OSU STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 10, 2001  419 Student Union  1:15 PM


Excused:  Traynor

Absent:  Cameron, Swann

Mary Kay Jennings called the meeting to order and Camille Jardot called roll. The November minutes were approved. Changes were made to the January agenda.

Executive Group Update – Dr. Harry Birdwell, V-P for Business and External Relations
OSU was named a Truman Honor Institution on December 8th. There are only five institutions nationally named as honor. They include University of Minnesota, University of Kansas, University of Texas, Oklahoma State University and Willamette.

Today, Kevin Seltzer wrote a story about Gallagher-Iba on the CNN Sports Internet concerning the top 10 venue’s for college sports. OSU’s Gallagher-Iba Arena was rated number one followed by Cameron University, Duke University, Kansas University, etc.

In the past, TIAA Cref retirement only allowed withdrawal of 50% of retirement dollars upon retirement. Faculty Council felt that this was overly parental and restrictive and asked administration if they would permit allowing withdrawal of 100% of funds if the employee chose that. Administration stressed the importance of making informed, sound decisions upon retirement and will have counseling available. This policy change will take effect on July 1st, 2001.

On January 18th, there will be another meeting concerning background checks.

Walker Parking Consultants provided administration with the 25 year parking needs of the University. Dr. Birdwell sent the Parking Committee back to work on a short term plan. He wants them to look at the parking needs based on the best information that we have now based on 1, 3, 5 and 7 years. Basically, that would include approximately 2000 more parking spaces and enhancing the bus service to more buildings on campus including sororities and fraternities.

Student housing on McElroy is coming along. Part of those units (married student housing) will come on line in the late Spring of this year and the remainder will come on line August 1st. This
will complete phase 2 of the student housing project. Phase 3 will be smaller (about 800 beds) and will start in another year or two.

Concerning enrollment, Oklahoma University is currently 1000 applications up for next year. We are dead even at this point. OSU has always competed with OU with enrollment. The first year that we beat OU (in 1995), following the 12-0 football win, OSU’s freshman class was 500 more then theirs that year. When OSU went to the Final Four in basketball, our number went up by 600 applicants for freshman admission.

**Branch Campus Reports**

**OSU-COM** – No report

**OSU-OKM** – Homer Breedlove- The spring semester started last Wednesday. Capstone is putting up the black plastic around the area to prevent runoff once construction starts on the new dorms.

This will be Homer’s last meeting since he will be retiring in March. His dedication is greatly appreciated.

**OSU-OKC** – No report

**OSU-Tulsa** – Marcia Hays

A handout containing OSU-Tulsa’s Institutional Goals was handed out. If anyone has questions, they can speak with her after the meeting.

**Report of Standing Committees**

**Policy, Benefits, and Budget** – Leslie Miller

Leslie attended the University Budget Committee meeting in November. There was a presentation given by J.L. Albert in CIS. One interesting topic was that OSU entered into an agreement with Microsoft Corporation to provide software and upgrades for OSU Staff and computers. Essentially, Microsoft software will be available to staff. Basically, a staff member can sign an agreement and in turn receive a copy of the desired software to install on their personal computer at home. For more information, please check out the CIS webpage.

An email was sent out in December concerning the changes to the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The Council voted and accepted the changes concerning FMLA.

**Rules and Procedures** – Duane Hunt

A handout was distributed concerning the recommended by-law changes concerning SAC member absences. A motion was made and passed. These changes will take effect in July, 2001.

Mary Kay Jennings made the recommendation that the Rules and Procedures committee take a closer look at the Constitution and by-laws to make sure that the information in both are the same.

**Public Relations** – Melba Knight

No report

**Awards and Recognition** – Leslie Cimino

Basketball concessions have made $304.47 for the scholarship fund. The total fundraising amount so far for football and basketball concessions is $706.23.
Their committee suggested that each sub-committee be in charge of one basketball game concession stand. If a committee member could not work their certain game, they would be in charge of finding someone to work in their place.

The Holiday Sampler that the Student Union put on was well received. There is no official count of the people who attended but the room was full most of the time. There were a few complaints from staff concerning not being able to take their snacks back to the office.

SAC will be selling carnations for Secretaries Day on April 25th. Member participation is greatly needed for delivery around campus.

**Report of University Committees**

*Faculty Council Update - January – Rita Hundley*

Bjorn Martin was elected to replace Steve Hallgren who is going on sabbatical.

A report was given by Jack Vitek concerning NCAA questions. They were basically yes or no questions. There were only two questions that were answered no to. They were: whether the graduation rate had increased since the last report. Since they did the study the graduation rate has come up where it is actually higher. The actual figures are 51% for the general university and 47% for athletics. The other question was concerning the 8% rule concerning students that are admitted to OSU that do not meet the criteria and whether there was a larger number of athletes in that group then had been in the past.

Ron Area from the Foundation gave a presentation on Bringing Dreams to Life. A total of $260 million was raised. There were a total of 39 gifts were over $1 million each. There were a total of over 52,000 donors. In the next 60-90 days, they will have an outline concerning their next fundraiser. It will be around a $400 million goal.

Faculty Council is going to look into the problem of dentists dropping out of the dental plan.

**Old Business**

*Special Recognition -*
A special recognition plaque was given to Carolyn Lunsford for her continued support of SAC through the blood drives.

**New Business**

*Announcements -*
Nancy Swann will be the representative for next months Faculty Council meeting.

Vina Spickler will be the representative for the parking meeting on January 18th at 1:30 p.m.

There is a new employee personnel program called Ambassador’s. Staff is encouraged to look at this new program.

Hurricane Carter will be on campus January 24th.

Staff officially has an Ombudsperson. Carolyn Hernandez will be taking that responsibility.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM. The Staff Advisory Council will meet February 14, 2001, 419 Student Union from 1:15 to 3:00 PM.