

Faculty/Staff Council
Minutes
June 16, 2009

Quorum was not met. May minutes were approved.

Present: Linda Roe, Charlotte McCall, Angie Been, Sharon Smith, Chandra Miller, Christy McCall, Allen York, Laura Roets, Dr. Bob Klabenes, Bruce Force, Bob Seebeck, Mark Rodriguez, Bruce Christensen, Trudy Book, Leah Torbett, Louise Lee, Bob Avakian.

Absent: Wren Hawthorne (E); Michelle Kreps (E); Steven Rubert, John Pemberton, Brian Caldwell, Todd Anderson, Kevin Hulett, Thomas Kipkurgat, Curtis Miller, David Martin, Art Visconti, Bruce Roberts.

HR Report – No report.

Physical Plant Update – Bob Seebeck said the Rural Health Building is on track and close to being done. They will finish the building by July 10th and it looks really good. If some of you would like to walk through that area then contact me or my office and we can make arrangements. You have to have closed toe shoes and safety glasses and a hard hat. Also, Physical Plant employees are in Building 600 constructing two classrooms and some office areas for the high voltage and gas compression labs will be sharing that building. We are also working on the Culinary Arts building on the outside of the entry to the State Room, where we put new soffits and doors. Also, for the Clack landscaping project, they hope to get the plants in soon and they're starting to work on the canopy.

OSU Faculty Representative Report – Bob Avakian said the Stillwater campus employees have started focusing on recruitment and retention. The Regents professors at OSU will have a mentoring program and their URL is regentsprofessors.okstate.edu. You can ask them questions -- regents professors have a lot of practical experience.

OSU Staff Representative Report - Allen York said he didn't attend the meeting in Stillwater last month, but they had the election of officers and a luncheon.

OSUIT Faculty Committee Report – Mark Rodriguez reported that at the last meeting they discussed continuing the issue with the paper recycling at Wilson Commons and Lackey Hall. I believe we will be getting bins for recycling but we want to make sure that the students all know exactly what the rules are concerning paper recycling before they are actually put into use. I plan to speak to Steve Rubert about using Cowboy Connection as a way to inform students about everything that is going on. Bruce Force suggested that I present at all the student organizations and ask them to get involved in promoting conservation and going green and recycling. One thing that was also considered was speaking to James Byrd about if we change vendors, would it be possible to get a uniformity of containers in vending machines on campus; such as all aluminum

instead of mixed with plastic? The last issue we dealt with was signage that is being worked on over at Vis Comm.

OSUIT Staff Committee Report – Angie Been reported that at the June birthday lunch, there were about 30 people attending - it was a good turnout.

Policies and Benefits Report – Position vacant – No report.

Public Relations Report – Bruce Force said the group had a Move-in Day meeting and it was brought up that they're trying different things with Cowboy Connection and Move-in Day. They asked if the group thought employees would like to give donations of a few dollars to give an OSU item or food items to students as they move into the dorms to welcome them to campus. There was discussion among the Faculty Staff Council attendees and there was a suggestion that if we do decide to do this, that we give a gift to all students, not just those who live in the dorms. Angie Been said she would email the Faculty Staff Council members to get their opinions.

There was also discussion that this year, Move-in Day is on a Sunday. And typically we do Cowboy Connection that night, but this year we're doing Cowboy Connection on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, instead of Move-in Day because a lot of parents like to take the students out to dinner the night after they move into the dorms.

Rules and Procedures Report – Angie Been reported that Charlotte McCall is back on board as the Rules and Procedures Chair, and she will be heading up the elections this August for Faculty Staff Council. We have three faculty vacancies because people have left the institution and then one person resigned. On the staff side, we have five positions that are open, some of them will be re-elections. If you will talk to people in your area and if anyone's interested in running for office you will have to send it to Charlotte and she will keep track of the names. For the elections the committee members are Bruce Roberts, Sharon Smith, Bob Avakian and Angie Been.

Health and Wellness Report – Bruce Force reported they are working on some things behind the scenes -- we are expecting to have a meeting this month with the group from the Stillwater Seretean Center. We did have a couple of meetings where a lot of the people from the various colleges got together and shared different practices and that sort of thing. I do want to say kudos to Ina Agnew, who gave her staff 30 minutes a day to exercise because she wants them to get healthy, which will make them more productive and they will use less sick time. A lot of them have been coming over and walking on the treadmills and walking the trail.

President's Report – Dr. Klabenes said enrollment for the summer term is showing very little change in the number of students in the departments. The enrollment for the fall term at this point looks promising. Our concern is the Automotive sponsored programs, such as Chrysler, and whether or not we are going to be able to maintain those enrollments. I think probably we will not, but I'm convinced we will be OK in Automotive Services programs -- it will just take 2 or 3 years to get through all of this

change that is taking place. Enrollment is positive; just keep your fingers crossed for fall term.

The budget for FY10 ended up being much better for higher education than we anticipated, thanks to the stimulus funds. We ended up with a 3.6% increase in funding for FY10 and was over what we had for FY09. But, in terms of state dollars, we -- like everyone else -- got a decrease of 3.9% or 4%. Then, the legislature backfilled that with \$1,165,000 in stimulus funds. All things being equal, we should have the same level of funding this year. And then half of the stimulus funds were allocated this year and the other half is holding in reserves for FY11. Hopefully, in two fiscal years, the revenue growth in the state will be better than what we expected. It wasn't significant, but the state did end up with a deficit this year. The month of June saw a small reduction for us in state dollars. So we are being really conservative with the budget as we go forward. We have several opportunities over the next two years to increase our tuition income in programs of study, and obviously our nursing program is one area that will increase as a result of the new facility.

Recruitment and retention are some of the things we are working on. We need to identify a very large number of what they call 'gateway courses,' which have a student failure rate of about 50%. We have identified the courses and we really have to work now on how to correct whatever is causing students to fail those courses -- freshman comp or U.S. government or other courses. We're looking at them on a program-by-program basis to see the retention and graduation rates. We're working with one program right now to try to do some specific things, such as for the summer term, we're working with incoming students that have made application to come into the program. We can't deal with the loss that we have in the program -- we have to fix some things.

We have been in a meeting today with the Corporate Fundraisers for the OSU Foundation, and we are gearing up for a capital campaign. The OSU System is going to do its major capital campaign but we have been working on two major projects. One is the Energy Center and the other is the new facility for the Construction Technology program.

The Dell project is making really good progress across campus, which it provides tools in the classrooms. It should be done by the end of July.

Angie Been asked Dr. Klabenes if automotive students will be able to get internships, or whether they have to be done on campus now for some of these students. Dr. Klabenes said he is meeting with Steve Doede and some other faculty and talking about different possibilities. We do have a concern about whether or not we can have the students participate in as many internships as we had. At this point, we think there will still be opportunities for internships, but maybe during year one, students will spend more time in an on-campus class and less time on an internship. But we haven't made a decision.

Old Business –

Tobacco Committee -- Angie Been said Wren Hawthorne is out today, so he couldn't make a report on the Tobacco Committee. But Angie reported that Wren and Sywan Shih are working on the posters and they will have that completed by the fall semester. They also are working on the draft for the policy and that will be done at the end of this month.

New Business

Employee Picnic -- Angie Been reported that there is a committee for the employee picnic and Bruce Roberts will send out an email to meet and decide a date and the details for the picnic.

Faculty Staff Council Elections – Angie Been said it's almost time for the Faculty Staff Council elections. Also, for the August meeting, we need to decide whether to have a breakfast or lunch.

Next Meeting – July 21, 2009