OSU STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES
March 14, 2007, 416 Student Union, Case Study 3


Absent: Castle, Curtis, Forsythe, Fox, Hale, McIntire, Moore, Moorman, Payne, Peters, Wieder, S. York

Carey Warner called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. and Lynette Venard called roll.

Carey asked for approval of the February minutes. A motion was made to approve the February minutes, seconded and approved by a voice vote.

Carey asked for approval of the agenda. A couple of additions were made to the agenda under new business. Juanita will discuss a recommendation regarding tornado shelters on campus. Tara will discuss the staff scholarship. A motion was made to approve the agenda as amended, seconded and approved by a voice vote.

E-Group Update – Dr. Bob Whitson
Dr. Whitson commented that he appreciates the staff at OSU. He feels that the staff plays an important role with the longevity of the staff and the low turnover rate. He has been at OSU for about 1 ½ years. He noted that DASNR has 2 agencies which have a combined budget of $54 million that is not funded by tuition. The 2 agencies are funded by grants. The 2 agencies are 1) The Oklahoma Coop Extension Service and 2) the Oklahoma Ag Experiment Stations. The Oklahoma Coop Extension Service consists of offices in all 77 counties in Oklahoma.

Dr. Whitson also discussed the new department in their college. The new department is Natural Resource Ecology and Management. They are hoping to have
200 students enrolled in this department in the fall of '07. Dr. Whitson has noticed that Oklahoma is very agriculture oriented and is very supportive of its agriculture programs.

Dr. Whitson gave a brief update on the E-team discussions. Steve Rogers is keeping them informed about Pandemic Planning. Lee Bird is chairing the Disaster Mitigation Phase 2 committee. Preparations are being made to form a Presidential Search committee.

Per Dr. Whitson, the legislative outlook is not too bright. There is not as much money as in the past. There is less optimism compared to last year.

**OTRS Uncapped – Kay Ensign**

Kay was asked to speak about the article in the March issue of News You Can Use regarding the OTRS uncapped. The basics are this: If an employee was hired after 1995, this does not affect them. If an employee was hired before 1995 and is not in OTRS, he/she is not affected. If an employee was hired before 1995 and is in OTRS, they are either in the low or high group. If the employee is in the low group and makes less than $77,500, he/she will not be affected. If the employee is in the high group and makes less than $94,000, he/she will not be affected. According to Kay, few employees at OSU are affected by this ruling.

**Branch Campus Reports**

**OSU-CHS – Sandra Hale**

Sandra was absent therefore no report was available.

**OSU–Okmulgee – Allen York**

Allen discussed the employee picnic. It will be the first in 10 years. Having this picnic will help boost morale. The tobacco free workshop that he was scheduled to attend was cancelled due to the snowy weather. The scheduled speaker at that seminar will be coming to OSU-OKM in June ’07.

**OSU-OKC – Ronda Reece**

Ronda mentioned that they are having a ceremony to honor their mentoring volunteers to be held tomorrow. Forty-six volunteers have mentored 200 staff members. The by-laws committee determined that there are to be no changes in their by-laws. Nominations are open for their council. The campus will be having a visit from the NCA. They will be offering the Bachelor of Technology online. This will be a total of 5 degrees online. Cowboy Classic will be held March 31st and their Service Awards will be held April 13th.

**OSU-Tulsa – Karen Castle**

Karen was absent, therefore no report was available.

**Report of Standing Committees**

**Rules & Procedures – Bonnie Gladden, Chair**

Bonnie mentioned that the nomination forms will be mailed out this week. The deadline is Friday, April 6th.

**Awards & Recognition – Becky McIntire, Chair**

Becky was absent, but Katie gave a report on her behalf. The committee got a grill at Lowe’s at cost. The raffle tickets are $1 each or 6 tickets for $5. Please see Katie to get your tickets.

**Policies, Benefits and Budget – Leslie Miller, Chair**
Leslie did not have a report available.

Public Relations – Laura Payne, Chair
Laura mentioned that they are in the process of printing the lunch tickets. So far, they have 8 vendors and 5 door prizes. They are still working on increasing this number. It will cost the council $20.30 to block off spaces by Willard Hall for the day of the luncheon. It was mentioned that there should be info for the grill raffle in the April issue of News You Can Use.

Faculty Council Report - Bonnie Gladden
Bonnie attended the Faculty Council meeting on March 13th. She had copies of the agenda and other info for the council. There were 2 recommendations before the faculty council. The first one recommended that the tuition benefit for OSU employees be increased from 50% to 100% with no change in the student fees currently required of employees. The SAC voted to support the Faculty Council on this recommendation.

The second recommendation recommended that the spouses and children of OSU employees be offered OSU classes at 50% tuition. The SAC voted to support the Faculty Council on this recommendation also.

Old Business
Update on recommendations
1) Equity Pool – This has been submitted to Interim President Marlene Strathe.

Tobacco Free Campus – Carey is asking the council for their ideas on where to place designated smoking areas. If you have any ideas, please visit with Carey. The current dates are to have designated smoking areas in place by July 2007. Then by July 2008, the campus will be tobacco free. The university will be offering free smoking cessation classes for the employees.

Health Care Task Force – Carey has a meeting today with the Health Care Task Force. They have hired a consultant and will be meeting with them today.

New Business
Paid Time Off Committee – Bonnie Gladden, Jana Allen and Marsha Chapman have volunteered to serve on this committee.

Presidential Search Committee – The SAC is to nominate 4 staff members for the Presidential Search Committee. The Nominations will be sent to the Board of Regents who will then pick 2 staff members to serve on the committee. The 4 nominees are Leslie Miller, Jason Pogue, Sherril York, and Krista Davis.

NEO Seminar Signup – Carey also mentioned that we still need members to sign up to attend the New Employee Orientations. Please see Carey. Bonnie volunteered to be a greeter at the April 5th NEO.

Tornado Shelters Recommendation – Juanita presented a recommendation requiring all new buildings built on campus to have a tornado shelter. After much discussion, this recommendation was sent to Leslie and her committee to review.

Staff Scholarship – Tara mentioned that the deadline for the staff scholarship applications is fast approaching. She would like 1 person from each committee to
review applicants and help with the selection process. Please see Tara if you are interested.

**Announcements**
There were no announcements.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynette Venard, Secretary