

**XXXIX Faculty Senate
President's Report
12/04/2008**

The Academic Affairs Executive Council met on Wednesday, November 19th. There was a presentation of the 403B issues by Jeannette Patton, Dr. Randal Ice, and others. The shortness of notice to the UCO faculty seems to be entirely an artifact of the way that the mandated changes traveled from the IRS to the RUSO administrators and thence to the UCO benefits personnel. It is my belief that our administrators are innocent of any foot dragging or laxity in notifying faculty: the nearly non-existent notice was irritating, at the best, and productive of much rage at the worst. The presentation by Senator Haskin at our last meeting accorded perfectly with this longer information session. The web address I sent to you supplies the best and most current information on the changes and mechanisms, and I shall not go over that which is better presented on the site. I will only note the strong suspicion that the IRS will next start changes to the 457 annuity accounts system. The University Action Teams presented reports on their progress. Dr. Cobb updated proposals for revisions to the Human Resources hiring protocols, emphasizing that tenure and promotion guidelines were not violated by any of the changes. Exit interviews will be conducted on-line to gather information. Dr. Bridges, as a component of his Facilities Macro system report, informed us that only 20% of the cost to the university of a campus building is the actual, upfront construction cost: the lifetime maintenance cost is the bigger expense. Dr. Bridges' action team has been evaluating maintenance software and vendors and has sent suggestions to our administrators for contracting such services. Provost Radke noted the very significant presence of UCO at Oklahoma Research Day in Broken Arrow. He also informed us that the bids for the Transformative Learning building are in and below the estimated cost, so that bit of the economic downturn is helping us. The state economic picture remains as I presented it at

the last senate meeting. I spoke with Assistant Vice-President Cunliff after the meeting and he indicated enthusiasm to hear faculty senators' ideas about the Faculty Survey, hence our discussion item under New Business. The next AAEC meeting will be on December 17th, and I will inform you of any immediate concerns by email.

The RUSO Advisory Board meeting was attended by Vice-President Hartmann, details to be supplied in his report.

Vice-President Rolfe has informed me that the statuses of two technology bills from last year are:

DIGITAL PHONES: [FSR 2007/2008-06](#) Faculty Access to Digital Telephones Approved by Senate April 24, 2008

“To move all analog phones to digital in our current enterprise telephone system will cost \$226,400 . We would like to do a survey of faculty (during the Spring semester) to determine exactly what they are looking for, to see if another solution is more feasible.”

PHOTOS FOR FACULTY [FSR 2007/2008-05](#) Online Access to Student ID Photos For Courses Approved by Senate April 10, 2008

“This was going to be really easy in the OneCard/Campus Card system. However, the University canceled that project due to lack of funds. The OIT Software Development

group is looking into a solution that combines the Photo ID system with class lists in Banner.”

The Executive Committee met with Provost Radke yesterday. We spoke about the very prestigious awards to Drs. Chen and Terrell, and the national visibility achieved by UCO for having both the national teaching award and the state teaching award in the same year. The provost noted that the UCO delegation met with alumni and significant donations may possibly be forthcoming: at the least, significant contacts were established. I found, as part of the conversation, what I never before knew and think is worth passing along: we share a Washington lobbyist with Oklahoma City, John Montgomery, who has done good things in terms of locating grant money.

We spoke about the Merit Credit issue, wondering where the taskforce recommendations were at the moment. Wednesday, before our meeting, the deans agreed to look over the merit credit proposal again, adding to what the task force proposed a mechanism to possibly add non-tenure-track faculty to the merit structure. The provost emphasized that he wanted to be sure that no changes to the merit proposals would conflict with the well sorted out tenure and promotion process now in place. What finally emerges from the deans’ deliberations will go to the faculty senate for review. As for the attempts to fund the merit system as proposed, they remain hung up on the longevity of service hook: that, and of course the lack of money.

The May Teaching Institute remains on schedule. We have 42 new faculty, many of whom will be invited to attend. Pacific Crest has been contracted, through the Faculty Enhancement Center, to provide the two week course. Pacific Crest is highly respected

and vouched for by Assistant Vice-President Cunliff. I have been asked to participate as an evaluator for the senate.

With that, and a heartfelt Happy Christmas, I end my report.