

Faculty Association Minutes

August 27, 2024

MB 2R7 and Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 11:07AM (technology issues caused delay)

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes from March 2024 Meeting
 - a. Minutes were approved.
3. Immediately following the minutes approval vote, the Zoom session was “bombed” by outside parties. The zoom meeting was terminated, and the rest of the meeting was in-person.
4. Treasurer’s Report
 - a. Membership – 34 members
 - b. Balances
 - i. Endowed Scholarship Fund: \$12,502.49 (as of September 30, 2023) – new balances will be reported with the annual report
 - ii. Expendable Scholarship Fund: \$7225.97 (as of March 8, 2024) – monthly reports will be made available to the Chair or Treasurer upon request and need 3-5 business days for processing
 - iii. Checking Account: \$8,738
 - c. Pay dues at the Bursar’s office or Cash App \$OcccFacAssoc
 - d. Treasurer’s report was approved.
5. Staff Award – Christine Miller, Math Resource Center Supervisor
6. Welcome new faculty
 - a. Deborah Morgan – SS
 - b. Jeff Dickey – SS
 - c. Michael Maxey – SS
 - d. Natalie Boussontie –SEM
7. Scholarship Committee
 - a. Last year \$1200 in the Fall Chili Cookoff and \$2000 in the Spring Silent Auction and bake sale

- b. Last year we awarded 5 \$500 scholarships in the Fall and 7 \$300 scholarships in the Spring
 - c. Contact Sarah Baker to join.
8. Chair Report:
- a. The chair will take FA priorities from the FA membership. Please let her know if you have any suggestions or concerns.
 - b. President
 - i. Discussed the new information coming out of ITS concerning servers/shared drives and discontinuing the use of flash drives on campus
 - 1. President was unaware ITS had spoken to the divisions
 - 2. Suggested changes like these need a long rollout with stakeholder input BEFORE changes are made
 - 3. Emphasized the need for appropriate timing as well, not in the middle of a semester where students will be disadvantaged and learning disrupted
 - 4. ITS gave a report at the BOR saying the changes would be over a 2-year period
 - a. Servers/drives and VPN would be first and soon
 - b. Other storage option phased out later
 - ii. Discussed graduation concerning HP in particular
 - a. Are the pinning ceremonies graduation or is graduation?
 - i. President was not at the pinnings and HP students did not get their photo op if they are not invited to graduation
 - b. President said that the HP students will be included in the Saturday graduation ceremonies going forward but no details yet
 - iii. Discussed Adjunct pay raises
 - 1. Last raises were in 2019
 - 2. OCCC is no longer leading in adjunct pay, but has fallen to the middle of the pack
 - c. VPAA
 - i. Had several meetings with Dr. Ortiz during the summer and was able to discuss many topics like the faculty handbook, kickoff week schedule, committees, faculty appraisal process, etc.

1. Dr. Ortiz was always very thoughtful and was quick to respond
- ii. Requested the reinstatement of the Environmental Safety Committee
 1. Disbanded because the CPD was unable to lead
 2. Several programs require the existence of this committee for accreditation
 3. Looking into reforming a new committee
- iii. Benefits committee was disbanded
 1. Requested a forum to allow employees to discuss any changes to the benefits packages
- iv. The faculty appraisal process is being rolled out this year for a pilot year
- v. Staff Adjuncts
 1. Due to federal law, personnel cannot hold both an exempt and nonexempt position at the same institution
 2. The threshold for exempt status was raised in July and will be again in January
 - a. This is causing a number of OCCC staff members who have been able to teach as adjuncts to now be ineligible to do so.
 - b. Serious impacts on some areas that rely on adjuncts
- vi. Testing accommodations
 1. For those with questions regarding students who need accommodations contact Lance Overdorf who is interim
 2. Emphasized the need not only for accommodations and students who need to take make-up tests for in person classes
 3. AA has earmarked 3 FTE funds for staffing
 4. A room has been identified but has not been finalized
 5. Currently needs for testing is still by division
 6. FA Exec will be drafting a resolution about this need to be presented to AA and the President
 - a. Send any info you have to FA Exec no later than Friday, September 6th to help draft the resolution to present to FA Exec in a future meeting
- vii. Scheduling
 1. The academic calendar and college events/trainings are scheduled without considering academic needs of the institution

- a. No Fall break means classes for the late 8 will be started before the grades for early 8 are turned in.
 - i. Students who fail a prerequisite course like comp 1 are not de-enrolled from comp 2 until it is too late to enroll in other courses for that term
 - ii. Mandatory training scheduled for times Faculty are required to be in classes or at inopportune times like the first week of classes for a term
- b. What are the “pain points” in the academic year that need to be considered?
 - i. Discussion ensued
- c. Dr. Ortiz will contact the chair once the academic calendar discussions for 2025-2026 begin later this fall.
 - i. Send any and all concerns about college scheduling to the chair for their consideration

d. Board of Regents

- i. Several items were discussed over the course of the summer
 - 1. FY25 budget approved
 - 2. Tuition has been approved to remain the same for this year
 - 3. Benefits have been approved to remain the same for this year
 - 4. Draft of the new strategic plan has been presented

e. Foundation

- i. New financial reports for the FA are coming
- ii. Want to rebuild trust with them from some poor experiences in the past
- iii. Rosewood Gala
 - 1. Would like faculty involvement
 - a. Volunteers to assist with preparations the day of like stuffing goodie bags etc.
 - b. Would like 4-6 faculty for the event who are good story tellers to talk to donors about student success and the college
- iv. Need volunteers for Fiestas Patrias

- f. Online division
 - i. Dr. Earl-Wilcox will be sending out a faculty satisfaction survey soon
 - 1. Asking faculty to “Dream Big”
 - 2. She is trying to get forward momentum for some big asks like a master course manager and evening/ weekend coverage in IT
- g. Amy Brooks Young
 - i. Had an information meeting (What is FA and what do we do?)
 - ii. We would like to invite her to address FA at the September meeting

9. New Business

- a. We would like to use Zoom’s AI to transcribe the meetings to assist with minutes.
 - i. The transcripts would only be sent to the chair and the secretary
 - ii. The secretary would clean up the transcripts, remove all identifying information and anonymize the minutes
 - iii. A motion was made to allow the AI transcripts and was approved
- b. Discussed revamping and expanding information from AA for new student Orientation
 - i. AA has asked if the faculty would be interesting in hosting a series of “College 101 Lunch and Learn” type panels throughout the academic year to assist students with academic related topics like taking notes
 - ii. If you are interested in participating, let the chair know

10. Announcements from members

11. Adjournment

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 12:03 PM