OSU STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

December 12, 2001    416 Student Union    1:15 PM

Present:    Beeler, Brooks, Collins, Cookerly, DeBock, Fletcher, Hannah-Bergbower, Higgs, Hundley, Hunt, Ingham, Jacobs, Miller, Mitchell, Payne, Reedy, Richardson, Riggs, Rogers, Traynor

Absent:    Blackburn, Brock, Cameron, Cimino, Good, Hart, Hays, Shields, Tanner

Myra Traynor called the meeting to order and Diana Jacobs called roll. Myra asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes. With no changes, she asked for a vote to accept the minutes. Minutes were approved. There were no changes to the agenda and it was approved.

Executive Group Update – Dr. Harry Birdwell, Vice President for Business & External Relations

Dr. Birdwell discussed the 2003 Budget Outlook – nationally the economy has slowed and we are basically in a recession. 44 of 50 states have been asked to make some level of cuts. Fortunately Oklahoma is not one of them. The University of Nebraska has to cut $39 million in state spending. OSU can expect a flat budget next year. Administrators are being asked to cut their budget 1 – 1 ½% in case the state legislature cannot approve the same amount of dollars as in the past. Tax collections last month were 7% less than previously. Dr. Birdwell said the OSU might have to ask for a tuition increase.

The parking study is being done. One way to help the parking concern will be to expand the transit system. This may cut the number of cars that are actually on campus.

He received the letter from Myra in support of placing emphasis on raises. It has been referred to the Univ. Budget Committee.

In regard to the retirement issues – TIAA-CREF is far superior to OTRS. Administration has been running numbers and will try to figure the cost impact on the budget of the university and what the possibility would be to go back like it was before. If this is approved, it will be implemented July 1. They will work with the state legislature on the possibility of giving employees the option of being in or out of OTRS. If an employee has been in OTRS for ten years, they are vested. If they leave the university, they can only take the money they have put into this system. They are investigating to see if damage has occurred and if so, they are hopeful to find remedies and solutions. He urged everyone to make your decision based on actual
information, not here say. If you have any questions, contact John Dalton or Barbara Wells at 45449 in Human Resources.

**Branch Campus Reports**

*OSU-Okmulgee – Devin DeBock*
Their children’s Christmas party was held Wednesday night. It was very successful. There were approximately 300 children there who received gifts and had their picture taken with Santa Claus. Their moon light breakfast for students will be tonight. Their graduation is December 18th. The students really like the new housing units. Landscaping is almost done and the storm shelter will be finished soon.

*OSU-OKC – No report.*

*OSU-Tulsa – No report*

*OSU-Com – No report*

**Report of Standing Committees**

*Policies, Benefits and Budget – Leslie Miller*  
Denise Brooks attended the University Budget Committee. She said Dr. Birdwell had already reported on the budget. Dr. Wood gave a presentation asking for more travel funds. Leslie reported the childcare survey is at the printers now. There will be a notice put in the society squares of the O’Colly that copies of the survey will available at the welcome center for students to pick up. The survey will also be available on line.

Myra reported that Dr. Edgeley has a video of the presentation that was presented by Drs. Raff and Rockley. If a department would like to view it, let Myra know and she will obtain a copy. If enough people show interest in seeing the presentation, Drs. Raff and Rockley agreed to do more.

*Rules & Procedures – Duane Hunt*  
His committee is gearing up to work on the election process.

*Public Relations – Rita Hundley*  
No report. She would like her committee to stay after the meeting. They need to start working on the presentation for new employee orientation.

*Awards & Recognition – Leslie Cimino*  
Leslie was not here so there was no report.

**Faculty Council Meeting Update – Duane Hunt**  
It was reported that Dr. Keener was to go to St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa for open-heart surgery about 10am on Thursday. The Alumni Association reported that they currently have 63 chapters. They will be building a new facility. There have been fewer number of academic appeals. It is not know if this is due to a change in policy or procedures. Faculty Council discussed termination of faculty in the CBA.

**Staff Scholarship Update – Duane Hunt**  
If anyone is interested in serving on the scholarship committee, let Duane know. He needs a representative from each standing committee. The awards will be made in May 2002.
Old Business
Discussion was held on proposed by-laws change to provide for removal of committee chairs –
Duane handed out a sheet that had some Roberts Rules and alternate actions. It was proposed that
the following be added as a new section to Article XIII:

“By vote of a simple majority of representatives present at any meeting of the council, the name
of the chair may be placed on the agenda for removal from office at the next meeting. The chair
in question shall be notified by the Executive Group at least 14 days prior to the date of the
meeting at which dismissal action is scheduled to be taken. Such notification shall include a
statement of charges against the chair. The chair in question may request postponement of action
that must be upheld by a majority vote of the council, but in no case may postponement be
granted for more than one meeting following the originally scheduled dismissal action. The chair
in question shall be notified to speak to the council at the next meeting. Dismissal action shall be
by paper ballot and shall be by two-thirds majority of the representatives present. A chair who
has been removed from office under the provisions of this article retains his/her position on the
council.”

This proposal was amended – change “simple” to “2/3” in the first sentence. Wallace Riggs
made the motion to change the proposal. It was voted on and passed to accept the proposal as
amended. There was one ‘no’ vote.

Strategic Planning Committee – Wes Higgs
Discussion was held on forming an ad hoc strategic planning committee. Leslie Miller made the
motion to form an ad hoc committee and it was seconded. This was passed. Representatives
from each standing sub-committee should serve on the committee. Holly Bergbower then made
the motion to elect a chair for this committee. It was seconded and passed. Nominations were
then opened for chair of this committee. Leslie Miller nominated Wes Higgs. There being no
other nominations, Rita Hundley made the motion to accept Wes Higgs as chairman of committee
by acclamation. Wes asked Diana Jacobs to send out an email to SAC members informing them
of this committee and if they would like to serve on it, to email Wes by Friday 12/21/01.

New Business

Staff Ineligibility to participate in awards, scholarship, etc. – Duane Hunt. Discussion was held
in regard to staff council members ineligibility to receive awards, scholarships and door prizes.
Some felt it looked a little strange if council members are eligible. It was felt that there should be
a by-law change that “council members are not eligible”. Staff members should be made aware
of this before they serve on council. Duane will submit a proposal at the January meeting.

Wallace Riggs made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded. Meeting adjourned at
2:45pm.