Cole called the meeting to order with the following members present: Bach, Cecil, Curry, Fathepure, Finchum, Gardner, Hardy, Hiney, Hoff, Khojasteh, Knapp, Krishnan, Lawson, Lovern, Ma, Montgomery, Neurohr, Noden, Parveen, Perkins, Pranger, Reichard, Shan, Slevitch, Warren and Yates.

Also present: Armstrong, R., DeLatte, N., Essmiller, K., Francisco, C., Gootos, C., Hallenbeck, D., Hutchins, L., Haley, J., Junkens, K., Louthan, C., McLaughlin, T., Mendez, J, Miller, B., Peaster, R., Peek, G., Pritzlaff, R., Ringsmuth, S., Rivera, V., Sewell, K., Sheehan, R., Thomason, K., Walker, L. and Wray, K.

Absent: Conway, Jadeja and Jaroni.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Special Reports:

Ken Wagner – Hamm Institute……………………………………………………………..

Chris Ormsbee – ChatGPT and AI Technology…………………………...……………….

Mark Pranger – OSU-IT, year in review…………………………………………………...

Norb Delatte, Vince Rivera and Kristal Junkens – Veterans Faculty and Staff Assoc…….

President’s Report and Comments on matters of interest to the faculty – Kyle Wray for President Shrum....…………………………………………………………………………………

Provost’s report on Recommendations made by the Faculty Council and Comments on matters of

interest to the Faculty-Provost Mendez……………………………………………………

Vice-Presidents’ Reports and Comments on matters of interest to the faculty……………………

Faculty Council Chair’s Report……………………………………………………………………

Reports of Liaison Representatives

Emeriti…………………………………………………………………………………….

Women’s Faculty Council…………………………………………………………………

Staff Advisory Council……………………………………………………………………

Graduate Council.…………………………………………………………………………

Student Government Association…………………………………………………………

Graduate and Professional Student Government Association…………………………….

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Academic Standards and Policies ……………………………………….………………...

Athletics ………………………………………………………………….………………..

Budget …………………………………………………………………….…………….....

Campus Facilities, Safety and Security ………………………………….……………...…

Diversity………………………………………………………………….…………………

Faculty ………………………………………………………………….…………………..

Long-Range Planning and Information Technology ………………….……………...……

Research ……………………………………………………………….………………...…

Retirement and Fringe Benefits ……………………………………….……………...……

Rules and Procedures ………………………………………………….……………...……

Student Affairs and Learning Resources …………………………….………………….....

Cole asked everyone to please sign the sign-in sheet that is being passed around. Cole established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. Cole asked those attending via Zoom to please put their name in the chat so their attendance can be recorded. Cole let those attending via Zoom know if they have a question they could privately message Gardner who is watching the chat. He will then communicate the question(s) to the group. Cole stated the first item of business was the approval of the March 21, 2023 minutes. These were electronically distributed and are available on the Faculty Council website. Cole asked for corrections or objections to the approval of the minutes. Seeing none, stated the minutes are approved. Cole stated the second item of business is adoption of the agenda which was also electronically distributed and is also available on the Faculty Council website. Everyone received a modified agenda earlier today. Cole asked if there were any other corrections to the agenda. Seeing none, Cole asked for a motion to adopt the agenda with the modification. Neurohr moved and Ma seconded the motion. Cole stated that it had been moved and seconded to adopt the agenda. Cole asked those in favor to say “Aye”, those on Zoom to enter their vote in the chat. Motion passed and the agenda was adopted.

Cole stated that we have four special reports today. Our first special report is from Ken Wagner of the Hamm Institute.

**Special Reports:**

**A. Ken Wagner, Executive Director – Hamm Institute**

Wagner presented the following PowerPoint to the Council members:



Wagner stated that the Hamm Institute is constitution of two gifts. The first being the wonderful facility in Oklahoma City that was generously donated by Baker Hughes. The $120 million building was built in 2016. It has state-of-the-art lab facilities and some of the best convening facilities in the country.

Wagner stated that the Institute is seeding a First Degree Program. It is a Professional Science Masters through the Boone Pickens School of Geology with an emphasis or certification for Carbon Capture Utilizations and Storage. Wagner hopes to have at least four different degree/professional degrees with the College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology, Spears School of Business, College of Arts and Sciences and hopefully the College of Education and Human Sciences and Ferguson College of Agriculture. They are looking at internships, fellowships as well as integrating the other campuses into what the Institute does currently in Oklahoma City. Wagner stated the ultimate budget across the three multi-year current studies is approximately $1.5 million. Wagner stated they are excited to be investing in professors/faculty at OSU and finding ways to incorporate graduate and undergraduate students into the process.

Wagner opened the floor for questions. Seeing none, Cole thanked Wagner for his presentation.

**B**. **Chris Ormsbee – ChatGPT and AI Technology**

Ormsbee presented the following PowerPoint to the Council members:



Ormsbee stated that ChatGPT was released to the public November 2022 for free and has taken everyone by storm. Ormsbee stated that Artificial Intelligence (AI), which we have been using for a long time, has grown and improved over time. AI develops an understanding or the predictability of the language from a variety of sources then mimics that language. Ormsbee asked a ChatGPT to set up a presentation. It created an outline. Ormsbee asked it to provide more details. Ormsbee used some of this information in creating today’s presentation. Ormsbee stated that ChatGPT does not understand content and is not an expert. It simply sifts through all the content that it is exposed to, selects items and creates a response. Because of this issue, it can be wrong. It does not know what information it is exposed to is right and what is wrong, and we all know everything on the internet is not correct. Ormsbee showed several AI tools that are currently available but we’ll be discussing ChatGPT-4 today. The current version of ChatGPT Plus is only available with a $20/month subscription. It is no longer free. Ormsbee stated that ChatGPT is the fastest growing App in history. Ormsbee stated that 25 million people are using ChatGPT a day. Turnitin and other companies have created AI detectors. Ormsbee stated that Microsoft 365 is integrating ChatGPT into their tools. It’s called Copilot. It will be in Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook. It will be able to summarize key discussions in Teams. It will be able to create PowerPoint presentations with images. It will be able to draft emails for people as well as analyzing key points of an email thread. It will be able to create summaries of graphs and data on Excel spreadsheets. Ormsbee discussed how smart AI is (see slide 6). Ormsbee stated that IT has been discussing ChatGPT with faculty members since December 2022 telling them ways to avoid it. Ormsbee stated they will continue to discuss this but will also discuss ways to utilize it and help their students use it as well as ensuring that they are still doing their own work. The current Academic Integrity Policy states that students must do their own work. Ormsbee stated that privacy is a big concern. Ormsbee discussed upcoming conferences and workshops regarding How to Lean into AI and other tools.

Ormsbee opened the floor for questions. Zoom question – Should we use Turnitin’s AI detector to identify work submitted by students? Ormsbee stated you could use it but she doesn’t believe it’s enough evidence for a faculty member to accuse a student of violating Academic Integrity. Ormsbee stated it’s simply not that accurate yet. Ormsbee would use it to start a conversation with a student. Unless the student admits to using AI and you did not specifically say they could not it in the class, Ormsbee doesn’t think this would be an Academic Integrity issue. Slevitch asked if there will be a syllabus statement at some point specifying how AI could be used or not used. Ormsbee stated they could do a university statement, but each faculty member is different. Some faculty are fine using AI while others are not. Ormsbee believes a standard statement like we have now - inappropriate collaboration or use of resources not allowed – allows the faculty member to decide what is allowed in their classroom. Ormsbee said some K-12 and college level studies have been done and the results show that 90% of the students interviewed had used AI and found it useful. Knapp asked how this will affect our profession. As new technologies come along we race to embrace it in order to provide students with the skills sets needed to function in society. How will this be any different. Ormsbee stated it’s another tool for faculty and students to use. If faculty members are going to use it in their class to say help students write a paper, you would not have them just hit submit. The students must go back and check for mistakes because ChatGPT gets things wrong. They will have to edit the work before submitting it. It goes back to “What’s the point of the assignment.” If the purpose of the assignment is to teach students how to write, then you would not want them to use ChatGPT. Ormsbee stated this will make us change the way we do things which may not be a bad thing. Hoff asked if ChatGPT is getting smarter? Ormsbee stated yes. Four months ago, it was stated that writing produced by ChatGPT was rough, simplistic and very obviously not written by a human. Now the writing level of ChatGPT is at a college graduate level. It’s getting smarter as it gets more access and practice. Ormsbee stated that businesses are using it as well. 90% of the businesses surveyed are working on ways to utilize AI by next year because it will make them more efficient.

**C. Mark Pranger – OSU-IT, year in review**

Pranger presented the following PowerPoint to the Council members:



OSU-IT has four schools:

School of Creative & Information Technologies (SCIT)

School of Arts, Sciences and Health (SASH)

School of Transportation and Heavy Equipment (STHE)

School of Engineering and Construction Technologies (SECT)

Pranger stated something that makes OSUT-IT unique is that two of their SCIT programs have industry partners embedded into the school itself. The Bachelor of Technology program has Cerberus Sentinel (formerly True Digital Security) on campus. OSU-IT students have internship opportunities as well as live work experience at the company. The OSU-IT 3D Design program also has an industry partner, Exaltor, located in their 3D Design area. They also offer internships to students. This 3D Design program is involved in the creation of OSU-IT’s virtual reality program. Virtual Reality is used to teach students the proper way to set a table for the Culinary Program, OSU-IT engineers use it to teach students how to properly set up a bench. In 2023, OSU-IT President, Dr. Bill Path is hoping to add more programs for students. Pranger stated that many of the students in the STHE programs are sponsored by various companies (Ford, Toyota, etc.). The companies pay for their degree then the student goes to work for them. Students in the SECT programs also have some sponsorships. Students get their bachelor's degree paid for and go to work for the company. Pranger stated that the High Voltage program located in OSU-IT, SECT, will be the first OSU-IT program offered in Tulsa at the OSU-Tulsa campus.

Pranger stated that OSU-IT goes year-round. They have three full semesters and do not take the summers off. Pranger stated that their Pete’s Pantry includes clothing. They offer professional style clothing to help students prepare for internships and interviews. Pranger highlighted the Culinary program which participated in the largest plated dinner in Oklahoma last year. They served a three-course meal. 16,000 plates all served to 550 tables in less than a half hour. The culinary instructors and students participated in this event and did a tremendous job. Pranger stated they have a workplace development program that offers specialized training meant for industry provided by professors and other knowledgeable industry professionals. The Fiberoptics Technician program will be offered in Tulsa. Pranger stated that the OSU-IT Culinary Arts program received the 2022 Green Award. OSU-IT also earned the 2022-2023 Military Friendly School Gold designation which honors the top 20% of colleges, universities and trade schools that best support America’s military service members, Veterans and spouses. Pranger mentioned that OSU-IT President Bill Path celebrated his 11th anniversary in 2022.

Pranger opened the floor to questions. Seeing none, Cole announced the final special report.

**D. Norb Delatte, Vincent Rivera and Kristal Junkens – Veterans Faculty and Staff Association**

Rivera, Delatte and Junkens introduced themselves and presented the following PowerPoint regarding student Veteran culture and issues facing student Veterans to the Council members:



The Veterans Faculty and Staff Association is currently on the Recruiting and Talent Development schedule to provide presentations to staff members. Rivera also wanted to present this information to faculty members. Faculty members are with students every day. Rivera would like to schedule separate presentations for faculty members.

Rivera stated that a survey of staff and faculty was conducted in 2016-2017 which provided information regarding student Veterans. 70% of the respondents said they did not feel adequately prepared to answer questions and help student Veterans. 94% of respondents stated they need the tools this training would provide to assist student Veterans. When the support services and assistance were available to student Veterans, the universities saw an improvement in graduation and retention of student Veterans. Delatte asked Rivera to discuss how to set up a group presentation. Rivera stated the presentation is typically one hour with time scheduled for questions afterwards. Rivera stated their contact information can be found on the HR Talent, Development and Recruiting site. A few presentations are scheduled for the following dates:

* July 13, 2023. 2:00-3:00 in 107 Willard Hall
* August 31, 2023. 9:00-10:00 in 417 Student Union
* April 10, 2024, in 417 Student Union

Rivera stated they would be happy to present to any groups that are interested. Please take this information back to your colleges and partner institutions and let them know this training is available. Contact information is available on the first slide.

Cole opened the floor to questions. Seeing none, introduced Kyle Wray to give the President’s report. He will be followed by Provost Mendez.

**President’s Report and Comments on matters of interest to the faculty – Kyle Wray for President Shrum**

Wray thanked Dr. Sewell for coordinating last week’s energy event. Dr. Sewell will discuss this more later.

Wray updated the council members about OSUs new Nursing Program. This will be a 4-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree which will be offered in the 2023-2024 school year. Wray stated that Oklahoma ranks 46th in the nation for registered nurses per capita. We want to try to fix this. This degree reflects OSU’s Land Grant Mission to meet workforce demands in the state. The university plans to renovate space on campus to create a new, fully equipped lab for the program. 50 students are expected to be admitted in the first year then growing the program to 100 within a year or two. Wray stated we currently have 600+ people who have applied so far.

Wray announced that on March 30th ground was broken on the new Psychiatric Hospital in Tulsa. The Oklahoma Psychiatric Care Center will hold 106 beds and replace the Tulsa Center for Behavioral Health. It will feature a 24-hour crisis response and urgent recovery center. The new center is projected to open in late 2024 or early 2025. This will be a $70 million facility and represents a partnership between the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Center for Health Sciences (CHS), the city and county of Tulsa as well as several philanthropic organizations.

Wray stated that Garth Brooks will be on campus April 14 and 15th to perform two concerts. The student concert is on Friday. Students received tickets by donating recently purchased items for Pete’s Pantry or the Red Pantry. Donors, faculty and staff were given exclusive access to purchase tickets for the April 15th concert. This event sold out very quickly. These concerts are part of the OSU Strategy to reduce student debt through the focus on scholarships as well as to increase enrollment. We are excited that Garth has been here two times in the past six months. Dr. Shrum has worked hard to get Brooks back into the OSU fold and we appreciate all that hard work.

Legislative efforts and federal support. Wray stated that a lot of people are working on budget support for higher education. Wray hopes to have more information to share at the May meeting as the Legislature wraps up its session. Jamie Jacobs, Oklahoma Aerospace Institute for Research and Education, has been in the news quite a bit lately and we appreciate everything that he is doing. The Human Performance and Nutrition Research Institute (HPNRI) symposium is Friday, April 28th from 9-1 in the Nancy Randolph Davis Building Great Hall. The goal of the symposium is to raise awareness of the institute, explore our current resources and identify possible interdisciplinary opportunities across the OSU system. If you want to be a part of the symposium, please RSVP to [hpnri@okstate.edu](mailto:hpnri@okstate.edu). Seats are going quickly. Wray wanted to make everyone aware of the Wine Forum of Oklahoma which will be April 21st and 22nd. The Wine Forum will be celebrating wineries from around the globe and recognizing the diversity of wines from the world’s greatest wine growing regions. This is also Earth Day.

Gootos asked if the OSU system had considered following up the new Bachelor of Technology degrees with a possible Masters in Technology degree in the Strategic Plan. Wray deferred this question to Provost Mendez.

**Provost’s report on recommendations made by the Faculty Council and comments on matters of interest to the Faculty:**

In response to the question, Provost Mendez stated that the administration has given it thought It is something we continue to talk about and will talk to the State Regents about. Mendez stated from OSU’s perspective and the Strategy, nothing is off the table.

Mendez stated that we are in the home stretch of the semester. She asked everyone to remember that this is the time of year a lot of students are wondering about their classes and empathy towards students is a great idea at this point in the semester. Mendez asked everyone to please read the pre-finals policy. Her office receives multiple questions about this every semester. Students contact her office saying faculty are adding/assigning work out of the blue which adds to their level of anxiety at the end of the semester.

Mendez updated the Council members on the current recommendation:

21-12-01-DIV: Land Acknowledgement Statement for the OSU Stillwater Campus. Pending. The proposed statement originally drafted in 2019 and reviewed and modified by multiple campus organizations and administrative groups has now been recommended by the FC Diversity Committee and is recommended for adoption by OSU. The Provost anticipates presenting the statement to the Council of Deans in April for consideration.

This recommendation will go to the Council of Deans Thursday. From there it will go to the Executive Committee. Mendez believes it will appear on the sheet in May but should go to the Board of Regents at their June meeting.

**Vice Presidents’ Reports and Comments on matters of interest to the faculty:**

**Dr. Kenneth Sewell – Vice President of Research**

Sewell stated that it has been an entertaining and busy time for research at OSU. Sewell stated when you look at the Strategy priority areas (which are not the only areas where OSU does research when talking about research enterprise) are not aspirational. They were not chosen out of thin air or because there is a lot of money there. They were chosen because they are both important to society and are areas where OSU already has a deep, deep expertise. Sewell said the HPNRI symposium has been discussed which is building on the One Health and Human performance side of things. Sewell said that just today, the Oklahoma Center for Respiratory Infectious Disease (which is a Bio-Medical Excellence Center funded by NIH here at OSU) that serves the entire state is hosting their eleventh symposium on campus today. They are transitioning into a Phase III Center of Bio-Medical Research Center of Excellence. We have Micro-Biome working to get into this same category of NIH designation. Sewell stated on the Aerospace side, we have chosen to elevate the Oklahoma Aerospace Institute for Research and Education. Not aspirational but we have deep expertise in this area. In Washington D.C. last week, Sewell and Jamie Jacobs met with a Department of Defense (DOD) official about contracting issues and acquiring more funding in this area for the Army to utilize this expertise. The Deputy Assistant Secretary said to pause the discussion of Aerospace for a minute because he wanted to set up a separate follow-up meeting to discuss how the Army can work with OSU in the energy realm. Sewell stated in the energy realm, OSU has had for over 40 years an Industrial Assessment Center. This is a highly impactful center on campus that goes out to small to medium size businesses, assesses their energy utilization and practices then makes recommendations to the business that could potentially save them money and become more energy efficient. This center has been in existence for a long time and has been very successful. Sewell stated that recently the Department of Energy announced the opportunity to have a regional center of assessment excellence that could help expand the scope of Energy/Industrial Assessment Centers across their region. OSU applied with the help of the Hamm Institute. Last week, OSU received a call from a staff member of the Secretary of Energy requesting a visit to OSU to see our Center and check things out. Sewell and company planned a small greeting with President Shrum. The next day, Sewell received notification that OSU had received the regional center grant. The small event turned into a larger event with a press conference and announcement for the creation of the Great Plains Center of Excellence (GPCoE) to be housed within OSU’s Industrial Assessment Center here in Stillwater. The Secretary of Defense, Jennifer Granholm and Second Gentleman, Doug Emhoff marked this historic day with a tour of OSU and the $7 million funding award announcement. Governor Stiff and President Shrum attended the event.

Sewell mentioned that one week from today the Undergraduate Research Symposium will be at the Alumni Center. There are almost 200 undergraduate presenters from 80 different units around campus. If you have a chance to stop by, please do so. Encourage your students to become involved in undergraduate research.

**Christa Louthan – Chief Human Resource Officer:**

Louthan stated that VP Weaver asked her to give the Council members an update on the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) and Stillwater Medical Center (SMC) contract. Louthan has good news, BCBS and SMC have reached an agreement to extend the current contract until the end of this calendar year, December 31, 2023. This buys us some time and allows them time to continue discussions on an agreement for a longer period of time. In the meantime, OSU will continue to work with our team as well as our consultants on options that will benefit our community, both our campus and Stillwater communities. Louthan will keep the Council updated on the progress. Louthan opened the floor for questions. Armstrong will be having a baby in six weeks and asked if they will need to find a new doctor possibly outside of Stillwater moving forward. Louthan stated that the contract extension means no changes. Armstrong will not have to make any changes to his provider. Louthan asked Armstrong to contact one of HR’s Benefits Professionals if he wanted to talk more about the current provider he is seeing. Their phone number is 405-744-5449. Their email is [osu-benefits@okstate.edu](mailto:osu-benefits@okstate.edu).

**Dr. Doug Hallenbeck – VP Student Affairs**

Hallenbeck announced the 3rd annual Remembrance Service which will be this Saturday in the Remembrance Garden at 4:00. Hallenbeck stated the Remembrance Garden was a collaboration between Student Government, Faculty Council and Student Affairs to develop a place to go to remember those loved ones that we have lost. The Garden is open anytime someone needs a quiet place for reflection.

**Faculty Council Chair’s report:**

Cole stated that the 2023 Faculty Council election ended yesterday. Cole provided the following election results:

Vice Chair – Lisa Slevitch

Secretary – Christopher Crick

College of Arts & Sciences – Cristina Gonzalez and Lynn Lewis

College of Education & Human Sciences – Deana Hildebrand was accepted

College of Eng., Arch. & Tech – Awilda Rodriquez Carron was accepted

College of Veterinary Medicine – Dr. Emily McCool

Ferguson College of Agriculture – John Michael Riley was accepted

OSU-Tulsa – Katherine Curry was accepted

For those in the Spears School of Business, the candidate is currently being voted on and will close this Friday.

Cole announced the survey from the Faculty and Staff Community Special Committee is still open. If you need the link, please let Cole know and she will be happy to send it to you. There will be a Zoom listening session this Thursday as well. Cole thanked everyone for their participation. She knows that there are a lot of surveys and feedback options/opportunities out for faculty and staff in the month of April. Cole hopes that this displays that Faculty Council wants to understand what faculty wants and needs so that new policies, procedures and actions that take place are from the voices of faculty members.

Cole stated the Faculty Council officers have had lunch with the candidates for the Associate Vice Provost of Student Success over the past few weeks. This has been a great opportunity for us to get to know the candidates and provide feedback to the Provost’s office.

Cole announced an Employee Mental Health Fair. It will be April 25th in the Student Union from 10:00-1:00.

Cole announced the annual Faculty Council Committee Preference Survey will be administered at the end of April. Cole hopes that Faculty Council as well as General Faculty members will participate so we know which Faculty Council and University Wide Committees they are most interested in.

Cole asked for questions. Seeing none moved to Liaison Representative Reports.

**Report of Liaison Representatives:**

* 1. Emeriti – Barbara Miller
* At the Emeriti Council Meeting, held on March 27, a couple of important business items were acted upon. One deals with the 35th Anniversary Dinner to be held on September 11, of this year. A committee was formed to plan the celebration. Kay Keys and Priscilla Gerfen graciously agreed to co-chair the committee. Cara Beer, Joyce Sherrer and Judy Hoberock expressed some great ideas for the celebration and also agreed to serve on the planning committee. The group will discuss ideas for the celebration and submit a proposed budget to the Emeriti Council.
* One of the first members of the Emeriti Group, Myr-Lou Rollins, has graciously donated a copy of a history of the early Emeriti meetings to the Emeriti Archive.  She also has donated a copy of her lifetime membership certificate, one of the first issued in the first year of our existence, 1988.
* In other business, the Emeriti Council was asked to replace Ed Arquitt as the Emeriti Association’s liaison on the OLLI Advisory Committee. Carol Schmitz volunteered to serve in that capacity and is much appreciated by the council.  The OLLI group is reconstituting their Advisory Board, and Carol also agreed to serve on the Board as Emeriti rep.
* As we do after each report, we encourage any of the faculty who might be considering retirement to please consider joining the Emeriti Association. The fellowship is terrific, especially at the Emeriti dinners which are held each month.
  1. Women’s Faculty Council – Morgan Pfeiffer

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* 1. Staff Advisory Council – Michelle Stewart

The Staff Advisory Council is in the middle of the nomination process and then elections will begin. New members will be seated at the June monthly meeting.

* 1. Graduate Council – Rebecca Sheehan

*Graduation Requirements*. Registrar Peaster spoke on the draft proposed changes to UAR 7.1 Graduation Requirements and 7.8 Graduation Application handout. The application wording will reflect a change from “required” to “expectation” to streamline graduation. Approved.

*International Applications*. Reminder: May 1, 2023 is the deadline for Fall 2023 International applications.

*Graduate Education Appreciation Breakfast*. Dean Tucker invited all Graduate Council members to attend the Graduate Education Appreciation Breakfast to be help on Thursday, April 6th at 9:00 in the Starlight Terrace and the Graduate College Awards Ceremony on April 26th at 3:30 in the SU Council Room.

*Publication Requirements for Graduation*: Subject Matter groups that had held their semester group meetings reported that members were not in favor of having publication requirements to earn a graduate degree.

*Outside Member Restrictions*. Council discussed the continued sometimes-confused main role of the outside member on PhD committees. Council approved a motion to rename “Outside Member” to “Graduate College Representative” to reflect the role of this committee member.

*Attendance at Defenses*. Council approved a motion that defenses could be either virtual or in-person and that the preference of the student should be given priority.

Lawson last month asked about the changes to English proficiency requirements for admissions and employment. He was told it was only for admissions. After a conversation with the Graduate College, Lawson’s understanding is that it also changed who had to take the International Teaching Assistant (ITA) exam for employment as well. Lawson stated that if they do not have to take the exam for admissions they will not have to take it for employment either. So it did change the requirements for employment. It is Sheehan’s understanding that if the student is coming from an English-speaking country, the student would not have to take the ITA exam. Lawson stated that the list of English-speaking countries has also changed. Sheehan stated yes, it used to be heavily oriented toward Western Countries. Sheehan apologized if she misspoke last month. Sheehan stated that in her program they interview students/applicants to judge their English proficiency. Even if they have met particular requirements, they will often suggest the student take or include courses to help improve their English in order to ensure their success here at OSU. This is regardless of whether they are employed or not.

* 1. Student Government Association – Riley Pritzlaff/Ty McLaughlin

Pritzlaff announced the new Student Body President and Vice President. They are Ashley Peterson and Hilary Albrecht. Pritzlaff echoed VP Wray’s comments, he is very excited about Garth Brooks concerts that will directly affect scholarships as well as Pete’s Pantry and the Red Pantry.

Pritzlaff announced SGA is doing “Into the Streets” on April 29th. This is one of our largest service event of the year. They are hoping for over 1,000 students. 900 have already signed up.

Pritzlaff had the pleasure of serving on the search committee for the Associate Vice Provost for Student Success. Pritzlaff thanked Dr. Francisco for all his work. It was a great experience.

Pritzlaff stated that he is working with Scott Alexander in Student Conduct and Brian Blevins in Campus Life assessing food insecurity issues. This will give us a better idea of who our programs are reaching, who is aware of the programs and areas we can improve. There is a research and feedback component to the assessment.

McLaughlin gave additional information.

* SGA has been working on a safety and security recommendation to the university. This recommendation went through committee last week and will be heard at the Student Body Senate meeting this Wednesday.
* I attended a Stillwater Chamber of Commerce meeting last Friday. They had their monthly breakfast forum with state legislators. We are in talks with them to plan a voter registration event on campus.
* Spring election results were certified on March 30th. Our President elect and Vice-President elect for 2023-2024 are Ashley Peterson and Hilary Albrecht.
* The 2023 SGA inauguration is scheduled for April 28 at 4pm in Student Union Council room 412. There will be a small reception from 4-4:30pm and the swearing-in ceremony will begin at 4:30pm. This event is open to faculty and staff.
  1. Graduate & Professional Student Government Association – Marcia Sun

**General Assembly Meeting - March 2023:**

Our invited speaker was OSU Provost and Senior Vice President Dr. Jeanette Mendez. Due to a schedule conflict, Senior VP Jerome Loughridge served as the guest speaker to provide an overview of the OSU Strategic Plan and answer questions from the general assembly.

**New GPSGA Initiatives and Programs** **Updates**

Based on feedback and meetings with members of the general assembly in the past semester and issues that emerged from the previous semester, a list of initiatives was proposed by the GPSGA President. The advisor, the current board, and the general assembly approved the proposals.

GPSGA Ambassador Program

* + Two Ambassadors were selected through a blind review process.
  + The GPSGA Ambassadors were invited and participated in the March board meeting to learn about the daily operations of the board.
  + They have identified areas/tasks that they would be interested in assisting in gaining additional insight into GPSGA.

GPSGA Engagement Program

* + Currently, 47 participants in the group
  + The friends’ pairing process is complete.
    - The committee will review the applications and pair the interested members for events in April.

GPSGA Graduation Stoles

* + GPSGA would like to honor the contribution of past and current GPSGA Reps/Liaisons and officers by offering the opportunity to check out a graduation stole to be returned after the graduation commencement.
  + Potential site for checking out the stoles: Graduate Success Center

Implementation of interactive activities in connection with the focused topic at the start of each general assembly meeting

* + Key objectives of the interactive activities:
    - engage the general assembly.
    - provide contextual information on the focus topic.
    - activate prior knowledge of the topic.

Launch, Lunch, and Learn Program

* + This program will be in collaboration with the Emerging Technologies and Creativity Research Lab (formerly known as the Tech Playground) on topics and discussions revolving around technology and education.
  + The initial proposal for the inaugural event is related to ChatGPT. It would outline three key components: 1. Identify the ways that graduate students could utilize it in their academic endeavors within the accepted academic regulations 2. Pitfalls of ChatGPT (what to avoid to maintain academic integrity) 3. Highlights of resources of the Emerging Technologies and Creativity Research Lab

**AFAP Meeting/Hearing for Graduate Student Organizations (in collaboration with SGA)**

* A committee of seven members, in accordance with SGA requirements, was formulated to evaluate the submissions.
* A total of 9 graduate student groups submitted and presented their requests for AFAP funding.

**Phoenix Awards**

Nominations for outstanding master's students, doctoral students, graduate teaching assistants, and faculty members for the four categories of the Phoenix Awards closed this week. Award recipients will be announced later this month and will be invited to attend the Graduate College Award Ceremony in April.

**General Assembly Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes from the seventh/March general assembly meeting will be available via the GPSGA Canvas page.

Next GPSGA General Assembly Meeting for Spring 2023:

* 8th Meeting: April 26, 2023

\* All meetings are conducted at 5:30 pm CDT in SSH 035. More details will be provided closer to the dates of the meeting.

**REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

1. **Academic Standards and Policies: Kathy Curry – No Report**

**b. Athletics: Susan Stansberry – No Report**

**c. Budget: Maria Ma – No Report**

**d**. **Campus Facilities, Safety, and Security: Bruce Noden – Update**

The Campus Facilities, Safety and Security Committee met at 2pm on 04/05/23 in the conference room in PIO 313. All members were either physically present or present via Zoom. The meeting started with a presentation of the Classroom Safety and Security Survey that will be sent to all faculty and staff in the coming weeks. The committee was provided with the opportunity to interact with the survey after the meeting, providing suggestions for edits and changes. Next, Ron Tarbutton, Director and Chief Facilities Officer, made a presentation about the main projects being undertaken on campus this year. After the presentation, conversation followed involving the reactivation of the campus night tours to identify dark places on campus needing safety and security upgrades. We also received an update regarding the decisions taken to improve the safety of pedestrians in the area close to Engineering North and the stadium. In addition to adding crosshatch across the road and trimming the tree, that area will become a 3-way Stop intersection which should reduce the speeds in the area. We commend this change and trust it will reduce the continued risk to pedestrians crossing the road. A short discussion was added to the agenda to focus on student concerns regarding the lack of Wi-Fi access, intermittent air-conditioning, cost, and schedule on the BOB, the bus service between OSU and Tulsa. It appeared to the committee that the concerns were being adequately addressed by Transportation Services and will recommend the students directly discuss their concerns with the Director who is willing to explain what is being done on a variety of levels.

Noden reviewed the Classroom Safety Survey that was provided. Noden opened the floor to questions. Knapp asked if this survey is different than the one just sent out by OSU Police. Noden stated that this survey is about what faculty and staff would like to know about classroom security. Noden stated that there are things in place currently and have been done. This survey may help in pointing people in the proper direction. Cole added that the committee was in close contact with OSU Police, OSU Emergency Operations and a large number of people from OSU and the Stillwater community to create this survey. Cole asked for a motion to approve the distribution of the survey to begin tomorrow. Knapp moved and Neurohr seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**e**. **Diversity: Divya Jaroni – No Report**

**f.** **Faculty: James Knapp – No Report**

**g**. **Long-Range Planning and Information Technology: Kris Hiney – Update**

Hiney reviewed the recommendation that was attached to the agenda. The recommendation was brought forward in response to a lawsuit filed by Speech First in January 2023. A representative from OSU Legal met with Faculty Council Executive Committee members to discuss the modifications to the policy and provided more clarity. Cole asked if there were any questions, seeing none asked for a motion to approve the modifications to the Appropriate Use Policy. Slevitch moved and Krishnan seconded the motion. Cole asked for a vote. Motion passed.

**h**. **Research: Yongwei Shan – No Report**

**i**. **Retirement & Fringe Benefits: Lisa Slevitch – No Report**

**j**. **Rules and Procedures: Karen Neurohr – Update**

Neurohr stated the committee is looking at by-law changes. We have asked all committee chairs to review the committee charges and send any suggested changes to the Rules and Procedures committee. Neurohr said they plan to have all the information available for a vote at the May meeting. Cole stated for those on Zoom, the Rules and Procedures committee has asked all committees to review their charges to make sure they are in alignment with how that committee is operating.

k. **Student Affairs and Learning Resources: Heather Yates – No Report**

**l. Non-Tenure Track Special Committee – Dr. Evan Davis, Committee Chair**

Davis reviewed the recommendation for the creation of a Faculty Council Non-Tenure Track Standing Committee that was provided with the agenda. Cole opened the floor for questions. The question was asked if this is for all non-tenure track faculty or continuous non-tenure track faculty. Does it cover career track or adjunct faculty? Davis stated it would be for renewable contract positions. Davis stated the term career track infers that those faculty members are on renewable contracts. Davis stated this will be fully determined by the standing committee. Part of their additional charge is to clarify and define career track, non-tenure track faculty. Lawson asked if this will be redefining the definition of general faculty and along with this will it change expectations and voting privileges with this definition. Davis stated the primary charge for this group is to provide representations for non-tenure track faculty. Secondarily it is to pursue voting rights for non-tenure track faculty members. Davis stated there would most likely be limitations in terms of non-tenure track faculty members voting on tenure for tenure-track faculty members. Davis believes this is already covered in other policies. The secondary charge of this committee is to explore changing policies and by-laws to include career track, non-tenure track faculty as voting members of the general faculty. Cole asked for additional questions. Seeing none asked for a motion to approve the new Non-tenure track standing committee. Slevitch moved and Krishnan seconded. Motion passed. Cole stated that you will see the option for a Non-Tenure Track Standing committee on the committee preference survey that will be out in a few weeks. Cole stated that the new standing committee charges will be included in the by-law changes Neurohr discussed earlier.

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – None

Cole asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 3:00 in room 412 Student Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Neurohr, Secretary