

OSU Emeriti Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 28, 2023

1:30 Emeriti Suite

Executive Committee Members Present: Gary Sherrer, Mike Woods, Kent Sampson, Priscilla Gerfen, Kay Keys, Ron Miller

Council Members Present: Judy Hoberock, Barbara Miller, Gerald Stangl, Carolyn Gang, Ray Huhnke, Carol Schmitz, Gary Clark, Bob LeValley, Mike Lorenz

Committee Chairs Present: None

Emeriti Support Present: Sofia Gustafson

Guests Present: Christa Louthan, Amy Hoy, Rachel Shreffler

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Gary.

Minutes: It was moved (Carolyn) and seconded (Barbara) that the minutes of the April 24 meeting be approved. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Following a brief discussion, it was moved (Carol) and seconded (Mike) that the report be received. The motion passed.

Past President's Report: Following an in-depth review of the Constitution and the Policies and Procedures document, Kent announced that membership in the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) would be retained and that the president-elect would attend the organization's national conference. The provost will reimburse both the dues and conference expenses.

In closing out the review, Kent announced that no modifications had been recommended to the Constitution. With regard to Policies and Procedures, he moved (with a second from Carolyn) that the Facilities Committee be eliminated and that the president take over the duties of the Committee. The motion passed. This change and the following additional modifications will be made to the document:

- Item 2 will include the previously agreed-upon decision that those who have paid annual dues for ten years will become life-members.
- Item 19 was modified to eliminate the installation ceremony for new officers in favor of a simple announcement at the December dinner.

Kent expressed gratitude to Sofia for her tireless work on this project.

In other business, Kent asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee. Mike Woods and Carol agreed to serve. A slate will be brought to the October meeting, voting will occur at the November meeting, and new officers will be introduced at the December dinner.

Vice-President for Activities: Priscilla confirmed that Kenny Gajewski, softball coach, would be the speaker for the October dinner. The speaker for November will be Vincent Rivera, OSU Veterans Affairs Office. In February, Jim Rutledge will appear as Abraham Lincoln.

Administrative Assistant Report: Sofia reported that, to date, 40 reservations had been received for the 35th Anniversary Celebration. She will send another email invitation to the membership. In response to her expressed need for card stock, Ron agreed to make the purchase for her.

Membership Report: Mike Lorenz announced that Barbara Stoker had joined the organization as a life member. He has begun the recruitment process for those who retired between January 1 and July 1. He will be providing a list to councilors so that they can make personal contact with those they know.

Committee Reports:

Faculty Council: Barbara's complete report appears following these minutes.

Other Business:

Health Care Benefits Update: Amy Hoy, Rachel Shreffler, and Christa Louthan, all representatives of OSU Benefits, attended the meeting to provide an update on the issue of insurance. They reported that negotiations had resumed between OSU and the Stillwater Medical Center (SMC). Councilor Gary Clark, a member of the SMC Board, added that he is hopeful that an agreement between the two entities can be reached.

35th Anniversary Committee: Priscilla and Kay reported that they are "dotting i's and crossing t's" in final preparation for the event. It was moved (Gary) and seconded (Judy) that Gary invite the chairs of the Board of Regents, the Faculty Council, and the Staff Advisory Council. The motion passed.

Alumni Association/Emeriti Association Contract: Referring to the newly updated contract which he had recently sent to council members, Gary reminded the group that it should be reviewed every year. He then invited councilors to visit the Emeriti Association's new *permanent* office on the second floor. He thanked Sofia and Ron for their assistance in setting it up.

Emeriti Ambassadors: The chair for the Ambassadors is Joyce Sherrer. Gary revealed the attractive permanent nametags that are being made for those who have volunteered to serve.

Adjournment: It was moved (Mike Lorenz) and seconded (Gerald) that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:40.

Announcements:

- The next dinner will be held at 6:00 on September 11.
- The next meeting of the Council will be September 25.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kay W. Keys, Secretary

August 15, 2023, Faculty Council Report

Submitted by Barbara Miller

Special Reports:

Arts and Sciences Faculty Council Survey on Benefits: Lisa Slevitch and Mark Weiser reported on a Benefits Survey result. They asked Faculty and Staff questions about satisfaction with Leave, Retirement, and Sick leave. They were also interested in views on Long Term care, critically ill insurance, and pet insurance. Their responses indicated that Staff were basically satisfied with their benefits. However these were just yes /no questions and did not explain the possible need for such things as a Sick Leave bank. The power point was not readable to the room as the print was dense and very small. I had a question on whether there was any information or background given on the various possible additions to benefits and they said there was not. It is entirely possible that staff, for example, did not want any insurance added that they would have to pay for. The question of a sick leave bank will probably come up before the Faculty Committee this year. (The last time it was opposed by the administration because of cost. Apparently the University counts unused sick leave in their budget and did not want to lose that income. The opposite view contends that there are only one or two of these cases which come up every year, and sometimes none.)

President Shrumm: She spoke first about **realignment of the Big 12** conference and the new teams which had been added, some over the summer. She said there may be some federal lawsuits regarding NCAA rules and there may be federal intervention. She mentioned how important the Conference membership was to OSU but did not offer details on benefits to the University other than to the sports program.

She briefly discussed that the **Boone Pickens Foundation's latest gift of \$120 million** will bring his total donations to around \$600 million. Of the new gift, \$63.7 million goes to scholarships, \$25 million goes to athletics, \$8 million to Carston Creek and additions to the stadium.

She mentioned that enrollment this year includes 4,670 freshmen, second largest in our history.

Lastly she reported on appropriations from the State. Vet Med was a big winner this year, with a one time funding of \$79 million, plus \$11 million annually added plus original \$4 million, so \$15 million annually now. Much money will be spent on upgrading the Hospital.

She introduced **Jessica Russel, OSU's Governmental Affairs Liaison**, who spoke briefly about her role. She works at the Capitol, and is the Director of Public Policy for the Higher Education Regents,. She has spent 16 years at the Capitol and 11 of those for OSU. She works on State Policy Development, with emphasis on Higher Education. She reported \$130 million to OSU this coming year, including \$49 million in pay raises. Much of the money will also go the Aerospace Program, plus Engineering , Teaching and Nursing. She said her department has looked at 2300 of the 3000 bills proposed over the past year. She also mentioned the Guns on Campus rule in place, which is that the OSU President decides who can carry a gun on Campus.

Provost – New Deans hired: Agriculture VP and Dean Jason Lusk, and Spears school of Business Dean Dr. James Payne. There will be searches opened in November for Engineering, A and S and the Graduate College.

There will be a Deans retreat to discuss Alignment and Strategy. They will also be working on Promotion and Tenure policy review.

All Faculty recommendations were finally approved over the summer so we are starting fresh! The last to be approved was the Land Acknowledgement Statement. There will be a plaque erected on campus with the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Vice Presidents: The Medical Insurance problems should now be settled through 2024. The entire problem has not been agreed upon however.

Faculty Council Chair – The Committee to discuss problems for Non Tenure Track Faculty is starting up. They will have two chairs, one for tenured and one for non-tenured faculty.

Women's Faculty Council – has changed their name to indicate issues they work on : new name is **Faculty Council for Gender Equality**. He also greeted new Councilors welcoming them to the Council.

Adjourned at 4 PM