

Minutes of the Faculty Senate
Regular meeting held in Reynolds 205
April 20, 2023

Present: Senators Oden, Petty, Pfannenstiel, T. Schroeder, Tucker, White, Fanning, Paulson, Overholser, Nelson, Samples, Logan, Djiguimde, Valenzuela, Coppersmith, Schneiderwind, Almotairi

Ex-officio and guests: David Lanoue, Abdel Bachri, , Gerald Plumlee, Connie Wilson, Sheryl Edwards, Deborah Wilson, Trey Berry, Jennifer Rowsam, Roger Giles, Marissa Grippo, Wilson Impson

Call to order: 3:40 pm

Reading of Proxies: Fanning proxy for Hudgeons

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from March 23, 2023 were approved (motion – Coppersmith, second – Logan)

2. Reports of Committees

Report from the Faculty Senate Handbook Committee (Senator White)

Senator White noted that items have been emailed to the faculty before the Assembly session next week. Faculty will be asked to vote on the motions.

Report from the Faculty Senate Budget Committee (Senator Tucker)

Senator Tucker shared that budget meetings have occurred recently and more are to come soon.

Report from the Faculty Senate Parking, Facilities and Grounds Committee

There was no report for the committee.

3. Liaisons from other Standing and University Committees

Graduate Council

Senator Overholser reported the Graduate Council has requested the opportunity to have a full seat added to the Senate that will be devoted to Graduate issues. Senator Tucker noted the Constitution allows for the addition of a senate seat if 2/3 of the Senate approves. The Senate will take this up in the fall.

Fringe Benefits

Roger Giles discussed the current health insurance program SAU is a part of and will continue to work to seek balance with deductible costs and inflation.

4. Old Business

There was no old business to address at this time.

5. New Business

No new business at this time.

6. Special orders of the day

President Berry shared that we are heading towards a balanced budget and that Tacos4life will be on campus in the Fall. There will five graduation ceremonies this semester for over 750 students.

There is a search for the SAUTech Chancellor position. Fall enrollment is expected to be strong. In the future, he will be requested support from the Foundation for funding for faculty and staff development.

Provost Lanoue noted that the search for the Dean of the College of Education and Human Performance are close to complete.

Questions for the Administration

1. What are the Help Desk's hours for the summer? If we are locked out of Duo Thursday evening, do we need to wait until Monday business hours? Alternatively, are there other options for help on the 3-day weekends?
 - Working on a solution and will inform the group at the faculty assembly on Tuesday.
2. Can the finals week schedule be modified for simplicity?
 - Provost Lanoue noted that it isn't always possible to schedule final exams in the same rooms that classes are held. Final exam schedules will be shared with faculty before the semester begins.
3. Could our health insurance plan be negotiated with lower deductibles and/ or premiums?
 - Shawana Reed, Vice President for Finance, shared information about comparable insurance programs throughout the state. She noted that Pharmaceuticals are trending up.
 - Reed and Roger Giles discussed the options regarding health insurance, the need for a negotiation in terms, and possibilities for the future.
 - A fall forum on this specific issues may be held to further understanding of the issue.
4. Are spouses and children able to use the health-related services at SAU?
 - Spouses may use services but children are not eligible.
 - Additionally, spouses are able to use the services at the MAC.

5. 2023-24 Faculty Senate

Senate President Oden took this time recognize retiring Senate members; Petty, Paulson, Overholser, Schroeder, Almotari and their respective replacements on the Senate; Faucett, Filbrun, Greathouse, Islam, and Wise. Senator Schneiderwind will remain on the board after a re-election.

President Oden passed the gavel to the new President, Abe Tucker, and thanked all those present for their work over the course of the last year.

Senator White made a motion to approve a formal thank you to Past President Oden for her service. Logan seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Current President Tucker provided a review of last year's accomplishments, thanked previous Officers and outgoing Senators, and discussed future challenges. Due to the academic calendar for Fall 2024, Tucker requested the first Senate meeting to be held the 4th Thursday of the month of August. Additionally, to accommodate the number of Senators and guests, he is requesting Senates occur in Blanchard 204 in the coming year.

President Abe Tucker asked for a motion to approve Schneiderwind as Vice President, Valenzuela as Secretary, and Oden as Parliamentarian as a slate for the coming year.

Adjournment at 4:22pm Senator White gave the first motion, Logan seconded the motion.