MINUTES OF ARTS & SCIENCES FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, September 6, 2017, 3:30 pm– Sequoyah Room (280 Student Union)

(1) Chairperson Jeff Loeffert called the meeting at 3:32 pm.

(2) Roll Call

**ASFC Present:** Isabel Alvarez-Sancho (FLL), Leticia Barchini (MATH), Brad Bays (GEOG) Lee Brasuell (TH), Jay Gregg (GEOL), Joe Cecil (CS), Babu Fathepure (MICR), John Gelder (CHEM), Emily Graham (HIST), Jay Gregg (GEOL) Apple Igrek (PHIL), Ted Kian (SMSC), Lynn Lewis (ENGL), Jeff Loeffert (MUSI), Chad Malone (SOC), Stephen Nemeth (POLS), Peter Ritchsmeier (CDIS), Mark Sisson (ARTS), Gil Summy (PHYS), Mary Towner (IBIO), Linda Watson (PBEE), Lan Zhu (STAT).

**Administration Present:** Dean Bret Danilowicz, Associate Dean Bruce Crauder.

(3) Approval of the May Minutes

Incorrect spelling of names were corrected.

Alvarez-Sancho made the motion to approve, Graham seconded and the council voted in favor of the motion.

(4) Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve made by Ritchsmeier, seconded by Towner, Agenda approved.

(5) Standing Committees

- **College Policy and Planning:** Committee chairperson Jay Gregg explained that the PP-committee needs to make further revisions to the RPT document in regards to early tenure. Gregg asked Bruce Crauder for a meeting to gather relevant information prior to the committee meeting. The committee will consider modifications to the RPT document that incorporate precise language regarding early promotion criteria. The effort will set up uniform standards across the College. Once the College document is updated and approved, departments will adapt their documents accordingly.

- **Curriculum Committee:** Nothing to report.

- **Rules and Procedures Committee:** Nothing to report.

- **Scholarship Committee:** In August, the Council decided that the Scholarship Committee should handle the description of criteria and the administration for the Junior Faculty Award. Chairperson Lynn Lewis informed that her committee did not find it appropriate to handle the job. The reasons provided: (a) there are Junior members in the Committee that might want to be considered, (b) the committee traditionally handles undergraduate scholarships, (c) the evaluating committee should be balanced in representation. The discussion...
– Richtsmeier proposed modifications to the award to allow faculty in their fourth or fifth year to apply.
– Towner responded that supporting Junior faculty was very important.
– Watson and Loeffert emphasized the importance of the award.
– Bays mentioned that Regents Professors were assigned the administration of the award. Being a Regents Professor is both an honor and a responsibility. He encouraged the administration to have the Regents Professors handle the award.
– Sisson offered to serve as he believes the award is important.
– Loeffert proposed to get back to the Council with a concrete proposal on a ad-hoc committee that handles the award. He proposed the committee be formed by a combination of tenured faculty, Council representatives and Regents Professors.

Brasuell moved to table the discussion, Malone seconded, the council agreed.

(6) Old Business
Wise-Diggs-Berry Award
Dean Danilowicz reported a problem with the documentation of the award. The foundation has two distinct documents about it. One document describes the award as recognizing teaching excellence and it is signed. The other document describes the award as recognizing Scholarly activities and it is not signed. Over twenty years the foundation used the second document. Dean Danilowicz observed that the donors are alive and that he could contact them to clarify on the intention of the donation. The discussion:
• As the signed document is the one that described the award as a teaching award, modifications to criteria and selection process should be made.
• Loeffert shared a draft containing the current and modified description of the Wise-Diggs-Berry Award.
• Lynn Lewis made various corrections and observations on the document.
• The Council engaged in a discussion on methods to evaluate teaching and their effectiveness.
• Loeffert will present the council a proposal regarding the award in the October meeting.
• The discussion was deferred for the October meeting.

(7) Early tenure applications in the RPT process
The College Policy and Planning committee will address modifications to the RPT document to address early tenure. The effort will set up uniform standards across the College. Once the College document is updated and approved, departments will adapt their documents accordingly. The College will await instructions from the Provost’s office in regards to applicants that apply and fail to achieve early tenure. Here the issue is if those applicants can be reconsidered at a latter time.

(8) Evaluation of A&S Centers
The purpose and benefits of college-wide centers were discussed in the August meeting. The Council raised questions and concerns regarding the allocation of the College budget that could give priority to such centers. A specific proposal was discussed, i.e. a proposal to create the Oklahoma Center for Advanced Infrared Technology.

Dean Danilowicz met with a group of faculty involved in the Oklahoma Center for Advanced Infrared Technology project. The Dean explained the team is not seeking funding from the College (at this moment) but a name approval. The financial gain is in the indirect cost. The centers can keep 8% of the indirect cost of grants awarded to them. Even though the proposed center is interdisciplinary and involves faculty from various colleges, as and Arts and Sciences Center, a portion of the indirect cost will benefit the College.

The discussion:
- Questions were raised regarding aspects of the proposal. In particular, the Council discussed the extent and significance of undergraduate research in the proposal. Summy clarified some of the issues. He explained that the Physics department is collaborating by giving support to undergraduates that participate in the project and that the team expects other departments to do the same in the future.
- The external and internal marketing value of having a named center was discussed.
- It was observed that while the proposal includes undergraduates it does not explicitly specify graduate student’s involvement.
- Watson pointed out that 8% of indirect cost going to the center is a significant amount that affects the College. She also pointed out that Centers are renewed and evaluated every 5 years.
- Barchini move to cast a vote on the proposal, Watson seconded.
- The Council unanimously approved the creation of the Oklahoma Center for Advanced Infrared Technology.

(9) **New Business**

**ASFC appointment** Linda Watson volunteered.

**Parking policy**

A department asked the Council to address the closing of parking lots on “Football days”. The Council concurred that the closing of parking lots affects and undermines the academic mission of the University. Various representatives explained how their research and teaching is affected by such a measure. It was also pointed out that parking expenses have increased significantly (even though salaries are stagnant). If lots are not available when faculty needs them, then an adjustment should be made to the parking cost. The Dean suggested the issue be handled by the Faculty at the University level. Loeffert expressed a sentiment of the Council to pronounce on the issue. Session volunteered to write a draft and to present it to the Council during the October meeting.
(10) **Dean’s Report**
- The Dean reported that twenty five people already applied to the “Post-doctoral program at the College level”. The program aims to enhance diversity in the College. He encouraged faculty to let people in their respective fields know about the program and to seek qualified applicants. He also announced that Faculty Council representatives will be involved in the selection process.
- The Dean praised the History department. They are the first department in the College to have a pre-MBA degree approved.

(11) **Closing**
Motion to adjourn made by Ritchsmeier.