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OSU STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 12, 2000 408 Case Study 1 Student Union 1:15 p.m.

Present: Anderson, Bateson, Carlile, Fletcher, Ford, Hayes, Hundley, Jennings, Magness, Mann, Miller, Mitchell, Payne, Razook, Satterfield, Shoffstall, Swann, Traynor, Whitney

Excused: Bale, Breedlove, Jardot, Knight

Absent: Cimino, Foust, Overtan

Mary Kay Jennings called the meeting to order and Louisa Payne called roll. The January agenda was approved as amended.

Executive Group Update – Dr. Harry Birdwell:

A. Y2K came and went without incident. This year was probably smoother than most holiday periods.

B. Background checks. There was one meeting with SAC and one with Faculty Council in December. The two groups are fairly close in their view of the issues. The proposal is much weaker than when first presented. Another meeting is scheduled this month. There will be no final recommendation until a general consensus is reached.

C. Enrollment. OSU is bursting at the seams with new students. We have done a very good job on retention and new enrollment. Perhaps too good. Without additional funding, maintaining quality is becoming more and more difficult. We are approaching the maximum number of undergraduates that can be accommodated with the available funding. In the past, OSU has tried to admit any qualified applicant. This may not be possible in the near future.

D. Student Services Center. Now is online. Nearly everyone is moved in.

E. State Legislature. Next year may be a difficult year. While there is considerable new money, there are also substantial commitments from last year. One large item will be Public Education. Hopefully, higher education can piggy back on to some of this funding. There will probably be considerable discussion about how to use the tobacco settlement funds.

F. Health Insurance Premiums – Anne Matoy. Last month Oklahoma State Employees Group Insurance Board met and announced a 13% increase on employee rates. Handouts were provided. Some options were eliminated. Some names have changed. Matoy stated that although 13% is a significant increase, the university is probably still better off than if it had stayed with American Fidelity. The second page of the handout was a nonscientific survey of the regional state universities’ insurance rates. Comparing rates without comparing plans is nonproductive, but the chart does show that most of the area school have experienced the same sort of
increases. Whitney asked Dr. Birdwell if OSU intended to continue to pay employee’s premium. Birdwell replied that he intended to put it in his budget request.

Branch Campus Reports

OSU-COM – No report
OSU-OKM – No report
OSU-OKC – No report
OSU-Tulsa – No report

Report of Standing Committees

Awards and Recognition – Nancy Swann Kyle Howeth, Athletic concessions, has offered SAC first pick of 33 home baseball games, not including the playoffs. We could pick any or all of them. SAC would make 10% of the first $3,000 and 12% of anything over $3,000. Motion was made and seconded to pick 7 to 10 of the “best” games—i.e. the games with the most anticipated attendance. Motion carried.

Policy, Benefits, and Budget – Tonya Magness Magness attended the background check meeting for Faculty Council. FC and SAC both agree that reference and credential checks should be done on all employees hired. FC seemed to have the most trouble with credit checks.

The committee is still concerned with an Ombudsman for staff. We will be drafting a response to the response to our recommendation.

“Preacher Bob” was discussed. If any speaker is making threatening or harassing statement, a formal written complaint must be filed in order to block his right to speak on campus. The OSU police will then determine whether it warrants filing with the district attorney.

The December university budget meeting was cancelled.

Committee members will begin rotating attendance at both university budget meetings and SAC e-group meeting, since Magness is going off council in June.

Rules and Procedures – Myra Traynor Copies of the revised bylaws and constitution were distributed.

Public Relations – Diana Bateson The SAC brochure was mailed along with the T-shirt order form. You should be receiving them soon.

Report of University Committees

Athletic Council – Tina Beverage The Athletic department is preparing for NCAA accreditation. The department is doing a self study report. NCAA will be on campus next year.

Beverage was asked specifically by the Athletic Council to address SAC’s concerns about A&P staff not receiving their raises until December. The department is self-
supporting. Raise decisions must wait until football revenues are in.

Faculty Council Update December – Myra Traynor  Presentation by John Houck on the campus facilities plan. There was discussion on how to get the word out that the campus facilities plan is available in the OSU Library.

Ombudsman’s report was interesting because most of the activity of the office dealt with staff not faculty.

Several other topics discussed—Instructor course evaluations; policy on unexcused absences; final exam scheduling and grade appeal policy changes. Most of the time was spent on discussion about a proposal to provide optional medical insurance for graduate assistant of at least 25% FTE. Faculty supported in principle but had some problems with the plan as a whole.

Faculty Council Update January – Mary Kay Jennings  Most of the standing committees had no reports. Anne Matoy presented the Health Insurance increases. A Big-12 faculty salary survey is being done. All current recommendations are “under review”. An alternative common final exam schedule to be effective Fall 2000.

Old Business  none

New Business

Treasurer’s report – Rita Hundley  Last month Swann asked Hundley for the amount spent on SAD. That amount was $11,591.57. Another quarterly report will be due in two months.

Appeals Hearing Pre-finals and Finals Week – Craig Satterfield  Whenever a speaker is denied the right to make a presentation, he can ask for an appeals hearing. In one case it was “Preacher Bob”. He was initially denied access to campus during pre-finals/finals week. Before the hearing he was given access because there were other activities happening on the library lawn that week. However, he was told that he could not use his whistle during finals week. He presented a twelve page complaint about this. The board felt that the noise factor was too distracting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The Staff Advisory Council will meet on Feb. 9, 2000 in 416 Case Study 3, Student Union at 1:15 p.m.

Minutes Approved:

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Mary Kay Jennings, Chairperson             Craig Satterfield, Vice-Chairperson