

OSU-Okmulgee Presidents' Roundtable Minutes

February 7, 2007

Student Union Harlan Room

Present: Matt Davis and Joseph Davis, ACR; Bill Martin and Sagar Master, AITP; James McCullough and Jose Rivas, FAD; Michael Grob and Stanley McMahan, Horology; Lane Glory, ISA; Aaron Stephenson and Logan Thomas, NGE; Stephanie McHenry and Connie Murray, O&P; Marci Lyn Hardesty, PTK; Mary Bell, R.E.B.E.L.; Melanie Champion, Bo Hudson and James Thye, RHA; Devin DeBock, Residential Life; Sara Van Eaton, SGA; Leah Torbett and Keely Barger, SNA; Anita Gordy-Watkins, Thomas Kipkurgat, Danilo Barros and Cody Jolliff, guests; and Bruce Force, Kevin Montequé, Steven Rubert and Doreen White, Student Life.

Meeting called to order at 11:40 a.m.

Bruce Force welcomed first time attendees to the Presidents' Roundtable and asked them to introduce themselves: Stephanie McHenry, O&P; Mary Bell, R.E.B.E.L.; Cody Jolliff; Keely Barger, SNA; Joe Davis, ACR; and Sara Van Eaton, SGA.

Force made some announcements and reminders:

- Activity Requests should be turned in to the Student Life Office "a little ahead of time," and Trip Insurance Forms must be submitted at least 24 hours before departure time.
- He appreciates all those present who do such a good job representing OSU-Okmulgee. Thank you.
- Scheduling the Advisor Luncheon/Training is proving difficult to arrange on a Wednesday due to several upcoming Student Life events scheduled and meeting rooms booked on that week day. Force asked if there was another week day that was good for advisors. No response. Maybe Monday? Those he called on (McCullough, Martin & McMahan) replied in the affirmative – Monday is fine. James Thye pointed out that R.E.B.E.L. and PTK meeting alternate every Monday. Steven Rubert said that could be worked around. Force reminded the group that the training was for Advisors only.

Force then introduced Anita Gordy-Watkins, Associate VP for University and External Relations, who would in turn introduce our guest speaker. He encouraged clubs and organizations to invite them to speak at club meetings about diversity training.

Watkins mentioned that some of those currently present served on the interview committee to hire OSU-Okmulgee's International and Multicultural Coordinator. She said OSU System President Schmidly charged each institution to take a look at strategically implementing plans to increase awareness and actions concerning diversity, multiculturalism and global education. She was selected to chair OSU-Okmulgee's endeavor to discern where this institution currently stands on these issues and make suggestions for improvement. One of the ideas fostered by the forums associated to her research is the possible establishment of a Multicultural/International Student Club at OSU-Okmulgee. A Site Evaluation team is expected on campus February 26 to assess our efforts in these areas. Watkins then introduced Thomas Kipkurgat, OSU-Okmulgee's International and Multicultural Coordinator.

Kipkurgat, originally from Kenya, began with some personal background information, such as his full given name and where the various colleges he attended. He said to "Google him" to learn more.

His current charge is to help assess and evolve OSU-Okmulgee's diversity and globalization efforts.

He began by speaking to the group, which he called ambassadors to other OSU-Okmulgee students, about our university efforts in obtaining more minority students, educating our students about differing culture in industry, and how many US companies are outsourcing jobs overseas. Examples included Nike shoes constructed in South Korea, India, China and Indonesia and IBM outsourcing jobs to India. He explained that OSU-Okmulgee needs to concentrate on producing globally competent students, and offered the example of educating students who might travel to Africa, that they shouldn't take an expedition alone on foot into areas where wild animals could potentially be life-threatening. Our students also should be ready to study abroad. Some are preparing to

study in Thailand, where they will need to understand the culture, policies and the breadth of our partnership in that nation. He mentioned that some efforts are directed in designing a Web site.

Kipkurgat introduced the concept of developing a Multicultural Association for OSU-Okmulgee students comprised of members interested in diverse cultures and lifestyles, and include all ethnicities. Cultural enrichment and awareness will be the group's main thrust, which will also provide resources for those who want to travel abroad. The association will concentrate on building a holistic community at OSU-Okmulgee. Member also will assist with community involvement and serve as resources when international delegations come to campus. A delegation from Antigua soon will be coming to campus.

Another duty of Kipkurgat is to seek opportunities for and provide information about funding sources for international ventures. For instance, many students are not aware that most international studies excursions include free room and board; so many times the only cost is the ticket to and from the destination and souvenirs. Much of this could be accomplished through developing smart partnerships and writing grants.

Watkins added to Kipkurgat's presentation by saying that at one time OSU-Okmulgee was working with 29 different countries that had citizens either enrolled here or as partners in some way. One current goal is to increase our relationships in many different regions of the world and foster partnerships up to this level once again.

She said she heard Major Colin Powell speak about the USAID program, which has sunk \$4 billion dollars into developing nations. More information is available at <http://www.usaid.gov/>.

Watkins mentioned that many people do not know that past OSU President Henry G. Bennett, who was appointed as Assistant Secretary of State in charge of the Point Four Program, which supplied technical skills to people in underdeveloped nations through on-the-job training, demonstration of methods, laboratories and libraries, exchange of teachers and students, and international conferences. Dr. Bennett died in a plane crash while serving on a Point Four Program assignment in Iran in 1950.

Watkins mentioned that Thailand has sent four delegations to OSU-Okmulgee, and partnership with that country spans several years. Cody Jolliff, (present at the Roundtable) served as host during the most recent visit. ACR Advisor Matt Davis recently traveled with her to Thailand. She was surprised at how well they treat visitors compared to how little they have. She seeks to help OSU-Okmulgee students develop the "right level of pride in America" by creating pride on campus through festivals, minority programs, cultural events and such, whether it be through clubs and organizations or other venues.

As past division chair of our Engineering Technologies Division, many past students who have traveled overseas has told her that they were not prepared for the global environment. Our faculty, staff and students need global experiences. She then asked Matt Davis to relay some of his experiences in Thailand.

Davis said not understanding the language was the major barrier. The Thais could read and write good English, but could not speak it, so he relied heavily on an interpreter. Often he felt a bit left out when someone would say something he couldn't understand, and everyone else laughed, but he learned to deal with it. His hosts were so nice, it was almost embarrassing. He said they all played rooftop badminton and volleyball, so you didn't want to chase a ball very far. The also were quite "in to" ballroom dancing. It was an experience of a lifetime and he would love to return.

Watkins said she and Kipkurgat went to Wilson Schools earlier this morning and did a presentation there. She said we have international students from other nations at OSU-Okmulgee and introduced Danilo Barros from Brazil, who commented that it is important for international students to have a good support system on US campuses to help them not feel lonely. He said having Anita helping him made life better and easier. She was friendly.

Watkins commented that OSU-Okmulgee has a few gaps on campus as far as an international student support network. Danilo's parents sought her out and hosted a huge dinner for her when she went to Brazil.

Connie Murray, O&P Club, students in her area were interested in performing a follow-up visit to Mexico to check on some patients there, and could use a contact name and number for the international effort on campus. Watkins and Kipkurgat are housed in the Reynolds Technology center, and their extension numbers are x5156 and x5071, respectively.

Force thanked Watkins and Kipkurgat for their presentation reiterating that clubs and organizations can invite them to speak at their club meetings. He said he read in a recent Daily Oklahoman article, which stated that the most American-made car is the Toyota Camry.

Steven Rubert then took the floor and referring to the current Orange Pulp he had placed on the tables. He had 15 students apply for Leaders for Life, and said the next P.E.T.E. University topic is Money Management. He then asked Cody Jolliff to plug the Black History Month Seminar scheduled Feb. 20. Jolliff said the seminar was a living history event about Buffalo Soldiers with Omar Reed performing.

Rubert then asked Mary Bell to talk about the Bedlam Basketball Watch Party, scheduled tonight, 8 pm, Wilson Commons. Bell mentioned that there will be free food, games and prizes, and flyers were distributed late, so pass the word – and “Go OSU!” Bell also mentioned the Valentine’s Day Compatibility Tests in the Student Union during lunch on Feb. 14. There will be punch, cookies and inflatables, or not. Jolliff then talked about the Oklahoma Centennial Party scheduled Feb. 22, 11 am – 1 pm, NCAT Lobby. Plans include student actors in 1907 clothing, food and games. Davis asked what kind of food, and Cody replied “free.” Rubert followed up with announcing a sandwich bar at the event, and Bell mentioned a birthday cake.

Kevin Monteque then spoke about the upcoming 5-on-5 Intramural Basketball playoffs scheduled next week. The Intramural Dodge ball coaches meeting is scheduled March 1, and play begins on the 6th. James McCullough asked if we were still having Intramural Racquetball (on the calendar in Orange Pulp). Monteque replied in the affirmative, and mentioned that racquetball would be first, then dodge ball, because both would be held in the racquetball courts. Dodge ball played in the racquetball court as opposed to the gymnasium requires greater reflexes and is a quicker, more fast-paced game.

Force added that spectators could watch dodge ball from behind the safety of the glass, and that a nerf-type ball was used with a special coating to make it softer. He agreed that dodge ball played in the courts was much more fast and fun than in the gym.

Bell said she forgot to mention that on next Friday, Student Life would have an Oilers Ticket Giveaway in Covelle Hall at 8 am.

Good of the Order:

Logan Thomas, NGE: The club held a LAN Party last weekend in Covelle Hall, which included 15-16 players – three from the community. Last semester, they held a party that had 46 people. They are planning another LAN Party on the first Friday in March with free pizza and pop.

Keely Barger, SNA: Members designed the graduate pin and t-shirts and will take field trips to hospitals.

James Thye, RHA: Members held their first meeting last week with elections; Mardi Gras is scheduled Feb. 20 with a drag show, in which he would participate; a Luau is scheduled March 12 with a dunk tank and baby oil slide; and the pool table needs repaired and they also expect to get a new one.

Jose Rivas, FAD: Members held their first meeting last week; are designing a centennial poster; will participate in the Brass Ring Awards at which they usually always win big; are planning an industry visit to Penthouse in Dallas; will hold the next meeting Feb. 14; and go to Philbrook and Gilcrease on the 9th.

Sagar Master, AITP: Members held their first meeting two weeks ago; will be a part of the Tulsa Professional Chapter when it gets going instead of affiliation with the OKC chapter; and will hold a meeting next Wednesday.

Marci Lyn Hardesty, PTK: Prospective members just completed four days of orientation; Induction is planned Feb. 12, 6 pm, for 10 people; officer elections will be held directly afterward; 8 Hallmark Awards have been submitted including 4 individual, 3 chapter and 1 Web; Regionals are Feb. 23-24; and Internationals are April 12-14.

Sara Van Eaton, Student Senate: Some senators met with Department Heads yesterday to develop some momentum; regular meeting times are twice each month on Tuesday at 11:30 am; they are looking for more Senators and will soon update their Web page.

Force commented that if students have concerns or suggestions that the Senate is the place to go. In the past, students have suggested more campus lighting, parking and call boxes.

Van Eaton continued that the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature should be coming up soon, and interested parties should keep an eye out for advertisement.

Lane Glory, ISA: The last meeting was Thursday and members will visit Dal-Tile in Muskogee.

Joey Davis, ACR: Air Assurance recently came down and fed several employees, students and “guests” steaks; the next meeting is tomorrow and Thomas Kipkurgat is speaking; and on the 16th they will take a trip to Locke Supply Trade Show.

Michael Grob, Horology: Members are gearing up for the New York trip scheduled March 12-16.

Connie Murray, O&P: The club held elections two weeks ago; the raffle is finished and the club is \$12 in the hole – any fundraising suggestions are appreciated; members will hold a community outreach on Feb. 28 concerning diabetic’s foot care; and on the 7th they will go to the VA at the OU Medical Center. They also are interested in making a follow-up visit to Mexico; have selected two student senators; and will enjoy a BBQ on Monday.

Adjourned 12:32 pm