Senate Minutes – Short version; see [video](https://sites.google.com/a/sou.edu/sou-faculty-senate-videos/october-6-2014) for full taped session.

October 6, 2014

SU 313 4:00 – 5:30 pm

**Members Present**: Brown, Carter, Feist, Ferguson, Hughes, Jones, May, Nordquist, Ormes, Pittman, Purslow, Richards, Rosenberg, Russell-Miller, Harvey, Shrewsbury, Slattery, Whitman, Wilder.

**University Leadership:** President Saigo and Provost Walsh.

**Guests:** Craig Morris, Chris Stanek, Sherry Ettlich, Matt Sayre, Steve Thorpe, Torii Uehara, Mark Denney, Lisa Garcia-Hanson, Dennis Jablonski, Joan McBee.

**Approval of Minutes:** (for May 5, May 19, and June 2, 2014) Moved, Dorothy Ormes; seconded, Dennis Slattery; Approved unanimously.

**Announcements:**

No announcements

**Discussion & Information Items:**

Comments from President Saigo: Dr. Saigo expressed his welcome to all, stating: “I work for you,” then summarizing his efforts since arriving on the job at the end of June.

* Visits to Community Colleges and high schools, to demonstrate respect, encourage co-operation and develop familiarity, all essential to long-term recruiting efforts
* Presentations of SOU case to legislators in Salem
* Posting of informational fliers at the map kiosks at the major entrances to campus – the fliers have been disappearing quickly
* Meetings with local Service Clubs and people across campus
* Meetings with Veterans Domiciliary in White city to begin to meet educational needs of staff and patients there
* Congratulated full campus on extraordinary teamwork and Herculean efforts at recruitment over the summer
* Noted: “We are making a difference in people’s lives, that the provision of top quality education and care by faculty will “sell the institution”
* Invited all members of the community to bring fresh eyes to how we can improve the University, and to communicate any suggestions on same to him.

Comments from Provost Walsh: Welcome back. Special thanks to all Division Directors for hard, productive work all summer. Thanks to all academic areas. Convocation provided special student-focused atmosphere and welcome.

**ASSOU Report:** Tori Uehara, Director of State Affairs for ASSOU presented the report.

* Student government provides community and involvement is good for student retention
* Student voter registrationdrive needs the support of faculty
* WUE students can register and vote in Oregon. Residency requirements for voting are much less restrictive than residency requirements for in-state tuition; students should not confuse the two.

**Update from Chris Stanek and Lisa Garcia-Hanson:**

Stanek presented illustrations of enrollment trends during the summer ([Link to document](http://www.sou.edu/assets/senate/docs/minutes/2014/Weekly_Progression_Fall_13_vs_Fall_14.pdf)). The trends appear to be on track to reach or exceed our minimum enrollment targets for fall 2014. They also illustrate response to the extraordinary efforts made by staff and faculty begun in June and carried forward through the present.

Stanek explained the difference between number of FTE (Full Time Equivalents) and full time students. “Full time students” just counts the number of people taking 12 or more credit hours. FTE, the more reliable number for accounting purposes, is the national standard based on total number of registered credits divided by a 15 credit “full load” for undergraduates, 12 for graduates. Retention rates have climbed from the historic average of about 67.5% to nearly 74%.

Garcia-Hanson outlined continuing strategies to improve enrollment and retention, and thanked the many people who have contributed to this year’s improved enrollment trend.

**How the School of Business has been recruiting High** **Schools:**

Joan McBee described strategies the School of Business has employed successfully to keep prospective students “in the pipeline” for admission to SOU:

* Coordinate efforts among programs, faculty, and H. S. counselors
* Teach demonstration classes at High Schools
* Participate in Junior Achievement
* Present a Career day at local High Schools
* Get into classrooms
* Pre-contact out-of-town colleagues to set up advising appointments when travelling for conferences and the like
* Join admissions and recruiting trips
* Participate in the United Way Big Ideas project in Medford

**Update on the “Investing in Student Success process” for presenting ideas:** Mark Denney

* $250,000 in the retrenchment budget for each of the next four years to be invested in student success. Open meetings to solicit ideas and help with proposals to be held 10/7, 10/10, and 10/16. All Faculty are encouraged to bring their ideas forward. ([Link to website](https://sites.google.com/a/sou.edu/student-success/home))
* Proposals will be vetted in multiple venues, including Faculty Senate, to improve design
* Clarified that implementation will not be immediate, in response to question from Ferguson

**Update from Committee on Committees:**

Brown and Russell-Miller noted:

* Vacancies on Financial Aid and Awards Committee for 1, 2, and 3-year terms
* University Studies Committee needs chair, faculty member
* Solicitations to volunteer may appear in e-mail
* Thanks to those who have responded

**Update on implementation of “Missed Class Policy for Student-Athletes:”**

Matt Sayre noted:

* Faculty should receive letters within week
* Soccer is on a Thursday-Saturday schedule, which may require extra accommodation; Sayre may email faculty with explanation
* Saigo commented: Show your support for the student athletes – Attend games!

**Senate seats for Divisions:**

Postponed to next meeting

Adjourned about 5:45