

Minutes

The Faculty Senate met in Open Session during Convocation on September 18th 2024, in the Sunset Meeting Room of the College Union (Klamath Falls campus) and via Zoom for Portland-Metro faculty and others attending remotely.

Attendance/Quorum

President Yuehai Yang called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. All Senators or alternates were in attendance except Matt Schnackenberg. Vanessa Bennett and Krista Beaty were excused from attendance because this Convocation Open Session meeting was scheduled at the same time as their department retreat.

Before the President's Report, I informed those in attendance that the Senate packet for our upcoming regular meeting on October 1st would be sent out late due to the compressed timeline of having this meeting on 9/18 and having a follow-up only thirteen days later.

Reports of the Officers

Report of the President – Yuehai Yang

- Yuehai began his report by revisiting a series of Senate's achievements from the previous academic year, as reported by Terri Torres, the previous Senate President:
 - We revised the student academic integrity policy with special attention to generative artificial intelligence.
 - We examined the duration and structure of the summer term. The proposed recommendations for enhancing its effectiveness have now gone to the provost for her consideration.
 - The Faculty Emeritus Selection policy has been updated to reflect current circumstances. We are waiting on the next President's Council to pass this along.
 - We have revised the Academic Rank and Promotion Policies for all instructional faculty and library faculty. The first has been signed by President Nagi, the second is waiting on his signature.
 - We have developed a process, with regards to SB 273, for the selection of the faculty representative recommendation to the board. The process went well this year. Mark Neupert has been approved by the governor and sworn in.
- He is looking forward to getting started on new work this year. Soon SenEx will begin working on charges and other tasks that he'll discuss in more detail later.
- Yuehai thanked the gathered Senators for the trust they've placed in him by having him as Senate President, and he hopes to deliver on that.
- He mentioned a few things that have happened recently, since he (and I) returned from sabbatical:
 - There is a new SenEx slate that was not voted on during the June meeting. Therefore, at our next meeting, we will vote on that slate.
 - Currently Yuehai doesn't have the official Senate gavel because it's at the inscriber, according to Terri Torres.
 - He announced the members he's nominating:
 - Ashton Greer as Vice President
 - Ben Bunting as Secretary
 - Dibyajyoti Deb as an at-large member
 - Vanessa Bennett as an at-large member
 - Following the slate announcement, Yuehai acknowledged that SenEx is currently *not* geographically diverse (i.e., does not include members from campuses other than the Klamath Falls campus). He hopes that this can be addressed better in the future. He said that he *did*

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- consider members from different colleges, and different departments to make sure that SenEx was cosmopolitan in that regard, at least.
- Recently, Yuehai has been working with Dr. Yu to fill standing committees, and he hopes to announce memberships on those committees at our next meeting.
- Senate committees are also in the process of being peopled. So far:
 - Chitra Venugopal will continue chairing the DEI committee.
 - Matt Schnackenberg and Ken Usher will continue co-chairing the Faculty Policy committee.
 - Christy VanRooyen will chair the Academic Standards committee
- Yuehai then provided an update regarding senior leadership:
 - First, he announced that he recently met with Dr. Nagi for 2.5 hours. They discussed:
 - Faculty and staff attrition.
 - The possibility of Dr. Nagi attending Senate once a term (Dr. Nagi was interested in this proposal).
 - The possibility of Board members meeting with SenEx members and maybe even attending Senate in the future.
 - Yuehai has already talked with David Cauble about this. More updates to come.
 - Second, he thanked Dr. Mott for talking earlier today about faculty and staff attrition and acknowledging it as an issue.
- Yuehai then opened the floor for questions:
 - Ken Usher:
 - Ken said that he and Matt are already anticipating some changes regarding policy and are also interested in making their committee more cosmopolitan (i.e., they want to include members who come from outside the Senate).
 - Ken also asked if we could recognize the new Senators, which was not done during the June meeting.
 - Yuehai first acknowledged Carl Agrifoglio as the new liaison from Admin Council, then mentioned a discrepancy between our bylaws and Admin Council's.
 - Carl explained further that the discrepancy between Admin Council's bylaws and the Senate's bylaws is regarding how many liaisons to Senate from Admin Council are required: Admin Council's bylaws say one while our bylaws say two.
 - Carl also mentioned that Admin Council is looking for a member of Senate to sit in on their meetings, as per their bylaws.
 - The question was then raised as to how recently Faculty Senate's bylaws had been revised. Ashton Greer pointed out that we approved revisions to the bylaws last year.
 - Carl question whether the Faculty Senate website currently contains the most recent version of our bylaws as well as the most recent meeting minutes. Dibyajyoti Deb said he would look into this and update the website.
 - Yuehai then introduced the new Senators:
 - Jim Cloen, from the Libraries
 - Fuat Karakaya, from CSET
 - Rebeka Yocum, from Civil Engineering
 - Chitra Venugopal, from REE
 - Ganghee Jang, from CSET
 - Jessica Luebbers, from Dental Hygiene
 - Yuehai also acknowledged that Bobbie Kowash was elected to serve as a Senator this year, but has since left Oregon Tech. So there will have to be an ad hoc election to fill her position.

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- Yuehai asked if Dr. Mott had any comments to make or announcements to share. She responded that she had no formal report since this wasn't a regular Senate meeting, but asked if anyone had questions for her.
 - Riley had a question about when the committee assignments will be done, and Dr. Mott said within the week.
- Yuehai then asked Drs. Alp, Yu, and Black to introduce themselves, and they each did so.
- Deb had a question for Dr. Mott: is the administration making counteroffers to faculty who are considering offers from other places to try to retain those faculty?
 - Dr. Mott responded that if the administration receives such an offer made to a faculty member in writing, they will consider if and/or how they can counter it or otherwise address the faculty member's situation.
- Riley asked the Provost if there is an update on the "stay survey" that was discussed last year. Beverly said the results have been collected by HR, and that Sandi already gave a presentation to Senate on those results last year. HR is still planning on determining how best to address the issues illustrated by this data.
 - Riley suggested that we invite HR to Senate at some point this year to give us a more detailed update on this.
 - Cristina Negoita asked if HR is going to disaggregate the data they've collected thus far and present it to faculty, and Beverly said that they already have disaggregated it and presented to faculty about it already.
 - Riley clarified that he knows that the data is already extant, he just wants to know what we're going to do with it. Are there plans to address problems based on this data? Beverly says this is coming.
- CJ Riley asked the Provost about the interim policies that were passed through President's Council during the summer: according to existing policy, policies can only be passed in this way (bypassing the Senate, etc.) in the case of an emergency. With that in mind, he asked what emergency initiated these policies, and also suggested that Senate look at the current policy on policies this year to make sure that all concerned parties are consulted in some capacity before policies are passed in the future.
 - Dr. Mott said that the "emergency" in this case was a change in legal standing that needed to be addressed through the new policies. She also explained that there is representation for all concerned parties on President's Council specifically so that issues with proposed policies and/or policy processes can be raised at Council meetings from each and every stakeholder group.
- Ken asked that Yuehai bring up faculty's concerns with the passage of these policies at the next President's Council meeting.
 - Yuehai answered that he brought this up when he met with Dr. Nagi as well, and that he hopes to continue to have wider conversations about such things between faculty and administration in the future.
- Next, Yuehai put a poll up on the screen and had each of us respond to four questions:
 - In one sentence, how would you describe the current identity of our institution?
 - In one sentence, what do you think is the No. 1 issue that Faculty Senate can and needs to address this year?
 - In one sentence, what is the No. 1 change you would like to see in our senior leadership's approach to you (including faculty, students, staff, and/or other campus communities)?
 - In three words or less, what defines us as an institution?
- Yuehai thanked everyone for participating in the poll, and then encouraged all faculty in attendance to attend the OT-AAUP social at 5:30 this evening at Growler Guys.

Adjournment

The Open Session was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ben Bunting, Secretary