Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the USAO Faculty Association

Tuesday, September 1, 2009

Signed in as present:


I. Call to order by President Dr. Steve Weber at 11:10am.

II. Approval of Minutes.

- Minutes of the 4/7/09 regular meeting of the USAO Faculty Association were delivered electronically on 8/25/09. Without correction or amendment, a motion to approve by J. Bruce was adopted.

III. Treasurer’s Report

- No report from the Treasurer was yet available.

- Announcements by S. Weber:
  - C. Elder is Treasurer and President-elect.
  - Dues to remain the same as 2008-09: $10.00 per member. C. Elder proceeded to collect dues.
  - A short summary of expenses since the last meeting included the cost of the plaques to honor distinguished graduates.
IV. Regent’s Report

- No report available from D. Reigh.

- S. Weber requests, “Send me any scholarly activity, publications, presentations, performances, gallery showings, etc., by next Monday, September 7. I will present these at the next Board of Regents meeting.”

V. Committee Reports

- In place of regular Committee reports, S. Weber announced that Faculty Association Committee Assignments are to be issued this week.

- Announcements followed by S. Weber summarizing his process for making committee assignments. He referenced the guidelines published in the Faculty Handbook and the Faculty Association Constitution. He suggested that there is a need for more specific information about making assignments to most committees. He noted that committees were designed by consensus of the Executive Council (C. Elder, K. Davis).

- S. Weber announced that he has contacted all who will chair committees (except for Tenure and Promotion.) All chairs have accepted their assignments:
  - L. Hester to Chair Handbook Committee
    - Comments by L. Hester about being in the middle of a general re-write of the handbook. He noted the difficulty of proceeding with revisions in light of recent administrative structure changes. He noted a hope for continuity of purpose by holding-over committee members from last year. He noted intent to approve changes “piecemeal” to get them in place rapidly. He opened an invitation to all faculty to email him with concerns and suggestions.
    - A brief general discussion followed about the lack of information available about the changes to administrative structure.
  - Erik Guzik to Chair Curriculum Committee
  - Jennifer Long to Chair the IDS Committee
  - Steve Weber to Chair the Resource Committee
Nancy Osborn to Chair the Convocation/Commencement Committee and serve on Faculty Advisory Council

- Dr. Weber suggested that the Convocation/Commencement committee should review standards for the Outstanding/Distinguished Graduate Awards and take on the task of ordering plaques.

- Discussion followed about a meeting with Administrators, Faculty, Staff, and a student representative held to improve the efficiency of the committee structure. The result was the elimination of several defunct committees, the acknowledgement of several active committees that did not appear on a schedule, and the assignment of two new committees (IDS and Convocation/Commencement) as Faculty Association Committees. There is now a Symposia Committee.

VI. Old Business

- Discussion opened with S. Weber’s comments about the ongoing need for set meeting times for Faculty Committees.

- No motions were adopted, but by discussion it was established that Jennifer Long will move the IDS Committee Meeting to the 1st Thursday of each month.

- The IDS general meeting will continue to meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

- Alan Todd will continue to hold Professional Development meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month, leaving the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11am as an open meeting time for other faculty committees.

- K. Crow suggested that some meetings could overlap the other set TTH meeting times, if no members were in conflict.

- S. Weber suggested that the set meeting time for each committee would be at the discretion of the committee chairs.

VII. New Business

Faculty members who recently received promotion/tenure were acknowledged.

By general consensus, the regular meeting of the Faculty Association for the 2009-2010 year will take place at 11:10am on the 1st Tuesday of each month in Austin 206.

S. Weber made the suggestion that “in light of the University goal to highlight elevated academic standards and research, we might enhance our public image by exhibiting our research/publications/creative work to one another in formal or informal meetings of faculty.” He also suggested that we establish a web portal on which to post faculty research, scholarly activity, and creative activity.

K. Bohannon suggested creating a series of public lectures highlighting our faculty research.

J. Loutsch suggested developing an on-campus student research presentation day.

C. Walker noted that student research can/will be highlighted as part of the Symposia.

S. Weber suggests that there may eventually be funding for the Library to fill a Faculty Research shelf with publications by our faculty. General approval and interest followed. M. Vliet thinks that donations would be forthcoming to that cause. Steve will talk to Kelly Brown about this idea.

S. Weber will accept volunteers from those who wish to help organize these or similar events.

K. Davis asked for faculty feedback about experiences with Printing Services. Katie will deliver comments from the faculty to Dr. Nealeigh.

S. Weber opened the invitation for faculty to submit agenda items to him for future meetings.

VIII. Announcements
J. Bruce introduced the 2009-10 class offerings from the Oklahoma Scholar Leadership Enrichment Program. There are 4 scholarships guaranteed through the Foundation that would cover the $600 tuition/housing/books cost. Currently credit appears on the transcript as “OU”, but could be from USAO. This could have the added benefit of an FTE increase!

L. Hester, A. Todd, M. Vliet, and C. Elder all spoke of positive experiences while attending OSLEP classes. C. Elder suggests pursuing the course listing as an IDS course.

J. Bruce announced that USAO will be the host campus for the May 2011 OSLEP class on Local Economics: Buying Local Food.

K. Lamar announced the 3rd floor student show and the Gallery show: Barrington & Barrington.

K. Bohannon announced the Artist Series Event: Celtic Spring on 9/12/09.

C. Walker announced the panelists for the Giles Symposium on 10/29/09: Bruce Plant, Edgar Heap of Birds, Jeff Stokes.

IX. A motion to adjourn made by K. Lamar was adopted. Adjournment at 11:58am.

Respectfully Submitted,

K. Davis