

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.
- Page four request to strike working “Academic Council is also reviewing the fact that...”.

Reports of Officers

Report of the President – Matthew Sleep for Terri Torres

- Terri wanted to share with Faculty Senate that SenEx had a meeting with President Naganathan. A couple of things were discussed but one of interest was the Calendar issue. Regarding the calendar issue was that the Wednesday of Thanksgiving was a half day and most of our students were gone. This problem in turn triggered another problem and that is, we do not meet enough days during Fall term to meet our accreditation requirements. The problem has been recognized and the President is working with several constituents to try and come up with solutions to both issues.
- 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 committees might have some additional responsibilities for the rest of the academic year with regard to this issue.
- We almost have the *ad-hoc* committee formed that will be discussing the student numerical evaluations. As of today joined on the committee is: Kristi Weidman, Sarah Fitzpatrick, Kyle Chapman, Seth Anthony and Rosanna Overholser. We may be adding one more person. The hopes for this *ad-hoc* committee is to look at what information we want to get from the student numerical evaluations.

Report of the Vice President – 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 University in 2009. The President set aside \$67,000 to be put into this Merit Pay Pool and that’s about a half of a percent of all faculty salaries. Therefore, because we are going with the old policy, all Department Chairs must

Oregon Institute of Technology Faculty Senate Minutes – March 5, 2019

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.

Report of the ASOIT Representative – 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

Faculty Rank Promotion & Tenure (RPT) – 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.

Faculty Welfare 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.
- (Questions and Concerns)1. A concern that we are behind the curve when it comes to these evaluations. 2. The model at University of Oregon was recognized as an established credible measurement standard allowing students to voice their classroom experience.

Academic Standards – Matthew Frye for Veronica Koehn

Oregon Institute of Technology Faculty Senate Minutes – March 5, 2019

- 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.

Faculty Compensation (FCC) – Eve Klopff

- 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.

Oregon Institute of Technology Faculty Senate Minutes – March 5, 2019

That round of awarding is open for applications this coming academic year until April 12. Also to report is that there is concern regarding issues of the affordability of text books.

- Aaron Scher reminded Faculty Senate that we are Oregon Institute of Technology and how we are evaluated on our creative works research and innovation, as faculty members we want to set an example. Aaron brought up testing the system with a research paper that he wrote and describes invention is patentable and emailed to Dr. Abdi and asked the question, “Does the university support faculty filing for patents.” He looked online at OIT and found the patent option was very outdated and was surprised by this. Patents should be addressed especially if you work with outside organizations.

Report of the Provost – Gary Kuleck

- No report

Report of the President’s Council Delegate – Terri Torres

- No report

Report of the Association of Oregon Faculty (AOF) Representative – Matthew Sleep

- No report

Report of the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate (IFS) Representative – Mark Clark

- We had a meeting this past Friday and Saturday at our Wilsonville Campus. I wanted to note that everyone was impressed with our board room # 402 in Wilsonville.
- Primary focus of the meeting was upcoming legislation and how IFS is going to react to that. We now have a dedicated person on our executive committee who is responsible for relationship with lobbying with legislature and we are tracking a number of bills. We are still relatively not very far into legislative processes but there are no major things to report. We were mostly discussing how we wanted to instruct the legislative representative. I will say probably the one of the most interest to our faculty is Senate Bill 3 (which recently passed the senate unanimously and is likely to be passed in the house). This Bill allows community colleges to offer applied Baccalaureate degrees. From the legislatures point of view, this is an issue of access and they do want folks to have to move in order to retrain. Exactly how this is going to work out, I don’t know. I think both the provost and president’s council with the Oregon public universities have decided to take no position on this particular measure. The Legislation calls for the HECC, (higher education coordinating committee) to set standards for community colleges in order to offer these degrees. Therefore, one of the questions/concerns is faculty qualifications resources and so forth. The actual impact will come in, “how does the standards actually work out” and so IFS is asking that the public universities be involved in the dialog of HECC for setting those standards and for those degrees offered at community colleges. End of my report.
- Note:(Questions & Concerns) The concern and questions brought up was the discussion of this expansion and is there any talk of how new programs would be evaluated? It was just learned that KCC is offering psychology, communication and now cyber defense technology.
- Note: (Mark Clark detailed reply) There are two issues going on here, the one at the state level HECC committee will be the ones charged in this legislation for the standards so community colleges cannot just do this willy-nilly. Then there are issues of accreditation for community colleges. Community colleges have broad powers and flexibility. Is this going to have much impact on Oregon Tech over the next two to three years-probably not, but if this and depending on how easy HECC makes this if the notion is that it’s about access then it is very unlikely that KCC would be offering applied Baccalaureate. But a community college that is remote may be different.

Report of the Fiscal Operations Advisory Council (FOAC) Representative – Matthew Sleep

- It was reported for the FOAC meeting that if you want to learn what the meeting was about you can go onto the website and look at the presentation. The chair has met with the president and my concerns were expressed about

Oregon Institute of Technology Faculty Senate Minutes – March 5, 2019

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
/sb