



OKLAHOMA
PANHANDLE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Approved Minutes
Faculty Senate Regular Meeting
Friday, January 8, 2021

Meeting Called to order by President Charla Lewis

Roll Call

AE—Stacy Nordquist, Charla Lewis, Tito Aznar

ASN—Dr. Beverly Meyer, Dr. Justin Collins, Tenoch Ramon, Daren Stephens

BT—Steve Martin, Kim Smith

Other faculty—Dr. Sara Hitch, Dr. Wu

Invited Guests—Dean Tye Stephens, Laura Franks

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Aznar moved approve the minutes as corrected. Second by Dr. Collins. Minutes unanimously approved.

Faculty Pay Study

Ms. Franks reported that the faculty pay study committee determined a base salary for OPSU faculty and requested faculty senates consent to move forward with presenting their finding to the administration. Ms. Franks stated that to move all faculty employed at the time of the study to the designated targets would require approximately \$200,000. Ms. Franks conveyed that Dr. Dinger stated in a previous faculty pay study committee meeting that it might be possible to reach those targets in two to six years.

Mr. Nordquist asked how the base salary in the report was obtained and stated that his was incorrect as it also included his summer pay. Other faculty members reported that their base salary was not accurate either. Ms. Franks stated that the salary figures came from a survey document provided to her and that the salaries for some were not accurate but were used as a guide for a baseline to determine an approximate shortfall.

Ms. Franks asked Mr. Nordquist if his salary included his department chair pay. Mr. Nordquist replied that he did not receive any pay for serving as department chair. Ms. Franks replied that department pay needed to be addressed for Mr. Nordquist and Ms. Lewis as neither were receiving any department chair pay.

Ms. Lewis conveyed the senate's appreciation to the faculty pay study committee for their time and effort in addressing faculty pay.

Mr. Martin asked Ms. Franks for a recommendation on the next steps to be taken. Ms. Franks stated she was working on a proposal and requested assistance in formalizing the report. Dr. Meyer advised finalizing a formal report to present to the administration that could be used to present to the board of regents. Mr. Martin suggested that the faculty pay study committee prepare the formal report and present it to the faculty senate. The faculty senate would then consider passing a resolution endorsing the proposal. Ms. Lewis concurred.

LMS Update

Dean Stephens reported that after a year-long conversation of considering an LMS change that he was ready to move forward. Dean Stephens stated that he met with online programs focus group a few times in the fall semester as well as having discussions with CapEd, Canvas, D2L, and all of the involved parties. Dean Stephens stated that our existing contract with D2L is coming to a close and that a switch to Canvas will ultimately cost the university less money and clean up some of the messiness of having D2L as the primary LMS for the university and Canvas for the CapEd classes. Dean Stephens expressed additional concerns of not having an on-campus instructional designer or on-campus tech support with CapEd. Dean Stephens reported that student government gave approval for switching to Canvas so long as there was consistency across campus. The online programs focus group expressed a sense of urgency in making a switch decision.

The senate engaged in a lengthy discussion on the merits of an LMS conversion including positive and negative faculty experiences with both Canvas and D2L, the cost of conversion, and other concerns about Canvas as a company. Dean Stephens reported that switching to Canvas would net about \$15,000 per year less than D2L/Brightspace and that administration acknowledge that the saving could potentially be used to hire additional faculty. Discussion continued with faculty concerns about moving courses from D2L to Canvas and Dean Stephens stated that Canvas offers a “white glove” treatment where they would move any requested courses from D2L to Canvas. Mr. Aznar questioned Dean Stephens on how we would be able to access historical information in D2L after the conversion such as assessment needs. Dean Stephens stated that he had talked with both Canvas and D2L representative and that they are legally required to provide access to our historical information in D2L for 10 years as the information contained in the system is our intellectual property.

Ms. Lewis asked Dean Stephens what he needed from faculty senate. Dean Stephens responded that he was not asking for a formal transition as that would be a deep, broader conversation that would be brought back up at a future date. Dean Stephens asked for consent to request a tentative contract where transition details could be presented for a better consideration of a conversion. No senator objected to pursuing what a contractual agreement would entail. Ms. Smith asked when faculty would know the outcome Dean Stephens conversation. Dean Stephens responded that he had a scheduled meeting with Dr. Dinger and Dr. Duren and they would converse with the Canvas sales representative and Dean Stephens would get back shortly after.

Dean Stephens left the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Faculty Senate Constitution Revisions

Mr. Martin reported there was no update for this meeting. Ms. Smith and Mr. Martin would meet before the next meeting are report back with a voting tool.

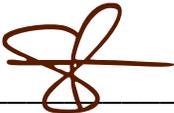
Upward Evaluation

The consensus of the faculty senate was that upward evaluations are a good idea but expressed concerns about serving on additional committees, the additional workload involved in the evaluations, and the anonymity of the results. The senate agreed that Ms. Lewis would convey to the administration that the faculty senate supported conducting upward evaluations if the administration would select an instrument that would provide anonymity for respondents.

ADJOURN

Dr. Collins moved and Mr. Aznar seconded to adjourn. Motion passed and meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Steve Martin, secretary



Steve Martin, secretary

February 5, 2021

Date



Charla Lewis, president

February 5, 2021

Date