

OSU Emeriti Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 23, 2022

1:30 Emeriti Suite

Executive Committee Members Present: Gary Sherrer, Priscilla Gerfen, Kay Keys, Ron Miller

Council Members Present: Cara Beer, Barbara Miller, Gerald Stangl, Ray Huhnke

Committee Chairs Present: Clem Ward

Emeriti Support Present: Sofia Gustafson

Minutes: It was moved (Barbara) and seconded (Priscilla) that the minutes of the April 25 meeting be approved. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Ron reported that he and Kent had met with Dee Niles at the Foundation. He provided a Foundation Endowment Activity Report to clarify how his treasurer's reports are created. The April report was received as presented.

Past President's Report: In Mike's absence, no report was made.

Emeriti/OLLI Dinner: Ron reported that only 76 of the 100 people who had made reservations had attended the dinner. The reason for the lower-than-expected turnout is thought to be the tornado warnings that were issued for that evening. Sofia reported that feedback from the dinner had been good. While the entertainment provided by the trio Functional Polly was, for the most part, well received, at least one attendee felt that it was too long.

President Elect: No report. In Kent's absence, Gary presided at the meeting. He expressed gratitude for the talent and commitment exhibited by members of the Council.

Vice-president for Activities: Priscilla announced that Coach Sanchez would speak at the June dinner. She will meet with him next week. There being no other dinners until September, discussion centered on possible guest speakers for the fall. Suggestions included Dr. Coon (Agriculture), the women's softball coach, and the mayor of Stillwater.

Unfinished Business: Clem provided an oral summary of the written research he had provided for the last meeting, which he was unable to attend. He stated that the subsidy provided by the Council was usually just \$2 to \$3. He felt that, by adding some new caterers, the current cost of \$15 remained workable. The group agreed; no action was necessary.

New Business: As a result of Kent's renewal letter, which went out to former members who had not yet renewed their membership for the year, 4 individuals and/or couples have sent in dues. Cara called attention to the fact that the Emeriti Association would observe its 35th anniversary of its founding in 2023. There was considerable interest in creating a committee or organize a special event to celebrate this milestone.

Announcements:

- The next dinner meeting will be held in the Alumni Center at 6:00 on June 6. Meet and Greet will begin at 5:30 as usual.
- The next Council meeting will be held in the Alumni Center at 1:30 on August 29.
- Informal summer gatherings are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on July 11 and August 8 at the Hideaway.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:40.

Submitted by Kay W. Keys, Secretary

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May 10 Faculty Council Meeting, Submitted by Barbara Miller

Elizabeth Payne reported on The OSU Center for Sovereign Nations. She presented a power point that should be available on their website. The Address is: sovnationcenter.okstate.edu. Oklahoma is home to 39 recognized sovereign tribal nations, with a population of 392,000 citizens of those nations, which is ten percent of Oklahoma's population. Approximately ten percent of the student body at OSU self-identify as sovereign tribal nation citizens. The economic impact of tribal nations to the state is about \$12 billion dollars annually. This includes funding to education, roads and bridges, jobs, and health care. The graduation rate of these students is 98 percent. Those accepted into graduate school is 62 per cent. She pointed out that this group is associated with OSU and anyone asking for their point of view on any political movements of the state government would receive the OSU viewpoint. However, they do have contacts on their web page for various topics related to such things as Indian Law.

Brandt Gardner gave the year-end report for the General Education Advisory Council (GEAC). He indicated that the goal of the committee is to work quickly through classes available under the Gen Ed listings, retrieving syllabi, to ensure that what is taught is relevant in the current climate. They have received responses from the faculty survey and are working through the responses about the future of general ed.

President Shrumm reflected on the year, noting that she hasn't been able to contact all faculty for their opinions, and hopes to do this quickly in the next year by focusing on small groups like the Faculty Council. She is committed to an environment where everyone at OSU feels valued. She understands that ideas such as a faculty club and daycare should be addressed. She also noted that the President's house is nearly completed and an open house is scheduled for May 13. She has been involved in the Daily Bread operation on campus, and hopes to expand vegetable gardens towards creating a farmer's market at OSU.

She noted that the proposed Art building scheduled for the lot across from the McKnight Center is on hold, for a combination of funding and approval of final plans for the building.

She noted that the state legislature is working on the budget and there appears to be an Additional \$60-70 million dollars in the new budget, and OSU would receive a large part of that increase. They have delayed decisions on a raise for next year, but she hopes to create a raise package annually. The provost candidates were currently being interviewed as this meeting was held, and they hoped to be able to announce a new provost shortly.

Lastly, she had been asked about a comment regarding diversity on campus and she is willing to meet with individuals to discuss this but will issue no public statement at present.

Vice Provost – No faculty council recommendations have received final approval as of this meeting.

Vice President Kenneth Sewell reported that the Undergraduate Research Symposium was a big success, with over 180 students reporting their research. He also noted that many new NIH grants have notices relating to sexual harassment on campus in regard to grant recipients, and the university may have to report on them to NIH. There is also increased attention being paid to IRB board use, with IRB approval needing to be reported before grant approval, and post approval monitoring required in many cases. In other words, don't wait for something bad to happen but prevent it at all costs.

Vice President Joe Weaver noted that they are needing to replace the antiquated telephone system on campus. The City of Stillwater note that the new Fire Station will be near the corner of Western and Lakeview. When it is complete OSU gets the old building. OSU Special Olympics will be held for the first time in two years.

Faculty Council Chair Pam thanked the President for allowing the faculty Council members to sit in on the interviews for Provost. She noted the pandemic Committee final report and indicated that they will decide in the fall whether Covid conditions warrant another committee to meet.

Several committees included their annual reports in the minutes. These can be read on the Faculty Council Webpage

