

FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

March 5, 2019, 6:00 PM, the Sunset Meeting Room of the College Union (Klamath Falls) and Conference Room #130 (Portland-Metro).

Attendance/Quorum

Vice President Matthew Sleep for President Terri Torres called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. All senators or alternates were present except: Eve Klopf, Vanessa Bennet, Josh Jones, and Tom Keyser.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the February 5, 2019 meeting were approved with the following revisions:

Page five working error regarding Librarian revision.

Report of the Vice President regarding OIT 21-040 for faculty.

The next item to be discussed is our accreditation cycle of Northwest: Seth Anthony's thoughts were also attributed to this report and that was that he had some concern that there was not a clear process of who, what, where is in charge of dealing with the accreditation with Northwest. The issue is being dealt with and a strategic plan is in place so we can achieve a clear process of who will be in charge of accreditation.

Terri met with the President and asked if OMIC, (Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center) and the CDC, (Cyber Defense Center) are making money. President Naganathan's reply is that OMIC is self-funded and he hopes that faculty will become more involved with OMIC through research processes and proposals. His reply to the CDC is that it was never intended to be a profitable center. It is a different entity in the Presidents opinion. SenEx reviewed all of the policies currently listed on our website and after review recognized that a couple comm2.5 (z)-1.2 ca l6C -242 (i)-2. afad-hoc committee is to look at what

ions.

– Matthew Sleep

I would like to report that we are starting on the computer replacement for faculty. To Note: Some of our faculty have already received new computers so I feel this project is going well.

The next announcement is in regards to Merit Pay which is moving forward this academic year. A couple of notes on this issue: We are going to continue with the Merit Pay policy that was last signed by a President of the

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now go back and complete merit scores for the previous three years. That \$67,000 gets divided by the total number of full-time faculty within the departments and based on individual merits here at Oregon Tech. Finally, that last item to report is that we are transitioning to Canvas the new learning management system. The old system, “Blackboard” will stop on June 30th. Therefore, everyone needs to be prepared.

Note:(Questions & Concerns) 1. Regarding Merit Pay: What if a department had different Chairs over the last three years? 2. There was a concern regarding the Pool of money and how those funds will be allocated. 3. Question: A request for more information on the CDC. 4. Question: A request for more information on OMIC. 5. There were Multiple questions and concerns regarding Canvas and the process of how the new learning management system was elected.

– Junmin Yee

We had a very successful blood drive and so I would like to congratulate all the people who came. The Incidental Fee Committee met to discuss incidental fees for Summer 2019 and the 2019-2020 academic year. We had a successful student recreation center forum on Monday where John Van Dyke and Brian Fox asked for feedback from the students about the rec center. We also had a successful tuition forum where we gave students some information about the tuition setting process and got students' opinions on tuition. There was the Black Out for Hunger basketball game where we gave away shirts to all community members who donated a can of food or a dollar. Extended library hours are happening again this term for Dead Week and Finals, ASOIT is working with the library to provide snacks for the students. (I asked Faculty to please let their students know). The Treehouse program had their grand opening on Tuesday March 1. And that is the end of My report.

Reports of Standing Committees

– Ben Bunting

RPT has been a little cursed this term. With the Owens problem and the snow day I can report that we are behind. However, we completed the process of updating the Library policies. We have changes for your approval to be voted on in April. We are still in the process of the faculty evaluation policy and once it is complete, I hope to have those changes for you to vote on in April or May. The Third Charge is that I have put together a draft report for all of the Department Chairs feedback on the NTT Policy.

Yasha Rohwer

I wanted to address the *ad-hoc* committee that is being formed on teaching evaluations. Initially Faculty welfare was given the charge to investigate the legitimacy of how we evaluate teaching at this institution. Therefore, I feel that this is a very important concern when it comes to promotion and tenure. There are three items focused on for faculty and that is; service, professional development, and teaching. Teaching is the most important data point so it is really vital that we have an effective evaluation process. Keep in mind that our focus has been primarily on a student ratings system. In addition, the literature that exists dates back to early 2000 and that suggests that these have a lot of bias content. I feel that they are unscientific and problematic and in turn here we are in an institute of Science and Technology. In conclusion, I feel that the *ad-hoc* committee will offer a solution.

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For our second charge, which addresses whether or not we should require a C or higher for all Gen Ed courses, I have surveyed the group. I was hoping for consensus, but no such luck. We are going to meet in April to discuss this issue. I hope to have information for the May meeting.

We have been given a new charge regarding contact hours required per credit hour at Oregon Tech. Northwest has a requirement in place, so we are working on just putting that policy into Oregon Tech language. We should have this document ready to present at the May meeting.

If anyone has any questions, they can email Veronica Koehn.

– Eve Klopf

No report

Reports of Special or Ad Hoc Committee

None.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Open Floor Period

Dr. Deb brought to our attention that the yearly student awards are coming up. March is the time to recognize the student award process. This year Oregon Tech has nine different awards from community service, academic success and outstanding student. Each award has different criteria for nominators to address and letters of nomination. Please address these criteria. Nomination letters are due April 10. For more information, you can go to oit.edu//campus-life/student-affairs/student-awards.

Christopher voiced concern about the CEO of PG&E speaking at our commencement. The reason was that PG&E is alleged to be responsible for the start of the fire in Paradise California, known as, “The Campfire” in 2018. The devastation was horrendous. There is much appreciation that the board is reaching out to CEO’s but the concern is that PG&E CEO may not be the best choice at this time.

Iris Godwin had a question regarding Library staff and Merit Pay. Will Faculty Welfare or the union be in negotiations regarding Librarians Merit?

Kari Lundgren and Matt Frye voiced concern regarding a 15-page report titled “Are Oregon Tech Students Career Ready”, produced by Oregon Tech Career Services. The report included a section that describes part of the reason why students are not career ready is because of their out-of-date technical communication courses and the need for revision. This is a concern for us because it’s directly relevant to our expertise and in addition none of us were contacted about the curriculum therefore the content of their report we found to be irrelevant, false and troubling. In addition our point is about the process and the precedence of the nonacademic unit proposing curriculum changes, especially in a time when we have been involved in this never-ending Gen-Ed reform process.

Aja welcomed faculty to Shark Teck which is a preliminary round of catalyzed competitions. Shark Teck is an opportunity for students to pitch business ideas. The event will be March 12 from 4-7pm.

Aja reported the first OER day last week in the library several people presented some of their educational resources they have been developing in conjunction with some of the awards the Library handed out last year.

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the role of FOAC. The President is going to attend the next FOAC meeting to discuss his vision for how FOAC operates. After that meeting I should have more to report.

Report of the Administrative Council Delegate – Lindsey Davis

No report

Adjournment

Matthew Sleep adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Don McDonnell, Secretary
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