Minutes of the USAO Faculty Association
Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Signed in as present:


I. Call to Order by President, K. Crow, at 11:06 am.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the 10/02/12 regular meeting of the USAO Faculty Association were delivered electronically by W. Ferrell on 11/02/12. Motion to approve the October 2012 minutes was made by Z. Simpson, seconded by N. Osborn, and passed unanimously.

III. Treasurer’s Report

D. Hanson announced a balance of $947.57.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Tenure & Promotion Committee--the committee has not met
b. IDS Committee—has not met
c. Resource Committee—has not met
d. Curriculum Committee—there is currently no work on table so the committee has not met
e. Faculty Welcoming Committee—has made a list of items by email to consider, will meet in a couple of weeks
f. Faculty Handbook Committee—

1. Sabbatical Leave Policy—committee recommended that the policy be kept as written. After further discussion among the faculty regarding ¾ pay for a semester, a motion was made by L. Hester that the committee rewrite the wording of the sabbatical leave policy to reflect the ¾ pay for a single semester and ½ pay for a full year. Z. Simpson seconded the motion. Vote: 38 Yes, 1 No, 1 abstained.

2. Makeup of Curriculum Committee—committee explained that the current policy of the criteria for membership on the committee requires that the members be employed for 3 years before being allowed to serve on the committee. Due to the small faculty and the number of committees that faculty currently serve on, the committee recommended including the wording “whenever possible” after the 3 year employment statement. After a lengthy discussion by faculty, J. Mather made a motion to accept the
committee’s recommendation to leave insert the wording “whenever possible” after the 3 year employment statement. K. Lamar seconded the motion. Vote: Y=16, N=16, Abstained=5; motion did not pass.

g. Ad Hoc Faculty Concerns Committee—committee is currently hearing grievances; will report at December meeting regarding faculty association considerations.

h. AAUP—L. Hester discussed AAUP (American Association of University Professors). He explained to faculty how to become a member and the benefits that the organization would provide to members. After further discussion, faculty asked that a representative speak to the group regarding AAUP.

V. Announcements
   a. Divisions need to nominate outstanding graduate for the fall trimester.
   b. K. Crow encouraged all faculty to submit any news/accomplishments they have to him before next Tuesday so he could report it to the regents at the Regents Meeting.
   c. K. Lamar announced the BFA Art Show on the 3rd floor in Davis Hall and encouraged all faculty to attend.
   d. B. Brown discussed the Pathways Project of the Higher Learning Commission. The project will allow USAO to showcase how we are innovative and creative. USAO has decided to showcase our assessment of students. While the committee is currently working on the IDS assessment, we can utilize a holistic approach to how USAO is innovative and creative.
   e. N. Warden reminded faculty about Hypatia on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 12:00 in the Student Center Ballroom.
   f. K. Davis announced the production of Kaiser will be November 9 and 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Davis Hall Little Theater.
   g. L. Thrift discussed the new art show, Faces, that will begin November 17.
   h. J. Mather brought attention to the increase in student activity fees. She asked faculty if they had any students who have brought up this concern.

VI. Motion to adjourn by K. Lamar; second, Z. Simpson, 11:48 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendi Ferrell