

**Written Committee Reports
Faculty Senate Meeting
November 14, 2014**

*The committee reports are for information purposes only
and are not being submitted for Senate approval.*

College-wide committees:

Academic Standards (Gerwald Koehler)

The Academic Standards Committee met on October 17 and October 21, 2014.

The committee met with 6 students, addressing the following issues:

Second COMLEX Level 1 failure (2)

Third Osteopathic Principles and Practice COMAT failure (1)

Deficient grades (1 U, 2 D) in Biomedical Foundations II - Molecular Biology, Genetics, Developmental Anatomy (3)

Curriculum Oversight Committee (Randy S. Wymore)

The Curriculum Oversight Committee met on 10/16 & 10/30/2014. Plans for the course reviews process continued to be refined. In working with the Years 1 & 2 committee for the spring reviews, the COC will begin to get the reviews by the middle of November. Most of the courses from spring 2014 have already being reviewed or are nearing completion. The Years 1 & 2 Committee will make recommendations to the COC by November 15th for the spring courses that start in January 2015. The COC will review and finalize Recommendations to the course coordinators by the third week in November so that they will have time to make needed adjustments.

The COC continued to explore the usefulness and effectiveness of “E-books”. A questionnaire is being prepared to survey students on the topic.

The COC Heard a report from Mr. Franklin and Dr. Wheeler on the relationship between MCAT scores, grades, etc. and performance in medical school. In upcoming meetings the strategies for identifying at risk students will be presented.

The week of May 18th, 2015 has been selected as the week for the board review for 2nd year students. After discussion, it was decided that this review could not be made “mandatory” without a course number, so for this year it will be “strongly encouraged”.

Adjustments were made to the proposed spring schedule so that all 2nd year students may attend D.O. Day on the Hill in OKC. First year students will have normal classes that week and will not be allowed off for the day.

The COC started a conversation that likely will be extended to the entire faculty for comment on. Specifically, do we (collectively) want to keep mandatory attendance for straight

“lecture” format class meetings (BMF and systems lectures). CPS, CBL, OMM, Clinical Skills and Anatomy would still have mandatory attendance.

Learning Resources (Joseph Price)

At the November 4th LRC meeting Dr. Price introduced a set of best practices for the TrueLearn question bank products which was discussed, approved with minor amendments, and forwarded to the Curriculum Oversight Committee. A part of that document included a plan from Dr. Price for the considered use of the product for both optimized data capture and reporting as part of proposed institutional research, and to enhance student performance on boards. Details will be available in meeting minutes.

Research Committee (Ron Thrasher)

The Research Committee has voted to hold quarterly meetings. *Although the following Special/regulatory committees report through the Research Committee, there may be months when they submit a report for inclusion in the Senate Written Reports when there is no Research Committee meeting report: Institutional Review Board, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, the Institutional Biosafety Committee, and the Chemical Hygiene and Radioisotope use Committee.*

The Research Committee meets quarterly; the next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2014.

Chemical Hygiene and Radioisotope Use Committee (David Wallace)

There have been no new/renewed protocols that have come to the committee in the last 2 months. There was one protocol that was terminated at the request of the investigator. They will reinstate the protocol when appropriate. The committee has been working to update the current committee bylaws to be reflective of the current organizational structure. There will be a final recommendation ready for the bylaw changes by early next year.

Institutional Biosafety Committee (David Wallace)

There have been no protocols (new/renewal/revised) that have come to the committee in the last 2 months. The committee has been working to update the current committee bylaws to be reflective of the current organizational structure. There will be a final recommendation ready for the bylaw changes by early next year. The committee is also reviewing and updating their policies and procedures.

Student Affairs Committee (Steve Eddy)

The committee has not met since the last Senate meeting.

Faculty Senate committees:

Budget and Benefits Committee (Richard Bost)

The Budget & Benefits Committee met on Wednesday, November 5, 2014. The meeting featured a detailed report and discussion with Mr. Polak focused on the CHS budget regarding salary levels, the new building and its financing, and funding of the new rural residency program. The committee also discussed its research priorities for this academic year.

Faculty Affairs Committee (Bill Meek)

The committee met and discussed the description of the Learning Resources Committee. A recommendation for a Bylaw change may be sent to the Faculty Senate for a vote.

Promotion and Tenure Committee

The 2014-2015 Chairperson is scheduled to be elected at the next meeting.

Other committees/task forces/liaisons:

Affirmative Action Committee (*Sandra Cooper*) (A regulatory committee)

The committee has not met since the previous Senate meeting.

Biomedical Sciences Graduate Committee (*Anne Weil*)

A written report was not received.

OSU-Faculty Council Representative (*Richard Wansley*)

OSU Faculty Council Retirement and Fringe Benefits Committee, October 16, 2014:

The Committee addressed several issues. The status of “same-sex partner benefits” for University faculty and employees was questioned due to recent Supreme Court rulings regarding relevant Oklahoma law. It was unclear about the University’s response (Subsequent to the RFBC meeting, Dr. Wansley has discovered that the University will recognize all legal marriages, same-sex and otherwise, with full spousal benefits. Domestic Partnerships, however, will not be treated any differently that already defined in policy regardless of whether such partnerships are same-sex or not.

New IRS rules regarding the amount from OSU that can go into a Flexible Spending Account was discussed as to the circumstances of when a spousal is covered by another insurance company or plan. It would appear that the new rules would limit contributions to a maximum of \$500, considerably less than currently. Additional information will be secured about this topic for further discussion and possible actions.

The Committee will once again pursue the issue of “tuition benefits” for faculty, employees, spouses, and dependent children. The interest is to establish and/or expand these benefits.

The Committee discussed a new topic of developing a “sick leave pool” – a means by which faculty and employees might voluntarily contribute accumulated sick leave hours to another employee to benefit their need for paid leave. The means by which such a policy might be stated will be explored during this academic year by the Committee.

OSU General Faculty Meeting, November 6, 2014: The OSU Faculty Council hosted the annual general faculty meeting in Stillwater. President Burns Hargis presented on the state of OSU, generally saying the all is well with the University with no particular areas of challenges. A report was given by the President on the conclusion of the NCAA investigation of the football team prompted by the Sports Illustrated article; the findings of the investigation did not support the allegations described in the article. There were, however, several minor violations which will likely not lead to limited responses by the University and no expected prohibitions against the sports programs. President Hargis welcomed the new Stillwater Provost, Dr. Gary Sandefur, who previously served as a Dean at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Sandefur is a sociologist, native of Oklahoma, and member of Oklahoma’s Chickasaw Nation.

Oklahoma State Regents Faculty Advisory Representative

Full information on the State Regents Faculty Advisory group can be accessed at:

<http://www.okhighered.org/statesystem/powerpoints/powerpoints.shtml>.

The current term has been completed; the Senate President is the designated member.