sick Leave – Employees with certain illnesses might not be able to work during certain times while dealing with their illness. Chair Newman asked President Steward about the possibility of the option for employees to donate sick leave to people in these sorts of situations. President Steward indicated he has sent a written directive to Vice-President of Human Resources Switzer, instructing her to investigate how other institutions/state agencies handle this. This fact-finding task will likely take a few months.

-Budget - Governor Stitt has planned a budget with no increased funds for higher education; however, the Senate and House branches of the legislature are open to earmarking some moneys for higher education.

A member mentioned that they have heard word from the legislature that there is a chance OCCC will get concurrent tuition reimbursement.

b. Meeting with Vice-President of Academic Affairs Gardner:

-Eight Week Classes – Chair Newman asked if any faculty members are on the investigative/fact-finding committee looking into this potential shift at OCCC. VPAA Gardner only informed the Chair that the committee was hand-selected by President Steward, with no explicit mention of faculty members serving on the committee or not.

According to one member present, there are two faculty members on the committee, but only one of them routinely attends the meetings.

In her meeting with the Vice-President, Chair Newman shared some faculty concerns regarding this potential transition, but the concerns were dismissed since the school is still in a fact-finding state and has not made any official definitive decisions. Chair Newman did learn that there will be a "field trip" to Odessa College in TX, a school which has had success with this type of model change.

The mention of being only "in a fact-finding state" was a surprise to at least one member, since they indicated they had been asked by administrators how many 8-week sections had been added for the current semester.

Another member has done some “fact-finding” of his own and will share his findings with the chair and/or the executive committee. He indicated many of his findings were not favorable for the potential transition.

A member voiced a concern/wish, which is that if the change does go through, that it would be greatly appreciated if the transition could occur incrementally as opposed to all at one.

Another member voiced a concern regarding how this change could impact their accreditation. It was pointed out this type of change could potentially have negative repercussions on various programs in the Health Professions division.

-First Responders - Some issues with people having medical events and confusions about first response help on campus were reported to Chair Newman, and she shared this with VPAA Gardner. He informed Chair Newman of the following: in such an event, Campus Police should be called, not 911. Campus Police will contact 911 and get them directed to right location within the school. From there, the closest officer will respond first, and if the person needing aid is breathing, they will not move the person and will wait for another officer to arrive with an emergency medical kit, which will only be used in the most extreme circumstances. OCCC’s EMS faculty will not be involved, as has happened in the past.

A faculty member mentioned a concern that they have not observed many/any Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) on campus. Chair Newman mentioned this to VPAA Gardner, and he replied by stating we do have them. However, Chair Newman, and most members present, indicated they were unaware of where to find these AEDs - they are not visible.

-Student Success Coach – As of July 1, advisors will be called Student Success Coaches. They will be housed in advising and in the academic divisions. 22 positions have been identified within the current staffing pattern in Student Support that will serve as Student Success Coaches. As of right now, the current average is ~1 advisor: 1000 students; the new aim will be ~1 advisor: 350 students. This will require 29 total Student Success Advisors.

c. President’s Advisory Council (PAC):

During the most recent PAC meeting, a PAC member mentioned that in the recent past, PAC has been more of an information-receiving session as opposed to a discussion session. This is different from the PAC of several years ago where there was often time for dialogue and discussion between PAC members and the President. The PAC member went on to mention that in other places of employment, a 30 day input period is held for major policy changes/shifts, and this was well received by President Steward, although he was under the impression these sorts of opportunities were already available. While acknowledging that, at least in theory, there is a plan for this to occur at OCCC, Chair Newman mentioned that inter-relationships within departments and divisions can negatively impact how information/feedback flows from faculty/staff to administration.

- Work Force Development Center/Central Plant Upgrade – The area that used to house the swimming pool will no longer be transformed into a new Professional Development Institute. The cost (\$16M minimum) is much more expensive than anticipated.
- International Student Enrollment Efforts – A group from OCCC is heading to China for recruitment purposes. This recruitment effort is deemed cost-effective since the school can earn up to \$9,000 per international student.
A faculty member mentioned that recruiting more international students might not work well with the new 8 week plan.
- Walking Trails by the Pond – These trails are being built by pond since no buildings can be built in the area due to flooding. This is a campus beautification effort according to President Steward.
- "Frank Exchange of Ideas" – This topic was not discussed as planned due to time constraints.

d. Executive Committee Updates:

- Faculty Representation – A meeting is scheduled with Oklahoma Educator Association with the FA Executive Team on March 15.
- Scholarship Committee – Michelle Cole announced a call for volunteers, chilies and silent auction items for the March 12 Chili Cook-Off/Bake Sale and Silent Auction.
- Publications Committee – will meet March 8.

5. Announcements/ Other

- a. Chair thanked those who attended the "Lunch Bunch" and solicited feedback from the group. She is considering April 18 as a date for the next lunch.
- b. A member mentioned an upcoming LMS change at Rose State College, so perhaps this would be a good time for our schools to work together to investigate an new/different LMS for both schools.
- c. Forced adjunct observations and how it's working in the various divisions. The instrument seems cumbersome and does not appear to work for online courses. Chair Newman will investigate.

6. Adjournment – 1:28 meeting adjourned by unanimous consent
Next meeting March 26, 2019