

November 27, 2017
SU 313 4:00 – 5:30 pm
Approved Faculty Senate Minutes

Link to meeting video: <https://sites.google.com/a/sou.edu/sou-faculty-senate-videos/november-27-2017>

Present: Melissa Anderson, , Rhett Bender, Deborah Brown, Prakash Chenjeri, Carol Ferguson, Andrew Gay, Charles Lane, Jesse Longhurst, Marianne Golding, Dennis Jablonski, Laurie Kurutz, Erik Palmer, Michael Parker, Steven Petrovic, Dominick Robertson, Deborah Rosenberg, Larry Shrewsbury, Mark Siders, Chad Thatcher, and Curtis Feist (for Kemble Yates).

Absent: Alison Burke, Garrick Imantani, Robin Strangfeld, and Mark Tveskov.

Guests: Amy Belcastro, Karen Stone, Mark Denney, Sherry Ettlick, Jeanne Stallman, Gretchen Woelke, Angela Powell, Nina Friedman, Morgan Bechtold-Enge, Dale Vidmar, President Schott, Jody Waters, and Lee Ayers.

Approval of Minutes from November 13:

- Kurutz moved to approve the minutes from November 13. The motion was seconded by Lane and passed with all in favor and none opposed.

President's Report—Dr. Linda Schott:

- Please attend the holiday gathering this Friday at the Plunkett Center, and be sure to wear your ugliest sweater.
- **Housing Taskforce**--Consultant informed us that we are losing students due to housing issues. Housing is also on ASSOU's list of issues to tackle this year. Dennis Slattery has volunteered to serve.
- Dr. Schott will also like volunteers from faculty and staff. What do students want? Not just now but in the future? What do we know about Gen Z, Alpha Gen? Do they want dorms? Apartments? Something else? On campus or off?
- Information gathered will inform decisions made about campus housing.
- Stacy (Director of Housing) is chairing this committee, and they are planning to begin work in January and wrap up in April.
- Gay asked if this discussion will include employee housing. This conversation will be limited to students, but in the future, we may look at employee housing as well.
- In two weeks, SOU will visit the HECC. Next week, Ben Cannon's visit to prepare for the HECC visit.
- Member of the commission, Duncan Wise, contacted Dr. Schott about speaking at the Business Leadership Summit conference, in Portland. "The Futurist" will be the keynote speaker. Breakout session on Education will led by President

Schott—they have asked her to be provocative in her thinking of how Higher Education will need to change. Wise is excited about all of the good work that SOU is doing, and this is why he invited the President to speak.

- Jablonski mentioned the Athletic Taskforce and asked Dr. Schott what the procedure would be. This is an old Senate Committee that the president would like to reenergize. What is the mission? Who should populate it? It is to ensure that our athletic programs are in compliance—providing a quality educational experience for our student athletes and considering funding as well.

Provost’s Report—Dr. Susan Walsh: No report as the Provost was not in attendance.

Senate Vice Chair report: Dennis Jablonski

- No Advisory meeting was held last week due to the President’s State of the University address.

ASSOU report: Daryl Maplethorpe

- Maplethorpe was not in attendance.

Committee on Committees: Marianne Golding

- Discussing rules for membership on each committee. Faculty Personnel Committee is not a committee on our Senate roster.
- Shrewsbury explained about membership on this committee and explained that Chair elections will be held first, and then we will do Faculty Personnel Committee elections.

Point of Order: Rosenberg explained that when guests have questions, they need to be recognized by the Chair, not by any guest who might be presenting information.

Interstate Passport: Lee Ayers:

- WICHE (Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education)
- Funded by Gates, Lumin Foundations
- We know that many students move from one institution to another, and this initiative aims to address that, including “Lost” credits from transferring institutions.
- We have AAOT—31 states have a similar systems. Discussions include common course numbering. We are a LEAP institution, so the 9 knowledge areas are a good fit with what we already do.
- Survey of Explorations courses last year revealed that we are already addressing many of these areas through our University Studies program.
- C or better work applies to the Passport.
- SOU is a viable candidate for this program.

- Lane asked about how this would work for students coming into SOU. Have other schools packaged up their IP coursework? Ayers assured Lane that total credits and grades are uniform across all WICHE institutions. We accept it as a package much as we already do with the AAOT.
- Petrovic asked how much of this work is geared towards serving our various partners in developing similar Passport programs. Ayers explained that each in
- Siders asked about HB2998—is it connected to the Passport? Ayers explained that both programs are governed by the HECC, but she sees the Passport as being a precursor to HB 2998.
- Feist questioned why Physics was listed under Creative Expression. The survey asked for courses that met specific criteria. Ayers explained that UStudies would vet these.
- A lively discussion about how this would work for SOU ensued, and Ayers explained that the goal of this is to be more user friendly for students.

University Studies Courses—Dale Vidmar:

- Three courses brought forward from UStudies
- All three courses were approved unanimously by UStudies.
- Gay asked about NAS 378, Topics Course—how would this be represented in DegreeWorks? Ayers explained that each unique section would have a letter (A, B, C, etc). Any new sections would go before the committee to approve.
- Gay moved to waive the two-week rule. Shrewsbury seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor, none opposed. Gay moved to accept the recommendation of the University Studies Committee and approve those courses. Shrewsbury seconded the motion.
- Parker noted that some of these courses have prerequisites.
- The vote passed with all in favor, none opposed. There were no abstentions.

SOU Board of Trustees process report

- Sabrina has sent out the link to the application for new Board members.
- Deadline is December 1.

Clarification of MBA Program voting process

- Are there questions about the voting process we used for the MBA program changes?
- Waters clarified that the admission GPA requirement has now been changed for the MBA program alone. Graduate Council is now revisiting the issue.
- Ferguson cautioned that we should not apply this lower admission standard across all graduate programs. Once one is lowered, it opens the door for more to follow.
- Gay wonders how many issues we've miscalculated in the past.
- Siders suggested that we add language to the bylaws to clarify how abstentions are counted.

- Palmer clarified that an abstention shouldn't be used as a backhanded way to vote "no." An abstention is literally a non-vote.
- Lane explained that he voted "no" on the MBA vote because he didn't like the idea of having different admission GPA requirements for different programs. U of O is the only Oregon institution that has a variety of admission requirements for programs. Gay wondered if a motion to table a discussion might be a better option if we don't feel ready to vote.
- Robinson expressed concern about a rumor he heard that Grad Council did not vote on this issue. Waters assured Senate that a vote was held and thoroughly discussed.
- Feist moved to revote on the MBA program
- Rosenberg clarified that the vote taken at our last meeting to approve the Graduate Council's recommendation. The vote passed. The decision stands.
- Ferguson clarified that when we left Senate, we all were under the impression that the vote had not passed. Given that, how can the vote stand?
- In an informal poll, Senators expressed that they feel the original vote should stand.
- Feist would like to have language added to the bylaws to clarify this voting procedure.

Tuition Advisory Council--Mark Denney:

- Last year, significant concern over proposed increases. Still no faculty volunteer sitting on this committee. He's asking that Senate work hard to fill this seat. Please consider serving on this committee. This can be any faculty member, not just a Senate member. Rosenberg will send a request to All Faculty. This is time sensitive. Weekly meetings will be held during winter term and the committee work will be complete in March.

Faculty Personnel Committee:

Two members are now serving in Chair roles, so the committee is in need of two representatives: one from Education and one from Undergraduate Studies. Advisory Council can appoint if no candidates come forward.

SOU's evolution:

- Senate's role is to listen carefully; vote responsibly
- Strategic plan moving forward. Enrollment is up. We encourage new growth and have a responsibility to make sure we maintain standards.
- Rosenberg asks Senators to think about where they stand and what their role is going forward.
- Can we find a way to move forward through trusting programs and committees to do their work and then consider everything carefully?

- We still need to ask the hard questions while trusting our colleagues to make good decisions.

Announcements:

- **Thatcher:** Thatcher's students will exhibit art projects downtown at Mountain Provisions in conjunction with the First Friday activities.
- **Golding:** The French Club dinner will be held on February 22. Purchase tickets early as this event sells out.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:22.