



AGENDA OF THE FACULTY SENATE – NORMAN CAMPUS

September 15, 2025 | 3:30 p.m. | Frontier Room, Oklahoma Memorial Union

- **Call to Order and Determination of a quorum**
- **Approval of the Senate Journal for the regular sessions of May 12, 2025**
- **Announcements**
 - The Faculty Senate extends condolences to:
 - The family and colleagues of Professor Robert E. L. Richardson, OU Law School (retired), who passed away on May 2, 2025.
 - The family and colleagues of Dean Dr. David Swank, OU Law School (retired), who also served as interim president, passed away on June 15, 2025
 - The family and colleagues of Dr. James (Jim) Pappas, retired Vice President of Outreach and Dean of the College of Liberal Studies who passed away July 2, 2025.
 - The family and colleagues Dr. David Mair, English Department retired Director of First Year Composition and English Department Head who passed away on June 27, 2025
 - The family and colleagues of Dr. Chris Weaver, Associate Professor of Computer Science, Gallogly School of Engineering who passed away on June 28, 2025
 - The family and colleagues of Dr. David Levy, History, Professor Emeritus of the Department of History who passed away on August 9, 2025.
 - The family and colleagues of Dr. Tom Landers, former Dean of the Galologly College of Engineering who passed away recently
- **Senate Chair's Report** (attached)
- **Faculty Senate Procedural Changes**
 - **Attendance**
 - **Committee of the Whole**
- **For Action: Resolution honoring Chris Weaver, Assistant Professor Computer Science** (attached)
- **Remarks from Kathy Agnew, Deputy Chief Human Resources, 2025 OU Engage Q12 Survey**
- **Remarks from Lee Camargo Quinn, HR Director, Benefits and Retirement - Benefits**
- **New Business** (any matter not known about or that could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time the agenda was prepared).
- **Committee of the Whole**
- **Adjournment**

Land Acknowledgement: Long before the University of Oklahoma was established, the land on which the University now resides was the traditional home of the “Hasinai” Caddo Nation and “*Kirikir?i:s*” Wichita & Affiliated Tribes. We acknowledge this territory once also served as a hunting ground, trade exchange point, and migration route for the Apache, Comanche, Kiowa and Osage nations. Today, 39 tribal nations dwell in the state of Oklahoma as a result of settler and colonial policies that were designed to assimilate Native people. The University of Oklahoma recognizes the historical connection our university has with its Indigenous community. We acknowledge, honor and respect the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land. We fully recognize, support and advocate for the sovereign rights of all of Oklahoma’s 39 tribal nations. This acknowledgement is aligned with our university’s core value of creating a diverse and inclusive community. It is an institutional responsibility to recognize and acknowledge the people, culture and history that make up our entire OU Community”

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The University of Oklahoma (Norman Campus)

Regular session – May 12, 2025 – 3:30 p.m.

Thurman J White Forum Building – Conference Room A

Office: Chemistry Building, Room 207 | Phone: 405-325-6789

Email: FacSen@ou.edu | Website <https://www.ou.edu/facultysenate>

Note: The remarks of the Senators and others are summarized and not verbatim

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm by Chair Jervis. Senators were asked to read the [Land Acknowledgement](#).

PRESENT:

FS Chair: Lori Jervis

FS Chair-elect: Sarah Robbins

FS Secretary: Stephanie Burge

FS Executive Committee Members (Non-senators):

FS Administrative Manager: Ann Seely

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DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM.

Quorum was achieved.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of March 10, 2025, was approved without revisions. The motion was initiated by Senator Tracy and Senator Grinnell Davis seconded. The vote passed and the journal was approved.

The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of April 14, 2025, was approved without revisions. The motion was initiated by Senator Demir and Senator Tracy seconded. The vote passed and the journal was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Faculty Senate extends best wishes to retiring colleagues (attached).
- b. The Faculty have voted on the Faculty Senate Charter amendments and those changes passed.
- c. Call for volunteers for the By-Laws committee (charge starts in August)

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, by Chair Jervis

The report was distributed via email. Chair Jervis opened the floor to questions. There were no questions.

VOTE: FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT-LARGE COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS AND FACULTY SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTEES

Arts and Humanities

Julia Abramson and Victoria Sturtevant were nominated for the arts and humanities at-large committee. Julia Abramson was elected.

Social Science

Jenel Cavazos and David McLeod were nominated for the social science at-large committee. David McLeod was elected.

VOTE: APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE APPOINTEES SLATE BY ACCLAMATION

Chair Jervis asked if there was any objection to approving the entire slate by acclamation. Hearing no objections, the entire slate of candidates was approved.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Jervis asked the Faculty Senate to move to executive session to discuss a potential resolution on political neutrality on campus. First Demir moved to go to executive session and another Senator seconded to go into executive session. The motion passed. Faculty Senate entered executive session at 3:43.

Senator Demir moved to return to open session and Senator Tracy seconded. The motion passed. We returned to open session at 4:04pm.

VOTE – FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION ON POLITICAL NEUTRALITY ON CAMPUS

Senator Jablonski moved to adopt faculty senate resolution on political neutrality on campus and Senator Tracy seconded. The resolution passed.

THANK YOU TO OUTGOING SENATORS

Chair Jervis thanked outgoing Senators for their service to Faculty Senate.

TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY

Chair Jervis transferred authority to Chair-Elect Robbins.

RESOLUTION THANKING FACULTY SENATE CHAIR LORI JERVIS

As her first action, Chair Robbins introduced a resolution thanking Immediate past chair Jervis for her dedication and service. Senator Fithian motioned that we vote on this resolution, and Senator Tracy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Robbins asked if there was any new business and no new business was introduced.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 pm. The next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate will be held on September 15, 2025, at 3:30 pm.

Stephanie Burge, Faculty Senate Secretary, 2024-25

Faculty Senate Chair's Report, May 10, 2024

My last FS Chair's Report, yay!

Since the April Chair's report:

- 1) I and other members of FSEC were able to interview the finalists for the positions of Dean of Gaylord College and the Dean of the OU School of Law, and we sent the Provost our comments on the candidates. We were impressed with the quality of the finalists for both positions.
- 2) Chair-elect Jervis and Chair-elect-elect Robbins, with the assistance of Ann Seely, have worked hard to assemble a slate of quality nominees for a range of positions on committees and councils. In addition, Chair-elect Jervis was able to submit good sets of names of faculty members to serve on the CIO search committee and the search for a new head of procurement. We have been working to try to add a second FS nominee to the CIO committee, given the extent of the dissatisfaction among faculty with IT's policies, but so far, it's just one FS nominee.
- 3) I continued to meet with faculty from the Honors College and with the Provost to discuss the 're-homing' of Honors College faculty as part of its reorganization. I'm pleased to report that the Provost has been very receptive to the concerns that FSEC has raised and that that process appears to be going much better. In particular, a number of misunderstandings (on all sides) have been cleared up, largely due to more direct communication.
- 4) I journeyed to Tulsa to meet with faculty from the OUPI and OU Tulsa more generally. (I learned, to my fascination, that the building we were in once was used as the control center for every major oil pipeline in the country.) It was a pleasant meeting: many of the OU PI faculty were either new to OU or to academia (or both), so they had a lot of questions about how the Senate works, what the committees and councils do, how to get on them, etc. They had particular interest in the APC, as they are rolling out new courses and programs and find some of the approval processes opaque. I think some of the faculty there have since volunteered to serve on the APC and other committees as a way to speed the learning process.
- 5) I relayed some concerns that faculty had raised about the proposed policy on endowed chairs with Vice-Provost Ellis, and she suggested some revisions to the policy that addressed those concerns. (The revised version of this policy proposal is included with the meeting materials for Monday.) Again, I was pleased with how receptive she was to the concerns that were raised.
- 6) A fair amount of my time, and that of FSEC and the officers, has been occupied with dealing with various aspects of the Governor's anti-DEI executive order and attempting to figure out what compliance means in various concrete circumstances. In addition to helping people in various units get answers to their compliance-related questions (and circulating a short letter outlining what our approach has been), there was long-running debate as to whether compliance with the executive order meant that the Senate is *required* to rename and redefine what is currently our Faculty Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. I drafted and FSEC approved a possible revision to the Senate charter that would make clear that the mission of that committee is one that serves all faculty. We circulated that possible revision, along with an explanatory email, for discussion and a possible vote at the May meeting of the Senate.
- 7) I met with Provost Wright on Friday, May 3 to discuss a variety of issues. Most of them are noted above. He also informed me of some new administration initiatives regarding access (for students) to the opportunities OU offers, so keep your eyes open for some announcements.
- 8) The officers met with Prof. Kalenda Eaton of the DFCAS task force on the humanities to discuss the possibility that Dean Wrobel has raised of reorganizing the humanities units in the College. Long story short, there's been a lot of confusion and misunderstanding about this possible reorganization. The task force will issue its report July 1 and no decisions are being made until after people have had a chance to read and respond to that report and its recommendations. (Personally, I will be surprised if there isn't some form of reorganization that comes out of this process, but what shape that will take is anyone's guess. And, to be fair, I'm surprised by stuff all the time ☺ so take any prognostications with a whole shaker of salt.)

- 9) FSEC and I are drafting a letter to the Provost (and others) outlining some of our many concerns about central IT's policies. Please send us your concerns.
- 10) The officers have discussed plans for a smooth transition to Chair-elect Jervis' reign and are planning some improved orientations and a planning session (don't call it a 'retreat'). I can tell already that the Senate will be happy with their leadership.

Faculty Senate sends best wishes to 2024 to 2025 retirees

Professor	Younane	Abousleiman	School of Geosciences and Petroleum and Geological Engineering	Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy
Professor	Eric H.	Anderson	Visual Arts	Fine Arts
Professor	Peter	Barker	History of Science	Arts & Sciences
Assistant Professor	Brenda H.	Barnes-Rogers	Legal Aid Clinic	Law
Associate Professor	Jeffrey B.	Basara	Meteorology/Civil Engineering and Environmental Science	Atmospheric & Geographic Sciences/Engineering
Professor	Paul B.	Bell Jr.	Arts and Sciences Dean DIRECT	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Michael G.	Bemben	Health and Exercise Science	Arts & Sciences
Archaeologist III	Leland C.	Bement	Archaeology Survey	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Elizabeth A.	Bergey	Oklahoma Biological Survey	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Howard B.	Bluestein	Meteorology	Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences
Associate Professor	David L.	Boeck	Architecture	Architecture
Professor	Donald	Bogan	Law	Law
Professor	Richard E.	Broughton	Biological Sciences	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Michael R.	Buckley	Management and International Business	Business
Professor	Meta G.	Carstarphen	Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Kelvin K.	Droegemeier	Meteorology	Atmospheric & Geographic Sciences
Associate Professor	Julia	Ehrhardt	Honors	Honors College
Professor	Beverly J.	Eswards	Educational Leadership and Policy Studies	Education
Professor	Barnara R.	Fast	Music	Fine Arts
Professor	Aimee L.	Franklin	Political Science	Arts & Sciences
Associate Professor	Ronald H.	Frantz Jr.	Architecture	Architecture
Professor	Ronald Keith	Gaddie	Architecture Dean's Office	Architecture
Professor	Rong Z.	Gan	Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering	Engineering
Professor	Steven M.	Gillon	Academic Affairs	Provost Office
Professor	Kenneth	Haltman	Visual Arts	Fine Arts
Professor	Refai	Hazem H.	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Engineering
Professor	Alexander B.	Holmes	Economics	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Diane M.	Horm	Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum	Education
Professor	Michael E.	Kaspari	Biological Sciences	Arts & Sciences
Associate Professor	Daniel R.	Kimball	Psychology	Arts & Sciences
Associate Professor	Kevin A.	Kloesel	Oklahoma Climatological Survey	Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences
Professor	Ori	Kritz	Classics and Letters	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Marvin L.	Lamb	Music	Fine Arts
Professor	Robert A.	Lauer	Modern Languages, Literatures & Linguistics	Arts & Sciences
Associate Professor	Lucy	Lifschitz	Mathematics	Arts & Sciences
Associate Professor	Bruce A.	Mason	Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy	Arts & Sciences
Assistant Professor	Karen	Meysick	Biological Sciences	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Michael	Mumford	Psychology	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Donna J.	Nelson	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Arts & Sciences
Professor	David B.	Parsons	Meteorology	Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences
Professor	Judith M.	Pender	Drama	Fine Arts
Professor	Rodger A.	Randle	Human Relations	Arts & Sciences
Professor	James	Regens	Ctr for Intel & Nat Sec	Provost
Professor	Daniel E.	Resasco	Chemical, Biological and Materials Engineering	Engineering
Associate Professor	Lorne S.	Richstone	Music	Fine Arts
Associate Dean	Karen J.	Rupp Serrano	Collections Department	University Libraries
Professor	James J	Sluss Jr	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Engineering
Associate Professor	Joseph M.	Sullivan	Modern Languages, Literatures & Linguistics	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Gordon E.	Uno	Microbiology and Plant Biology	Arts & Sciences
Associate Professor	Barry L.	Weaver	Geosciences	Earth & Energy
Professor	Kathleen E.	Welch	Dean's Office	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Gary	Wellborn	School of Biological Sciences	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Richard	Zielinski	Music	Fine Arts



AGENDA OF THE FACULTY SENATE – NORMAN CAMPUS

May 12, 2025 | 3:30 p.m. in the Thurman J White Forum Building | Conference Room

1. Determination of a quorum

2. Land Acknowledgement

Long before the University of Oklahoma was established, the land on which the University now resides was the traditional home of the “Hasinai” Caddo Nation and “Kiriikir?is” Wichita & Affiliated Tribes.

We acknowledge this territory once also served as a hunting ground, trade exchange point, and migration route for the Apache, Comanche, Kiowa and Osage nations.

Today, 39 tribal nations dwell in the state of Oklahoma as a result of settler and colonial policies that were designed to assimilate Native people.

The University of Oklahoma recognizes the historical connection our university has with its Indigenous community. We acknowledge, honor and respect the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land. We fully recognize, support and advocate for the sovereign rights of all of Oklahoma’s 39 tribal nations. This acknowledgement is aligned with our university’s core value of creating a diverse and inclusive community. It is an institutional responsibility to recognize and acknowledge the people, culture and history that make up our entire OU Community”

3. Call to order

4. Approval of the Senate Journal for the regular sessions of March 12, 2025, and April 14, 2025

5. Announcements:

- a. Faculty Senate extends best wishes to retiring colleagues (attached)
- b. Results of the Faculty Senate Charter amendment vote
- c. Call for volunteers for the By-Laws committee (charge starts in August)

6. Questions regarding the Chair’s Report

7. Vote

- a. Faculty Senate Executive Committee At-Large members
- b. University Committees and Councils, and Faculty Senate Standing Committee Appointees

8. Closed Session (Senators, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Members, and invited committee guests only)

9. Vote on Faculty Senate Resolution on Political Neutrality on Campus

10. Thank you to outgoing Senators

11. Transfer of Authority

12. Resolution Thanking Faculty Senate Chair Lori Jervis

13. New Business (any matter not known about or that could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time the agenda was prepared).

14. Adjournment

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE
The University of Oklahoma (Norman Campus)
Regular session – March 10, 2025 – 3:30 p.m.
Thurman J White Forum Building – Conference Room A
Office: Chemistry Building, Room 207 | Phone: 405-325-6789
Email: FacSen@ou.edu | Website <https://www.ou.edu/facultysenate>
Note: The remarks of the Senators and others are summarized and not verbatim

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 pm by Chair Jervis. Senators were asked to read the [Land Acknowledgement](#).

PRESENT: Almasri, Beaulieu, Beutel, Bhattarai, Brice, Burns, Busselle, Cavazos, Cuccia, Deacon, Demir, Edgerton, Ernest, Fithian, Grigo, Hill, Hougen, Jablonski, Jones, Kang, Lamothe, M., Lamothe, S., Leseney, Litov, Liu, Lungmus, Mansky, McLeod, Muraleetharan, Pixley, Rai, Schmeltzer, Scrivener, Sharma, Tracy, Warnken, Wood

FS Chair: Lori Jervis
FS Chair-elect: Sarah Robbins
FS Secretary: Stephanie Burge
FS Administrative Manager: Ann Seely

Guests: Shrey Kathuria – Student Government Association
Kathy Agnew, Deputy Chief HR Officer, Human Resources - Engagement Survey
Jessica Davila, Associate Dean for Digital Strategies & Innovation – Open Access
Jeffrey Harp, Ombudsperson - Updates

Note: During the period from June 2024 to May 2025, the Senate holds eight regular sessions. The figures in parentheses above indicate the number of absences.

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DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM.

Quorum was achieved.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of February 10, 2025 was approved with the revision that Jim Morrison, Chief Strategy Officer and Jeff Miller, CISO were incorrectly listed as guests at the February 10 meeting and thus removed from the February journal. Senator Tracy moved to approve and the motion was seconded by Senator Demir. The vote passed and the journal was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sympathies are extended to the families and colleagues of the following:

- i. OU Musical Theatre founder and retired director, Dr. Gregory Kunes, who died February 10, 2025
- ii. Former OU Law Professor Fred H. Miller passed away on February 13, 2025, in Edina, Minnesota.
- iii. Former OU President, Senator, and Governor David L. Boren who died on February 20, 2025,
- iv. Retired Professor & Associate Dean of Engineering John Francies who passed away on February 22, 2025

Their commitment to the OU community will be deeply missed.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, BY CHAIR JERVIS

The report was distributed via email. Chair Jervis opened the floor to questions. There were no questions.

VOTE ON REVISION TO BYLAWS – COMMITTEE ON FACULTY RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND DEVELOPMENT

One Senator noted that while he appreciated why we were changing the committee name, that we were not required to do so. He also noted that we should ask ourselves whether DEI are values of our community and noted that he planned to vote against the proposal.

Another Senator stated that we all value Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and noted that in this political climate holding to these values is sometimes seen as bringing in unqualified people rather than ensuring that qualified people actually get brought to the table. However, he noted that putting certain labels on particular committees puts a target on these committees, which makes it harder to get the work done, which is counter-intuitive to getting the work done and thus, he noted his support for the resolution.

Another Senator noted that Bourdieu talked about the tyranny of symbols, and that once we name something we tend to put it in that certain category. He also noted his support for the resolution.

Another Senator noted that once you hear a name, you automatically think about things associated with that name, and if we do not want the committee, we should not have it. He further noted that he would vote against the resolution.

Another Senator asked whether we are voting on what we were sent, and Chair Jervis noted that we are voting on what was sent.

Senator Fifthian moved that we vote on the revision to bylaws to rename the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to the Committee on Faculty Recruitment, Retention, and Development, and Senator Hougen seconded. The vote passed. (30 yes, 5 against, and 1 abstain).

SHREY KATHURIA, STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Shrey Kathuria came to speak to Faculty Senate to discuss the universal use of TopHat. Kathuria noted that students have spoken about the cost of materials being expensive, and classes need to be affordable, accessible, and approachable. TopHat is a clicker system used by professors to create a more active experience for students, and may be used for exams, embedding textbooks, and other learning activities. TopHat is free for all students. Students who are residents, spend about \$800 a year on course materials on top of \$28,800 – \$30,800 tuitions fees, materials, food and housing. Kathuria further noted that only 25% of student respondents in Student Voice survey say that institution's costs are affordable.

According to Kathuria, iClicker is another clicker system that is being used, which is not as versatile as TopHat and is not free for students, and Kathuria noted that taking away unneeded costs is of value in an era of rising costs. Kathuria noted that because iClicker and TopHat are substitutes for each other, he would hope that faculty would be willing to transition to a universal TopHat system since it is free of cost. Kathuria also noted that OU IT could facilitate the transition to TopHat for those faculty who currently use other clicker systems. Kathuria asked Faculty Senate to consider writing a resolution to encourage universal adoption of TopHat, as well as requested Senators encourage their colleagues to consider using TopHat.

Senator Burns noted that he was an early adopter of TopHat, and asked how robust the software it was, and how much support you get in real time. He also noted that there is sometimes there is an issue with bandwidth in large classes and asked that we insist TopHat makes a good faith warranty on tech-support in real time because if it does not work as designed, then we should consider not using of TopHat.

Senator Cavazos noted that she has used TopHat since 2015 and that she has worked with them extensively. She noted that she teaches 2 classes in Dale Hall with 500 person classes and there is sufficient bandwidth to effectively teach those classes for exams, in-class homework, textbook readings, etc. She also noted that she serves on an IT committee that vetted and recruited bids for clicker services and selected TopHat. In so doing, it is already part of the official, accepted, learning software of OU. As part of this, TopHat has had on-campus events to assist faculty with learning and using TopHat.

KATHY AGNEW, DEPUTY CHIEF HR OFFICER, HUMAN RESOURCES – ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

Kathy Agnew came to discuss the OU employee Engagement survey, which takes place in October.

Agnew noted that this spring, a 5 item check-in survey will determine if anyone has talked with faculty about OU engagement results and plans. Agnew emphasized that viewing results and working on one item, rather than targeting everything at once, is a good strategy for improving engagement. Agnew asked that all participate in the OU Spring engagement check-in event.

JESSICA DAVILA, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR DIGITAL STRATEGIES & INOVATION – OPEN ACCESS

Jessica Davila came to talk about updates to the open access policy. As background, in 2023, Faculty Senate passed the open access policy. The policy is being implemented through the pilot phase between January and August 2025. Full implementation will happen September 2025 though May 2026.

This policy is being implemented to ensure faculty can share their scholarly works through ShareOK. The policy is not meant to share work without consent or to transfer copyright. There is an opt-out option. Davila is asking faculty to deposit articles into ShareOK and FAS. Faculty may deposit through FAS during

evaluation period, through ShareOK at any time, or via ORCID (the committee is working on this and expects it to be implemented by the summer).

A series of workshops will be offered this spring and summer, as well consultations which are available on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10AM-12PM. Faculty may also access a digital passport, which offers informative activities and resources about open access. The more activities you do on the digital passport, the more likely you will become an ‘impact champion,’ which aims to help faculty increase the reach of their research. They will highlight faculty members monthly, have podcast series, and feature articles to be posted through social media to increase scholarly impact.

One Senator asked whether the team would track the metrics for ShareOK to highlight downloads, etc. The team responded that they will be tracking those metrics, both collectively for the OU scholarly community, as well as for individuals. Davila noted that with ShareOK it was possible to track article downloads, views, as well as the geographic locations of those views. The team noted that the metrics looked better as more articles are entered into ShareOK.

JEFFREY HARP, OMBUDSPERSON – UPDATES

Jeffrey Harp presented to Faculty Senate on the role of ombudsperson, who serves to assist individuals and/or groups in resolution of conflicts or concerns in an informal way. Harp works out of the President’s office to be an independent entity and work on behalf of faculty and staff. Harp noted the role that confidentiality plays in being an effective ombudsperson and reported that he has visited with approximately 500 people in the past 30 months, across every college on OU’s campus. An ombudsperson can serve as a safe place to come in and talk with someone outside of the situation without concern that the conflict will go outside of that conversation. The ombudsperson listens and helps try to guide the conversation to solutions moving forward, including diplomacy and mediation. The ombudsperson may also elevate certain systemic issues to their relevant office. Harp noted that the ombudsperson is not an advocate for a particular party, does not conduct formal investigations, does not accept formal complaints, and is not a mandatory reporter for Title IX/Clery Act. In 2024, Harp visited with 233 visitors, approximately 37 percent of which were faculty, 43 percent were staff, and 19 percent were students. Some other universities have better ratios of students, faculty, and staff to ombudspersons.

Categories of issues shared by all visitors include the following: evaluative relationships, peer relationships, service and administrative issues, career progression and development, organization strategies and mission related, legal regulatory, financial and compliance, and values, ethics and standards. Top issues for Norman campus faculty include peer relationships, evaluative relationships, career progression and development, and equity and fairness.

Some statistics on visits with the ombudsperson:

Approximate number of visits on average = 3

Average hours engaged with each visitor = 4

The first visit usually takes at least 90 minutes. Harp reported 1/3 of visitors need only one contact. Faculty visitors tend to have more complex situations that require additional time. Faculty represent only 37 percent of number of visitors, but take approximately 50 percent of engagement time.

Options that might be helpful in positive working relationships:

- Reflect before you react- pause first
- Engage respectfully, and if engaged, respond respectfully, especially if your relationship is evaluative
- Begin at the lowest level possible, then elevate as may be necessary
- Have patience and think about the problem from the other’s perspective if possible
- Reconsider sending a “mad” email

- Stop and talk to others- get to know them
- Always be honest but be careful with transparency

Go to <https://www.ou.edu/ombuds> to schedule appointment and/or fill out an experience survey.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR-ELECT AND SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY SENATE FOR 2025 TO 2026 TERM (VOTING TO TAKE PLACE AT APRIL FACULTY SENATE MEETING)

Chair-Elect

Rebeca Loraamm, Associate Professor, Geography & Environmental Sustainability.
Matt Wood, Professor, Entrepreneurship

Secretary

Stephanie Burge, Associate Professor, Sociology

CHARTER REVISION UPDATE

38 Senators voted (33 for, 2 against, and 2 abstained).

Officer presentation to Charis and Directors (March 10), and that presentation is available on our site.

Scheduled emails to all faculty for March and April.

Flyers created by MarComm for Senators to distribute.

Town Halls (schedule on the website, in emails).

Door Prizes to incentivize voting.

Available on website:

Sample ballot

Video presentation of changes

Vote:

April 28-May 2 – email encouraging faculty to vote.

Faculty may vote for all changes or change by change.

Approved changes must be approved by Board of Regents to be official

Senators are strongly encouraged to get the word out about the vote so that all voices may be represented! In order for this **to be a valid vote, 20 percent is needed (around 212 regular faculty)**. If repeated questions keep coming up in conversations with constituents, please communicate those to Faculty Senate Officers

Senator Muraleetharan suggested a FAQ addition to the website and asked whether chairs seemed receptive. Chair-elect Robbins noted that both the chairs, as well as Vice Provost Sarah Ellis seemed supportive.

Senator Grinnell-Davis asked about the week was chosen and why it was chosen. Chair-Elect Robbins noted that we needed sufficient time to host the town halls and get the word out, as well as enough time to get in front of Board of Regents.

Senator Hougen noted that publicity would be very important and encouraged both the Senators and the Officer to remind faculty of the importance of voting.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Jarvis asked if there was any new business and no new business was introduced.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm. The next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate Meeting of this academic year will be held on April 14, 2025 at pm.

Stephanie Burge, Faculty Senate Secretary, 2024-25

JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE

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Office: Chemistry Building, Room 207 | Phone: 405-325-6789

Email: FacSen@ou.edu | Website <https://www.ou.edu/facultysenate>

Note: The remarks of the Senators and others are summarized and not verbatim

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm by Chair Jervis. Senators were asked to read the [Land Acknowledgement](#).

PRESENT: Almasri, Beaulieu, Beutel, Bhattarai, Brice, Burns, Busselle, Cavazos, Cuccia, Deacon, Demir, Edgerton, Ernest, Fithian, Grigo, Hill, Hougen, Jablonski, Jones, Kang, Lamothe, M., Lamothe, S., Leseney, Litov, Liu, Lungmus, Mansky, McLeod, Muraleetharan, Pixley, Rai, Schmeltzer, Scrivener, Sharma, Tracy, Warnken, Wood

FS Chair: Lori Jervis

FS Chair-elect: Sarah Robbins

FS Secretary: Stephanie Burge

FS Administrative Manager: Ann Seely

Guests: Carol Silva, Interim Vice President for Research and Partnerships
Sanum Raza, OU Education Service
J.E.B. Sheriff, Assistant Director, IT Services, Customer Experience, Identity and Access Management
Mashhad Fahes, Associate Professor, Petroleum & Geological Engineering, Gallogly

ABSENT:

Note: During the period from June 2024 to May 2025, the Senate holds eight regular sessions. The figures in parentheses above indicate the number of absences.

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DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM.

Quorum was achieved.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Due to inaccuracies in listed attendance for the March 10 meeting, the journal was tabled until the next meeting in May.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Sympathies are extended to the families and colleagues of Dr. Roger Mellgren, former OU Professor of Psychology, who passed away March 13, 2025.
- b. Fred Jones Art Museum Memberships: additional information is available on your table.

SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, by Chair Jervis

The report was distributed via email. Chair Jervis opened the floor to questions. There were no questions.

CAROL SILVA, INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND PARTNERSHIPS, EDITH KINNEY GAYLORD PRESIDENTIAL PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Carol Silva offered remarks on the current federal research environment. Silva noted that the research funding environment has changed fundamentally over the past few months, including the downsizing of funding agencies and changes in what will be funded. NIH, NSF, DOE, DOD are all now required to shift priorities and cut indirect cost recoveries. Silva noted that with the executive orders, the VPR team is working with about 25 executive orders that have impact for federal funding and noted that executive orders currently prohibit funding related to DEI, gender ideology, and green energy. Silva also noted deep cuts to federal research and administrative functions, which have had a big impact on peer review, getting federal assistance, and grant processing.

In terms of impact at OU, Silva noted that these changes have resulted in quite a few current awards being canceled, as well as the rescoping of other current awards. The federal funding environment has contributed to a substantial amount of anxiety in the academic environment. NSF has experienced major staff reductions, with up to 50 percent of staff being cut. However, lawsuits are ongoing that make this a fluid and confusing environment. Silva noted that this has resulted in a lot of delayed award processing, including the reassignment of program officers. There has been temporary freezing of grant funds, but by court order these have been lifted.

Silva reported that NIH has similar issues with respect to staffing, and one of the most important things that has happened is an imposed 15 percent cap on indirect costs. The previously negotiated rate for Norman's cap was 55% and for OUHSC was 45%. However, this reduction has been temporarily blocked in court. On

Friday (April 11), OU received notice that the Department of Energy will also be instituting a cap of 15%. However, lawsuits have been filed in these cases.

The Department of Defense remains a relatively stable funding source for research on AI, quantum, hypersonic research, but OU has had some cancellation of funding in areas that have anything to do with DEI or immigration issues.

NOAA has proposed restructuring that would eliminate climate-based research and redirect resources to programs that are not about climate change. Silva noted that they were hoping that funding related to severed weather would be allowed to be retained.

Silva noted that the funding environment has really changed significantly, and paying attention to new RFP's will be critical. In terms of indirect costs, both NIH and DOD are actively working to reduce indirect costs to 15%. That money is used to support compliance obligations, cybersecurity compliance, contract compliance, IRB, and other research support related tasks.

OU is currently advocating daily at the federal level, including using the Government affairs team to represent OU's interests through conversations with the legislation branch. Coordinated policy and legal monitoring are ongoing with multiple task forces working with OU Legal to interpret the executive orders. The environment changes daily. Hands-on faculty support is offered through the VPR's offices for faculty who have had grants cancelled, changed, and/or restructured to be proactive and advocate for faculty, and Silva asked faculty to reach out to the VPR team so that they can keep record of what is happening. There is a live FAQ with guidance tools to help navigate the process. Search Research FAQ to find it. It is updated regularly.

OU VPR is working on a policy for people who may lose their funding to provide some short-term transition funding. The policy is still in development. For FY26 the OU VPR is still planning to provide seed grants and continue support for research. Silva encouraged faculty to continue to try to submit proposals, as the portals remain open. Silva also noted faculty should look very carefully at the new language for the RFP's to make sure that proposals are in line with the new language.

A senator asked about whether there would be any compensation for PHD students whose grants had been cancelled. Silva noted that faculty in this situation should email her. The senator followed up with a question about the quickness with how long OU Legal counsel is taking to review grants and offer legal counsel. Silva noted that OU VPR can help interface in those instances to try to cut down the time to review.

A senator asked whether CFE is working with the VPR office to identify other organizations that could fund projects. Silva replied that yes, you can access CFE, and they have resources to look for funding. However, things are slow due to these changes and private organizations are rewriting their RFP's in response to these changes.

A senator noted that there was a lot of confusion about what kinds of proposals and language could be included in proposals. Silva noted that CFE is a good place to start, but this remains an ambiguous environment. If program officers are available, that is a good place to start. However, we don't have definitive definitions on DEI and green energy, as of yet.

Another faculty member asked about the travel assistance program. Silva noted that the travel assistance program has temporarily been put on hold to review current executive orders but noted that she expected that to come back online in about 2-3 weeks if things go well, but the environment changes so rapidly.

Silva noted that notifications coming out of NSF are all delayed, but if you had been expecting a decision in January or February, go ahead reach out to Program officers.

Another senator asked about the impact to the bottom line at OU. Silva noted that it is difficult to know right now, because it's hard to know what the indirect costs might be. On the Norman campus, it could be \$2-3 million. At OUHSC, it could be \$15 million.

SANUM RAZA, OU EDUCATION SERVICE

Sanam Raza, CEO of OU Education Services offered remarks on how this organization serves students and faculty. OU Education services serve two constituencies in the university: 1) providing instructional design services to faculty as they build and deliver online courses and programs 2) offering assistance to online students who often will not come to campus except for clinical services. OU educational services has a team of instructional designers, and they work hand in hand with faculty to deliver a quality product. They have a team that does market research and markets for student acquisition for OU online programs. They also have a team that assists students with services and locating resources for students who are not likely to come to OU in person.

Currently, there are 4,900 students enrolled in online OU, undergrad and grad, at OU-Norman and OUHSC. Students are often place-bound, and looking to further education but cannot make it campus. OU education services is looking to expand OU's reach. These students may be military, working adults, etc. OU education services seeks to reach outside of the campus.

OU Education services looks to ensure the quality of programs under the OU online brand and umbrella and also to facilitate student success. They are looking for partnerships with faculty in ideas about new programs. They are also looking for partnerships in market research in ways to serve the workforce needs of the state and the country.

Sarah Tracy asked what faculty should do if they have an idea for a course (which they may have taught previously) but may be useful for OU education services. Raza recommended faculty reach out to the Provost's office to Dr. Morvant.

Senator Burns asked about which platform OU education services uses. Raza responded that they use Canvas, but their work is around instructional design rather than the platform.

J.E.B. SHERIFF, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, IT SERVICES, CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE, IDENTITY AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT

Jeb Sheriff, Assistant Director, IT services and offered remarks on the OUID Pin, domain consolidation, and the OU external email banner.

OUID Pin

There has been a large increase in the number of attacks where people call the service desk and impersonate faculty, students, and staff to try to get access to accounts, largely in an effort to change direct deposit. OU Health accepts no password requests over the phone. OU-Norman could not do that, and OUID Pin is an effort to not be as extreme in policy but still increase security. There is an OUID pin FAQ questions page at <https://ou.edu/ouit/ouidpin>. If you forget your pin, OU IT can still help, but may request you to come in person. If you're not on campus, you may be asked to use a photo with your OUID to verify your identity or get onto zoom. Most students, faculty, and staff have already set OUID pin. Please do so quickly if you have not already done this.

A senator asked a question about whether it must be a university ID to verify identity. Sheriff responded that government issued ID's also work.

A senator noted that once an OUID pin has been entered, it does not say that it has been accepted and that the page is poorly designed. Sheriff noted that he would take this back to his team but also noted that once you have set your pin, you will receive an email confirming that you have just set your password.

A senator asked how many times people were resetting passwords when someone called on the phone. Sheriff noted that 15 people called in today that needed a password reset and/or had not moved PingID to their new device. Sheriff noted that OUIT also recommended signing up for texts for authentication as well, in case your device changes and you have not installed PingID.

Another senator asked about whether OU IT can block domains that are trying to get into our accounts. Sheriff said that it is difficult to block these because these can come from a wide array of IP addresses, and faculty, students, and staff also work around the world. Sheriff also noted that they could potentially look into travel notifications that would facilitate verifying false attempts from actual attempts to access accounts.

Email/Domain Consolidation

OU IT is providing all OU-HSC and OU-Tulsa with an @ou.edu email address as part of the ONE OU email consolidation. Phase 1 – all new and existing OU-HSC have an email alias of @ou.edu. This phase is complete. This plan does not include the consolidation of shared mailboxes or distribution.

Phase 2 – All will use @ou.edu as their primary email address but will still continue to receive mail through their @ouhsc.edu email address. This plan's scope is just people and does not include shared mailboxes or distribution lists. This will consolidate identities. Individuals in both systems (sooner and HSC) will continue to have separate accounts. There is no date set yet for Phase 2. High impact applications and access which are based on email addresses will have issues such as Zoom, Canvas, Concur. OUIT is working to minimize and mitigate the downtime for OU IT managed/owned service. OUIT is proactively communicating and working with the independent system administrators (e.g. systems not managed/owned by OUIT).

Phase 3 – increase single sign-on (SSO) experience. The goal is to decrease the need to enter passwords to authenticate university systems and prepare for the consolidation of accounts into sooner. The eventual goal is to integrate SSO so that once a person has signed on and authenticated, you will not continue to need to sign in. Impact: Visible change that improves the user experience when an application is moved behind PingSSO.

A senator asked about the impact for faculty at OU-Norman vs. OUHSC. OU-Norman faculty are already in the Sooner domain and the impact should be very minimal unless you have an OUHSC email address. There was some concern about whether this would impact grant applications. However, because grants are based on people, not email addresses, there should not be an impact on grants. OUHSC is already in the global address list.

External Email Banner

Sheriff noted that most security incidents begin with a phishing email and AI is making it harder for users to detect threats.

At OU, 72.3% of inbound emails are potential threats blocked by IT security tools. To account for this, on Monday May 19, there will be a visual banner on external emails to let users know that emails have come in from an external source, which will be helpful in detecting spoofing emails.

A senator asked about phishers pivoting, and Sheriff replied that at least emails would be identified as external emails. Sheriff also noted that he would send out the PowerPoint to Faculty Senate.

MASHHAD FAHES, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, PETROLEUM & GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING, GALLOGLY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Mashhad Fahes and First Demir (Sponsoring Senator) introduced a resolution in support of one university at the university of Oklahoma.

Fahes noted that in this political environment, efforts are being made to suppress freedom of speech and noted that Faculty Senate has a particular responsibility to protect free speech. The history of this resolution was in reference to 3 specific Oklahoma bills under consideration that may limit free speech. Fahes noted that an option is to wait and see what happens. Another option is to have a conversation that will proactively give some protection to free speech.

Fahes noted that there needs to be an infrastructure to support and nurture academic freedom and free speech. While it is the OU administration job to support this, this is more effective when the community has a say in it, according to Fahes. The OU community needs to hear from us as ONEOU. OU Faculty community, a private Facebook group, excludes faculty with upper administration role and offers a space to think about and talk about this evolving environment with threats to free speech.

Fahes noted that a resolution is one option of what we can do. Fahes stated that this group is open to lots of options and primarily wants to facilitate a discussion.

In the resolution proposal, which affirms the importance of free speech, is a proposed One OU Task Force to develop guidelines that assure bold inquiry and freedom of thought and expression are protected.

A Senator asked about whether the administration has been contacted/asked about this. Chair Jervis noted that the administration had not been informed about this resolution. The Senator also noted that the timeline is very fast.

A Senator noted that if we want to have shared governance, more faculty voices would be needed, or the upper administration would overrule faculty voices.

A Senator asked what Fahes imagined might be some of the recommendations of what the task force might produce. Fahes noted that faculty/staff interest groups that allow for faculty debate and disagreement might be one. Listening sessions for faculty needs and/or a survey about what people need might also be useful. Free legal representation or consultation when something happens (e.g. being detained during travel abroad) might also be a recommendation.

NOMINATIONS

- a. At Large Members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for 2025 to 2026 term. The vote will take place at the May Faculty Senate Meeting.
- b. Committee Members for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. The vote will take place at the May Faculty Senate Meeting.

VOTE – CANDIDATES FOR CHAIR-ELECT AND SECRETARY for the 2025-2026 year

Chair Jervis asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were no nominations.

Vote on candidates for Chair-Elect – Rebecca Loraamm and Matt Wood, and for Secretary – Stephanie Burge.

Vote: Rebecca Loraamm was elected as Chair-Elect and Stephanie Burge was elected as Secretary.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Jervis asked if there was any new business, and no new business was introduced.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm. The next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate Meeting of this academic year will be held on May 12, 2025, at 3:30 pm.

Stephanie Burge, Faculty Senate Secretary, 2024-25

Chair's Report, 5-9-25

Revisions to the FS charter were approved by regular faculty this month. This has been a 5-year effort, intensifying over this past year, that will now go to the OU regents for final approval. Many thanks to the senators who provided feedback as well as those who encouraged their constituents to vote! This is a big accomplishment for all of us!

Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) participated in this spring's administrative searches. Since my last chair report, we interviewed candidates for Price College and the VPRP position, the latter of which will hopefully be announced this week.

Faculty Senate sponsored a town hall on May 7 with Nishanth Rodrigues, OU's new Chief Information Officer. While attendance was modest, Nishanth provided attendees with great information. He welcomes further conversations with faculty members about IT.

Last month both the Ad Hoc Committee on the Research Council's Mission and Procedures and the Budget Council recommended increased funding for the Faculty Investment Program (FIP) and Junior Faculty Fellowship (JFF) awards, which have not seen increases to their budgets for at least the last 12 years. That recommendation was sent to Interim VP for Research and Partnerships Carol Silva in April but we have not yet received a response. Budget Council sent a recommendation for increased research council funding to President Harroz, Provost Wright, and CFO Berkinshaw. FSEC officers plan to meet with the new VPRP once they are onboard.

Challenges continue with regard to federal disruptions to higher education. Although summer is just around the corner and many faculty will turn to off-campus pursuits, Faculty Senate Executive Committee will continue to monitor and respond to developments as needed. A reminder that Faculty Senate is documenting negative impacts related to grant funding cancellations. Please send your cancellation letters or a summary of what has happened to facsen@ou.edu.

Members of FSEC met with Lauren Sebel, ADRC Interim Director; Deb Watson, Director of the Testing Center; and Jose Dela Cruz, Associate VP of the Division of Access and Opportunity, on April 16. We learned that the directors of both centers are currently in the process of fixing a number of long-standing problems. The process seems to be further along for the ADRC than the Testing Center, the latter of which continues to have restricted hours and a relatively narrow service focus. Following the meeting, we have advocated for the need to have a method of test delivery and pickup that does not involve in-person drop offs. For this spring semester, the Testing Center did allow tests to be emailed but still required instructors to pick up finished exams. We continue to push for either a secure online test repository or email for both test drop offs and returns.

President Harroz asked FSEC for recommendations for ways to save faculty time at our April 30th meeting. In response, FSEC provided administration with a list of high-priority faculty time savers which include improvements to the Testing Center, Concur, and FAS. We also suggested that required trainings be made shorter, less frequent, and more user friendly to the extent possible.

The resolution proposed by senators and faculty at the April Faculty Senate meeting has been transformed into the Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Committee in Support of Academic Freedom. Its charter has already been drafted and we are in the process of identifying members. If you are interested in serving, please let us know!

Faculty Senate Executive Committee has drafted a resolution on political neutrality, which we will discuss and vote on at our May 12th Faculty Senate meeting. This is an opportunity to define for ourselves how we will approach the topic of political neutrality on campus rather than having it determined for us by outside actors.

Faculty Senate sends best wishes to 2024 to 2025 retirees

Professor	Younane	Abouleiman	School of Geosciences and Petroleum and Geological Engineering	Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy
Professor	Eric H.	Anderson	Visual Arts	Fine Arts
Professor	Peter	Barker	History of Science	Arts & Sciences
Assistant Professor	Brenda H.	Barnes-Rogers	Legal Aid Clinic	Law
Associate Professor	Jeffrey B.	Basara	Meteorology/Civil Engineering and Environmental Science	Atmospheric & Geographic Sciences/Engineering
Professor	Paul B.	Bell Jr.	Arts and Sciences Dean DIRECT	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Michael G.	Bemben	Health and Exercise Science	Arts & Sciences
Archaeologist III	Leland C.	Bement	Archaeology Survey	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Elizabeth A.	Bergey	Oklahoma Biological Survey	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Howard B.	Bluestein	Meteorology	Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences
Associate Professor	David L.	Boeck	Architecture	Architecture
Professor	Donald	Bogan	Law	Law
Professor	Richard E.	Broughton	Biological Sciences	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Michael R.	Buckley	Management and International Business	Business
Professor	Meta G.	Carstarphen	Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Kelvin K.	Droegemeier	Meteorology	Atmospheric & Geographic Sciences
Associate Professor	Julia	Einhardt	Honors	Honors College
Professor	Beverly J.	Ewards	Educational Leadership and Policy Studies	Education
Professor	Barnara R.	Fast	Music	Fine Arts
Professor	Aimee L.	Franklin	Political Science	Arts & Sciences
Associate Professor	Ronald H.	Frantz Jr.	Architecture	Architecture
Professor	Ronald Keith	Gaddie	Architecture Dean's Office	Architecture
Professor	Rong Z.	Gan	Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering	Engineering
Professor	Steven M.	Gillon	Academic Affairs	Provost Office
Professor	Kenneth	Haltman	Visual Arts	Fine Arts
Professor	Refaï	Hazem H.	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Engineering
Professor	Alexander B.	Holmes	Economics	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Diane M.	Horn	Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum	Education
Professor	Michael E.	Kaspari	Biological Sciences	Arts & Sciences
Associate Professor	Daniel R.	Kimball	Psychology	Arts & Sciences
Associate Professor	Kevin A.	Kloesel	Oklahoma Climatological Survey	Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences
Professor	Orl	Kritz	Classics and Letters	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Marvin L.	Lamb	Music	Fine Arts
Professor	Robert A.	Lauer	Modern Languages, Literatures & Linguistics	Arts & Sciences
Associate Professor	Lucy	Lifschitz	Mathematics	Arts & Sciences
Associate Professor	Bruce A.	Mason	Homer L. Dodge Department of Physics and Astronomy	Arts & Sciences
Assistant Professor	Karen	Meysick	Biological Sciences	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Michael	Mumford	Psychology	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Donna J.	Nelson	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Arts & Sciences
Professor	David B.	Parsons	Meteorology	Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences
Professor	Judith M.	Pender	Drama	Fine Arts
Professor	Rodger A.	Randle	Human Relations	Arts & Sciences
Professor	James	Regens	Ctr for Intel & Nat Sec	Provost
Professor	Daniel E.	Resasco	Chemical, Biological and Materials Engineering	Engineering
Associate Professor	Lorne S.	Richstone	Music	Fine Arts
Associate Dean	Karen J.	Rupp Serrano	Collections Department	University Libraries
Professor	James J	Suss Jr	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Engineering
Associate Professor	Joseph M.	Sullivan	Modern Languages, Literatures & Linguistics	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Gordon E.	Uno	Microbiology and Plant Biology	Arts & Sciences
Associate Professor	Barry L.	Weaver	Geosciences	Earth & Energy
Professor	Kathleen E.	Welch	Dean's Office	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Gary	Wellborn	School of Biological Sciences	Arts & Sciences
Professor	Richard	Zielinski	Music	Fine Arts

Committee Council Appointments (Terms beginning Fall 2025)

Committee/Council	Term	Nominee	Department
Academic Programs	2025 to 2028	Kelly Feille	Education
Academic Programs	2025 to 2028	Doyle Phillips	Construction Science
Academic Regulations	2025 to 2028	Loretta Bass	Sociology
Academic Regulations	2025 to 2026*	Casey Haskins	Engineering Pathways
Arts & Humanities Forum	2025 to 2028	Alan Levenson	History
Arts & Humanities Forum	2025 to 2028	Rebecca Huskey	Classics and Letters
Budget	2025 to 2028	Deborah Moore-Russo	Mathematics
Budget	2025 to 2027*	Stephanie Pilat	Architecture
Campus Tenure	2025 to 2028	Norman Wong	Communication
Campus Tenure	2025 to 2027*	Venera Bekteshi	Social Work
Campus Tenure	2025 to 2028	Sanna Pederson	Music
Cmte on Cmtes	2025 to 2028	Liorah Golomb	University Libraries
Cmte on Cmtes	2025 to 2027*	Richard Sprecker	Drama
Cmte on Cmtes	2025 to 2028	Anthony Natale	Social Work
Cmte on Cmtes	2025 to 2027*	Vassilios Sikavitsas	Biomedical Engineering
Commencement	2025 to 2027	Thomas Chavira	Drama
Continuing Education	2025 to 2028	Neelam Dwivedi	Engineering
Ed Cline	2025 to 2027	Srikanth Bashetty	Engineering
Ed Cline	2025 to 2027	Tyler Johnson	Political Science
Employee Benefits	2025 to 2029	Susan Hahn	University Libraries
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Ben Bigelow	Construction Science
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Meeyong Lamothe	Political sScience
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Courtney Dewhirst	ILAC
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Doyle Phillips	Architecture
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Kendra Williams-Diehm	Education
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Boris Apanasov	Mathematics
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Phil Gibson	Biology
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Christina Bourne	Chem Biochem
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Pejman Kazempoor	Engineering
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Susan Hahn	University Libraries
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Tom Steele	University Libraries
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Andreana Prichard	Honors
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2027*	Indrajeet Sharma	Chem Biochem
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2027*	Doyle Yoon	Journalism/ Advertising
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2027*	Ying Wang	Mathematics
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2026*	Asa Randall	Anthropology
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2026*	Linda Passamaneck	Fine Arts
FS Compensation & Benefits	2025 to 2028	Joan Hamory	Economics
FS Compensation & Benefits	2025 to 2028	Tammy McCuen	Architecture
Faculty Honors & Awards	2025 to 2028	Noel Brady	Mathematics
Faculty Honors & Awards	2025 to 2028	Emily Burns	Fine Arts
Faculty Scholars Steering	2025 to 2028	Nick Brown	Engineering Pathways
Faculty Scholars Steering	2025 to 2028	Christopher Hill	Sociology
Faculty Welfare	2025 to 2028	Lee Fithian	Architecture
Fit + Rec	2025 to 2027	James Bierman	University Libraries
Goddard	2025 to 2028	Huang LiangLiang	Engineering
Information Technology	2025 to 2028	John (Ed) Frick	Education

Committee Council Appointments (Terms beginning Fall 2025)

Committee/Council	Term	Nominee	Department
Information Technology	2025 to 2028	Jason Furtado	CAGS
Legal Panel	2025 to 2028	Megan Shaner	Law
Publications Board	2025 to 2028	Tom Steele	University Libraries
Research Council	2025 to 2028	Andreea Marculescu	MLLL
Research Council	2025 to 2028	Claudette Grinnell-Davis	Social Work
Research Council	2025 to 2028	Jonathan Hils	Visula Arts
Rita Lottinville	2025 to 2028	Renee Brode	Drama
ROTC	2025 to 2028	Reza Saeed Kandezy	Electrical & Computer
Shared Leave	2025 to 2028	Heather Ketchum	Biological Sciences
Student Conduct	2025 to 2027	Hamid Karami	MPGE
Student Conduct	2025 to 2027	Arunava Roy	PACS
Student Conduct	2025 to 2027	Zachary Schmook	Law
Student Conduct	2025 to 2027	Daniel Springer	ELPS
Student Conduct	2025 to 2027	Deborah Trytten	Computer Science
University Libraries	2025 to 2027	Manika Lamba	SLIS
University Libraries	2025 to 2027	Jackie Reese	University Libraries
University Libraries	2025 to 2027	Sarah Tracy	Honors
University Libraries	2025 to 2027	Robert Kerr	Journalism
VPRP Advisory	2025 to 2027	Kim Marshall	Anthropology

* Term Completion

Faculty Senate Resolution on Political Neutrality on Campus

The social and political landscape is rapidly evolving. Universities are increasingly confronted with navigating the challenge of fostering open discourse while balancing diverse ideological perspectives. As an institution, the University of Oklahoma has committed to being a place for free inquiry, debate, and discourse, as outlined in the Chicago Principles. Therein, the Faculty Senate is committed to fostering an environment where a broad spectrum of viewpoints can be discussed respectfully and thoughtfully.

The University of Oklahoma Faculty Senate hereby affirms that the pursuit of knowledge must remain evidence based and independent of political ideology. Our commitment to political neutrality is not an abdication of values but a deliberate and necessary stance to ensure that scholarly inquiry, teaching, and research flourish in an environment free from the biases of political agendas. We believe that the most robust education arises from the free exchange of ideas—a community of thought where every perspective is considered solely on its intellectual merit.

By upholding these principles, we recommit ourselves to a legacy of unbiased education and research, ensuring that the University of Oklahoma remains a beacon of fair, balanced, and thoughtful engagement in research, teaching, and service.

Resolution of Appreciation for Professor Lori Jervis

WHEREAS Professor Lori Jervis has served with distinction as Chair of the Faculty Senate for the academic year 2024-2025;

WHEREAS Professor Jervis has demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and commitment to the principles of shared governance throughout her tenure;

WHEREAS Professor Jervis has skillfully guided the Faculty Senate through the complex process of updating the Faculty and Faculty Senate Charter, ensuring that the document reflects the current needs and aspirations of the faculty;

WHEREAS Professor Jervis has adeptly navigated challenging political times, providing steady and thoughtful leadership that protected the interests of the faculty and upheld the values of the university;

WHEREAS Professor Jervis has fostered open communication, collaboration, and mutual respect among the members of the Faculty Senate and with the university administration;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate expresses its deepest appreciation to Professor Lori Jervis for her exemplary service, outstanding leadership, and unwavering commitment to the Faculty Senate and the University of Oklahoma during the 2024-2025 academic year.

It was a busy summer with Faculty Senate work. Unlike in recent years where we were able to forego Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) meetings in the summer, this year, we continued with our monthly meeting schedule.

In May, I attended the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) Faculty Advisory Council. We reviewed their annual statewide faculty survey, and it was clear that salaries, workload, and benefits are big concerns for faculty across the state, which isn't a huge surprise. Later that month, I participated in the SEC Faculty Senates meeting at Auburn University, which was really insightful. We heard from different universities about their senate structures and how they approach shared governance. A big takeaway was the importance of strong faculty leadership and ensuring faculty voices are heard. From that group, I learned about the Committee of the Whole which we plan to implement in the Senate this year. I also had a good discussion with Jeff Harp, Ombudsperson, who shared some recurring issues impacting faculty welfare, like communication breakdowns and inconsistent policies. In addition, former chairs Hunter Heyck, Lori Jervis and I had lunch with representatives from the Oklahoma State University Faculty Council. We discussed ways of possibly working together to elevate the impact of university research to the well-being of the state.

June was a bit lighter, but still productive. FSEC voted to support the "Commitment to Political Neutrality in Hiring" statement developed by a university working group. At the June Board of Regents meeting, the updated Faculty & Faculty Senate Charter was officially approved. We distributed communication to the campus about what the changes would mean for college operations. Non-regular faculty are now eligible to vote for and serve as Senators representing their areas. They are also eligible to serve as Faculty Senate appointees to campus councils and committees. In the upcoming year, we will be appointing ad hoc committees to address reapportionment with the new numbers of faculty as well as the increased number of senators and to update our bylaws to reflect changes to practice and to match changes in the charter. We anticipate bringing both to the Senate for a vote in the spring.

In late June, we received the devastating news that Chris Weaver, our STEM At-Large member of FSEC and Senator from the Gallogly College of Engineering, passed away unexpectedly. Chris will be missed for his keen insights and deliberative questions that would probe us to think deeper about the issues before us. To complete the last year of his term on FSEC, the officers asked Dave Hambright, past chair of FS, to run for the position; he graciously agreed. FSEC voted unanimously to appoint Dave to the role.

July picked up again. Immediate Past Chair Lori Jervis and I met with Matt Hulver, the new Vice President of Research & Partnership (VPRP) and Carol Silva, Senior Associate VP for Research - Norman Campus, to discuss research priorities and how we can operate as OneOU within the research enterprise. There were also several meetings related to the Testing Center, which seems to be facing some operational challenges. Deborah Watson, Director of the Testing Center, held a faculty listening session. For the upcoming year, they will no longer use block scheduling for tests and faculty will be able to submit and receive tests electronically. We also solidified plans for the FSEC retreat and Faculty Senate orientation, and started thinking about the State of the University address, which will be held in conjunction with the Staff Senate this year.

August was a busy sprint to the start of the semester. VPRP Hulver and Sr. AVP Silva joined our FSEC meeting as an introduction; VPRP Hulver emphasized the need for collaborations across disciplines and focus on local impact. They will be attending our FSEC meeting in September to discuss in more detail their plans regarding research within the university. I had my first one-on-one meeting with Provost Wright to discuss issues the university faced over the summer and what was on the horizon for the year ahead. A big

part of August was dedicated to preparing for and conducting the Faculty Senate Orientation and the FSEC Planning Meeting.

At the Faculty Senate orientation, as part of introductions, each senator was asked to provide a topic they would like to see the senate address in the year ahead. There are a lot! The topics range from healthcare costs and staffing issues to awarding merit scholarships and academic freedom. We'll be lucky to address even half of what was presented. However, the officers (Chair-Elect Rebecca Loraamm, Secretary Stephanie Burge, and I) have begun charting out a plan for inviting speakers to FS, FSEC, or delegating work to the appropriate committees so we can address as much as possible.

At the FSEC planning retreat, we discussed shared governance with the Staff Senate and Undergraduate Student Association, hearing about their concerns like benefits, parking, and textbook costs. President Harroz and VP for Executive Affairs Hollye Hunt also joined us; President Harroz shared his five key goals for the upcoming year tied closely to advancing the refreshed [Lead On Strategic Plan](#). FSEC identified topics we would like to address, including continued advocacy to protect faculty time from administrative bloat and preserving our academic ideals.

Overall, it's been a summer focused on understanding faculty concerns, collaborating with different university bodies, and planning for an effective year for the Faculty Senate. Lots of groundwork laid for what's ahead!

Submitted by Sarah Robbins, 2025-26 FS Chair

University of Oklahoma Faculty Senate Resolution Honoring the Service of Professor Christopher Weaver

WHEREAS, the University of Oklahoma Faculty Senate mourns the loss of Associate Professor Christopher Weaver, who passed away on June 29, 2025, while actively serving as a Senator representing the Gallogly College of Engineering and as the STEM At-Large representative on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, Professor Weaver was a dedicated member of the OU community, serving with distinction as a professor, advisor, researcher, colleague, and leader in the School of Computer Science since joining the university in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Professor Weaver's pioneering contributions to the field of visual analytics were recognized nationally and internationally, including awards from IEEE InfoVis and VAST conferences, a prestigious NSF CAREER Award, and his selection as a Kavli Frontiers of Science Fellow by the National Academy of Sciences; and

WHEREAS, Professor Weaver was a passionate and rigorous educator, known for his deep commitment to student mentorship and his belief in the transformative power of research and teaching, guiding students at all levels with care, insight, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Professor Weaver served the university and broader academic community in numerous leadership roles, including Chair of the CS Graduate Committee, Graduate Liaison, Associate Director for Academic Affairs in the School of Computer Science, and Associate Editor-in-Chief for IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications, among many others; and

WHEREAS, Professor Weaver was a valued member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, where he brought thoughtful, principled, and collegial leadership to the shared governance of the university; and

WHEREAS, Professor Weaver will be remembered not only for his professional excellence but also for his kindness, generosity, and unwavering dedication to the values of scholarship, service, and community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the University of Oklahoma Faculty Senate formally recognizes and honors the life, legacy, and service of Professor Christopher Weaver, and expresses its deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be entered into the official record of the Faculty Senate and shared with the School of Computer Science, the Gallogly College of Engineering, and Professor Weaver's family as a testament to his enduring impact on the University of Oklahoma.
