Gardner called the meeting to order with the following members present: Bach, Barker, Boileau, Cecil, Cole, Crick, Fathepure, Finchum, Gonzalez, Hiney, Hoff, Jadeja, Khojasteh, Knapp, Krishnan, Lawson, Ma, Olsen, Parkison, Perkins, Pranger, Slevitch, Warren, Weiser, Yates, and Yough.

Also present: Baker, S., Clawson, L, Fransisco, C., Glenn, J., Haley, J., Hawkins, C., Hiltz, S., Lacombe, V., Mendez, J., Miller, B., Noll, S., Sewell, K., Sun, M. and Weaver, J.

Absent: Hildebrand and Riley.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Special Reports:

Dr. Shannon Baker – Aso. Provost Student Success – Undergraduate Advising.……….

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

Gardner welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone that there are refreshments available behind the screen. Gardner established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. Gardner asked everyone to please sign the sign-in sheet that is being passed around. Gardner asked those attending via Zoom to please put their name in the chat so their attendance can be recorded. Gardner let those attending via Zoom know if they have a question they could privately message Slevitch who is watching the chat. She will then communicate the question(s) to the group. Gardner reminded those on Zoom to please set your microphones to mute. Gardner stated the first item of business was the approval of the March 12, 2024 minutes. These were electronically distributed and are available on the Faculty Council website. Gardner asked for corrections or objections to the approval of the minutes. Seeing none, stated the minutes are approved. Gardner 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. Gardner asked if there were any corrections to the agenda. Seeing none, Gardner asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Lawson moved and Ma seconded the motion. Gardner stated that it had been moved and seconded to adopt the agenda. Gardner asked those in favor to say “Aye”, those on Zoom to enter their vote in the chat. Any opposed, say “Nay”. Motion passed and the agenda was adopted.

**Special Reports:**

**A. Dr. Shannon Baker – Aso. Provost for Student Success**

Baker stated that she would give an update on the advising restructure which has been in the planning stages throughout this academic year. Essentially, we are centralizing first year advising for undergraduate students under the Office of Student Success. We will be doing away with the name University College and the first-year students will be advised by the Office of Student Success. Students will still be organized by their majors and seen by an advisor who is trained in the major. The first year advising team is organized into five meta-major groups. These groups were developed based on an analysis of major change migration patterns. We did this so that if a student changed his or her major in the first year, he or she will not have to change their advisor. They will stay with their current one. Each meta-major group is overseen by a manager who will also carry an advising load. We are excited about these changes that will provide targeted advising for our first-year students but also give them the support they need in their first year. There is a sixth group of advisors called our Exploratory Group. If you have a student (any student) who is having an existential crisis about their major (thinking of changing or don’t know what they want to do), this student can visit with the Exploratory Group for a consultation. They will then transition back to their regular advisor or to a new advisor if they decide to change majors. The Exploratory Group will also provide first year advising to any undecided students as well as our completely online and incoming first year students. Students will be with these advisors starting at orientation and enrollment this summer. The advisors will see students in the fall semester to advise them into the spring. They will see them in the spring semester to advise them into the subsequent year. Any student in good academic standing will then transition to the colleges in their second year. If they are not in good academic standing, they will stay with the first-year team to get more wrap-around support.

This is a substantial change, and we are doing it at its core as a retention initiative. Retention vacillates between 82%-84% since the fall of 2020. We think we can do better looking at our peer institutions. Our retention goal is to reach 88%. We believe this first year team can help us reach this goal. Baker stated that approximately 1/3 of first year students change their majors with many changing from one college to another. The first-year team embeds within its structure that Exploratory Group that allows the students to think about changing majors without feeling like they have failed at college. We believe this will help students who didn’t pick the right major out of the gate and want to change.

We are doing away with the name University College and doing away with the concept of putting students who did not meet our standard admissions criteria in the University College. This is an old-fashioned outdated way of managing students that really relies on deficit narratives. These students know right away that they “almost” got into OSU in their major. All will now be welcomed into their majors, but we will still be tracking and providing them with more intrusive advice than they typically got from University College. They will not know they have been put into a category to receive extra attention. Baker believes this will be a good change for our incoming students who are struggling to make the adjustment to college. We will keep an extra eye on them without them feeling like they have been sent somewhere special for this extra help.

Baker also believes this will help us retain advisors. The survey of academic advisors that was completed prior to Baker arriving on campus revealed a lot of trends among academic advisors across campus. One of the most prevalent trends was the frustration among advisors that once they hit Senior Academic Advisor II, there was very little room for career growth. The model that has been implemented in Student Success allowed seven of our academic advisors opportunities for advancement. We have six managers as well as a coordinator for Academic Advising and Professional Development. These will continue to be opportunities as people continue to grow from the manager position maybe into an Assistant Director or Director in one of the colleges or on our team. This will pave the way for more career growth for our academic advising staff. Hopefully this will lead to more retention among our academic advisors, which is good for students and provides more stability in services.

When is this happening? We have been busy hiring many, many people. To fully staff the first-year students, we will have 30 Academic Advisors on our team as well as 6 managers. The six managers were hired about a month and a half ago. They have been working for us part-time while fulfilling their advising roles. They will join us full-time on April 29th. As of yesterday, we were at 29 Academic Advisors. We have an offer out to number 30 and are waiting to hear back. The advisors will start on May 1st. We did hire some teachers. They will start in early June so they can finish out their teaching year. We have two waves of training planned. One wave in May before orientation and enrollment starts. We will have an accelerated wave in early June to get the teachers on our team and working as quickly as possible.

Where will we be located? We will be located on the first floor of Agriculture Hall when the Ferguson College of Agriculture moves into New Frontiers. This summer you will see us wandering campus with our backpacks. We will be a nomadic group of employees going wherever the students are to get them enrolled. We have rooms throughout campus where we will be camped out and ready to serve the students. We are excited to bring this opportunity to our first-year students. We think this will be a great way to welcome our newest students. We are also looking forward to partnering with the colleges so that when we hand off your first-year students to you at the beginning of their second year that it feels like a right of passage for the students making that next step in their college career.

Baker opened the floor for questions. Lawson asked how transfer students will be handled. He is including concurrent High School students in this category. Some students graduate High School with a year of credits already earned. Baker stated that they will be advising the T-1 transfer students with 24 credits and under. They will begin with the first year advising group. They will be transitioned to the colleges after one semester for those with 24 credit hours. Those coming in with less than 15 credit hours will likely stay for a full year. Concurrent students are still 18. The first year advising team is designed not just to deal with the academic piece of advising of first year students but also the social, emotional, and psychological component of adapting to college. We will be keeping these students throughout their first year. People are filling out program sheets in Slate that give the team the information they need to appropriately advise these students. If there is a case where you have a student who is advanced and far along in their degree plan, the team will set up a hybrid model plan for advising that student where they are consulting with the academic college advisor to make sure the student is being taken care of the way he/she needs to be. Knapp thanked Baker for the concise summary and benefits of this new change. One of the concerns in his department, Geology in the A&S college, is that the way the advising process has worked up to this point, we have advisors within the college that typically do not have a very strong command of the career opportunities in our discipline, the path to follow if they are interested at an early stage, advanced degrees, etc. What he sees happening is this is taking it even further away from the faculty in the unit or the ones who do have this knowledge. He wondered if Baker has a suggestion of how faculty can be engaged collectively in the advising process. Baker stated they will be gathering information about student organizations, department activities, etc. so they can announce them in the first-year seminars so students can get engaged in the departments. They are also looking to enhance a faculty mentoring program. They are not there this fall due to other priorities to get in line first. They will be using the Ferguson College of Ag as a model since they have faculty advising and they will have mentoring. We will utilize the best talents of each group of people. Faculty members know about internships, conference opportunities, undergraduate research and more. The earlier we can get a student thinking about these things the sooner we can change their lives. Baker would like every student to have an advisor as well as an assigned faculty mentor.

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

No Report

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

Mendez stated that they are near the end of all the dean searches. The Engineering dean has been hired and has started already. She loves the idea of starting before July 1 so he can transition with the current leadership in the college and get up to speed before summer schedules begin.

We have two new deans: Arts and Sciences, Dr. Melinda Cro from Kansas State, and the Graduate College, Dr. Melanie Morgan from Purdue, that will be joining us July 1. The goal was to finish all the searches by Spring Break, which we did. All offers were out before Spring Break with acceptances before Spring Break as well. It was an exciting process and she thanked everyone involved.

Mendez stated that a number of things have been sent out to encourage faculty involvement.

The first is a call that has already gone out for 5-7 of the Cowboy Compass Trail proposals for General Education. Hopefully everyone has seen this, are discussing it, and thinking of ways you can partner with colleagues across the university and prepare these trails. This is the initial call. There will be another one down the road. We anticipate having 30 trails. This call is for this fall's pilot to get us going. Mendez stated that 5-7 should get us going for the number of students we have piloting this fall. Hopefully all faculty see this and are encouraged but remember there will be other opportunities. Mendez stated that the selected faculty groups will receive $10,000 in professional development funds to be split among themselves. This is a good opportunity to get involved in general education but also get a little bit of professional development funds.

Mendez stated the second opportunity is the Hargis Leadership Institute has put out a call for three faculty fellows for the 2024-2025 academic year. These are quarter-time appointments and are very similar in nature to the Faculty Fellows that are working in the Provost's office. The deadline for these appointments is April 26th. The long-term vision for the Hargis Leadership Institute is to have an ongoing stream of faculty fellows and faculty that might be doing research within the realm of leadership to elevate the presence of the institute.

Mendez stated that the third is the Institute of Teaching and Learning Excellence (ITLE) will be announcing the development of ten undergraduate certificate programs (we are calling them projects) that will be an industry- and career-aligned certificate. They will be funded at $10,000 for those involved in their creation. This is another opportunity to get involved. Mendez said they are looking for undergraduate and graduate certificate programs – one or the other or combined for both an undergraduate and graduate certificate. These would get $15,000. The call for these is pending and once announced with deadline in the middle of May. They want to jump start some of these certificate programs to build out industry relationships/partnerships. When you see these calls, encourage faculty within your departments and colleges to get involved.

Mendez stated that the director of the Art Museum as well as the Associate Provost of the Arts has been posted. The delay was due to waiting on an endowment that has come in and will be attached to the position.

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

**Kenneth Sewell – VP Research:**

Sewell encouraged everyone to stop by the Undergraduate Research Symposium this Tuesday at the Alumni Center. This is an all-day event but at 11:30 they will be announcing the Inaugural Awardees of the Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring award. There were so many great nominations that it was impossible to award only one. Sewell stated that over 260 students from disciplines across the university will be presenting either posters or presentations.

Sewell stated everyone should have seen the recent announcement of the request for applications and nominations for the Public Impact Research Award. This award was instituted just last year. This award is geared towards programs of research that are specifically engaged with the public in a way that has the public’s benefit at its core. This award in part was to align with a national Council on Research award for APLU. Our intent has been to take the winner from OSU and make them our institution’s nominee for the national award. We will be working with last year’s winner and expect a call for the national award to come out in a few weeks. Sewell stated they just learned that APLU has decided to elevate this award (take it out of the Council on Research) and make it an APLU wide award. This will be our first research award that is APLU wide.

Sewell stated that everything going on with the appropriations process for Federal funding agencies will be less than hoped for and will be a bit tighter at the funding agencies over the course of the next year. Those with research programs/projects that are highly dependent on federal funds, your proposals will need to be stellar. Sewell stated that our faculty have done a fantastic job getting a lot of proposals out the door as well as winning proposals. He doesn’t expect this to change but it will be tight during the coming year. Our delegation has been very helpful. Sewell stated that there is a new Director of Federal Regulations, Derek Osborn, who reports to Jerome Loughridge in the President’s office. Sewell works very closely with him. If faculty are doing anything that involves the federal delegation or need help at the federal level to contact Derek or his office and they will get you connected. He is new to us but knows the federal landscape very well.

Zoom question – Regarding the Public Impact Award. Does the “public” have to be here in Oklahoma, or can it pertain to communities outside of the state? Sewell stated it does not have to be a local, community public impact. We’ve had things that were tribally and locally engaged, and things that have had statewide and regional impact. Sewell has not seen anything yet, but it could include international impact.

**Faculty Council Chair’s Report:**

Gardner asked everyone to look for the Committee Preference Survey which will be distributed soon. We use this tool to make committee assignments for the next academic year. White stated the survey link should be sent out later this week or next week via email. Gardner stated that the sooner faculty can fill out the survey the sooner we can get to work on filling committee vacancies.

**Report of Liaison Representatives:**

* 1. **Emeriti – Barbara Miller**

The Emeriti Association Council met on March 25. We heard that a financial review of financial records for 2023 was completed by a team of emeriti faculty (Francis Epplin and Kent Olsen). The accuracy of all accounts was confirmed and our Treasurer, Ron Miller, was commended for his volunteer work. Membership Chair Mike Lorenze reported we have three new members (one couple and one individual). The Council heard from the Co-Chair for our Emeriti Investment Club, Ray Huhnke. Dr. Huhnke provided an overview of the club and summarized activities over the past year.

Our speaker for our Monday Night Dinner (MND) on March 11 was Irish Journalist, Declan Bredin. Declan’s career has spanned many momentous events, and we enjoyed his storytelling. Our speaker for our April 1 MND was VP and Dean for DASNR, Dt. Jayson Lusk. Dr. Lusk provided an update for the soon to be opened New Horizons building supporting teaching and research efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Woods, President, OSU Emeriti Council

* 1. **Women’s Faculty Council – Erin Dyke**
* We will be announcing recipients of the **FCGE Student Research Award Applications** and the**Ryder-Smith Undergraduate Student Leadership Endowed Scholarship** during the week of April 8th**.** Many thanks to our 40 faculty reviewers from across the University, and to our [award sponsors](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwomensfacultycouncil.okstate.edu%2Fresearch-awards%2F&data=05|02|tricia.white@okstate.edu|79031f22f8684dd0175808dc557c25c2|2a69c91de8494e34a230cdf8b27e1964|0|0|638479238889102297|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D|0|||&sdata=3ujbOG2bhXnoGEcZmUJ5QpP4TA3aJwGxca4KNJfiVuE%3D&reserved=0) for making this program possible!
* **FCGE** will host its annual **Research Symposium and Student Research Award Ceremony** on Tuesday April 23rd, 2-4pm in the Browsing Room of the Edmon Low Library. The Research Symposium will offer an opportunity for faculty and students to share their research in poster and roundtable formats (2-3pm) and the awards ceremony will formally recognize and celebrate student award and scholarship winners, as well as their faculty advisers.
* **Flourishing Collective Events with Dr. Annmarie Caño – Co-Creating Liberatory Culture and Change in Higher Education**

Dr. Annmarie Caño, Professor of Psychology at Gonzaga University, offered a well-attended and successful workshop on Friday, March 8th, to support participants to identify ways to create healthier working environments. The Flourishing Collective is a project in collaboration with the Center for the Humanities;  Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies; and FCGE.

Anyone interested in the FCGE can visit our website at [http://womensfacultycouncil.okstate.edu](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Furl%3Fq%3Dhttps%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Furl%3Fq%253Dhttp%3A%2F%2Fwomensfacultycouncil.okstate.edu%2526amp%3Bsa%253DD%2526amp%3Bsource%253Deditors%2526amp%3Bust%253D1628813758358000%2526amp%3Busg%253DAOvVaw2qprLSPr4hvMFx1e3NkD_r%26sa%3DD%26source%3Deditors%26ust%3D1628813758367661%26usg%3DAOvVaw3JRdo5Rt3fHMuGPtqlHKXZ&data=05|02|tricia.white@okstate.edu|79031f22f8684dd0175808dc557c25c2|2a69c91de8494e34a230cdf8b27e1964|0|0|638479238889114715|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D|0|||&sdata=d5IWbBwU0dZ8qXxQ2eQVDCrERjDIc0BP8NNvlve0MKk%3D&reserved=0) and email wfc@okstate.edu to sign up to be put on our email list.

* 1. **Staff Advisory Council – Michelle Stewart**

Staff Advisory Council recently approved some updates to the Sick Leave policy proposed by OSU and forwarded it to FC for review.

Planning continues for Staff Celebration Day on May 28th. Please encourage staff to attend and to be celebrated. Watch for additional information via email and social media.

Our April meeting guest speaker will be Jerome Loughridge and our May guest speaker will be Joe Weaver.

* 1. **Graduate Council – Veronique Lacombe**

*The following policies were reviewed and approved at the March Graduate Faculty Council*

* P&P 2-0206 Late Drop Tuition Refund Policy – changes forwarded to Academic Affairs.
* HCA/FSC Masters Aged Coursework Policy

*The following Academic Program Committee (APC)* items were reviewed and approved at the March Graduate Faculty Council

*New Programs*

* M.S. Accounting Systems
* Graduate Certificate – Inclusive Leadership
* Graduate Certificate – Tribal Health Care Administration

*Program Modifications*

* Ph.D. Health, Leisure and Human Performance: Leisure Studies – change name to Ph.D.
* Applied Health, Rehabilitation, and Recreation: Leisure Studies and update curriculum
* DFS Forensic Sciences – course modifications
* Graduate Certificate – Forensic Psychology - add elective courses
* Graduate Certificate Health Care Administration Global Health – add course options
* M.S. Communication Sciences and Disorders – modify course rotation to match accreditation requirements.
* M.S. Global Health – add course options with HCA courses
* M.S. Hospitality and Tourism Management – update course offerings
* Ph.D. – Business Administration – option in Accounting – update course offerings
* Ph.D. Crop Science – change the number of hours from 90 to 78 post bachelors
* Ph.D. Soil Science – change the number of hours from 90 to 78 post bachelors
* Ph.D. School Psychology – remove GRE requirement for admission
* EDS – School Psychology – remove GRE requirement for admission

*BioRender* - Dean Van Delinder reported the Graduate College is partnering with the Edmon Low Library, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Ferguson College of Agriculture to purchase a BioRender subscription. Access to this application assists faculty in the life sciences to analyze and present research data. The is a pilot year to determine usage. Dr. Powers will be monitoring it.

*Hanover Market Research:* The Graduate College has signed a one-year contract with Hanover Research, a market research firm, to optimize planning for short-term graduate programs, including Micro Credentials.

*Grad Ed Month:* Reminder of the April 9th Grad Teach Event at 3:30 in the Little Theatre. Monday, April 15th NSF Program Director Carrie Hall will be on campus to meet with interested faculty and students. Details on how to schedule time with her are in the Monday Memo. The Graduate Awards Ceremony is on April 23 at 3:00 p.m. in the Starlite Terrace.

*Grad Clearance*: Over 800 students have completed graduation clearance forms thus far.

* 1. **Student Government Association – Samuel Hiltz**

Before spring break SGA hosted our presidential election for next year's student body president and student body vice president. The new Student Body President is Aubrey Ruffin, and the new Student Body Vice President is Landry Baker.

They will be inaugurated on May 3rd and will officially be in term after May 11th.

Cowboython is having their main event on April 13th at 2:00pm.

On April 13th, the State of Orange service event is taking place. The OSU Alumni Association, OSU Extension, OSU System institutions, and Into the Streets are organizing service opportunities across the state and nation.

After State of Orange, Cowboython is having their main event on April 13th at 2:00pm. They are raising awareness and funds for the Children's Miracle Health network.

We have been hosting a business clothes clothing drive over the last week. We received over 175 articles of clothing. We will be tabling on campus to give the items away to students next week. Thank you for donating items!

We are actively working with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee to help on the day of the event and encourage participation for the Remember the Ten run on April 20th through tabling on campus.

Our Basic Needs Committee will be facilitating a food, health, and hygiene product drive called the “High Five Drive” on April 15th-19th, 22nd-26th, and 29th-3rd. These donations will go directly to our Student Stache network pantries.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any legislation that senators have reached out about or written, please notify me.

* 1. **Graduate & Professional Student Government Association – Marcia Sun**

**GPSGA Impact Report**

The GPSGA Impact Report provides an overview of initiatives, programs, and contributions by the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association (GPSGA) to enhance experiences of graduate and professional students at OSU. This report marks our inaugural effort in capturing and presenting the impact of GPSGA's activities. Through the descriptions of programs, events, advocacy, and collaborative projects, the report highlights GPSGA's impact on the community. From support initiatives to fostering belonging, GPSGA serves as a vital advocate for the graduate and professional student community. The report will be uploaded to GPSGA Community Canvas page, shared with the President and Provost Office, and distributed with other institutional and state stakeholders.

**-Purpose of the GPSGA Impact Report:**

* + - Communicate Progress
		- Disseminate Information
		- Highlight Responsibilities
		- Showcase Highlights
		- Engage Stakeholders

**-Synopsis of the Financial support distributed in 2022-2023 fiscal year:**

* Co-sponsorship fund: $2,160, 3% of overall award/grant/fund spending
* Research Material Grant: $2,307, 3% of overall award/grant/fund spending
* Group Fund: $700, 1% of overall award/grant/fund spending
* Phoenix Awards: $1,550, 2% of overall award/grant/fund spending
* Travel Awards: $72,600, 91% of overall award/grant/fund spending (88 travel in Fall and 110 traveled in Spring; 14 travelled internationally)

**GPSGA Spring 2024 Award/Grant/Fund Information**

* The **Spring 2024 GPSGA Travel Award** applications are now closed, all applicants will be notified regarding their application decision by **April 21st.**
* **Spring 2024 GPSGA Travel Award** **Exception**application is now open, with a due date of **April 30th**. Before submitting your application, please carefully review the GPSGA Travel Award Application Information Page.
* The **Spring 2024 GPSGA Research Material Grant** application is now open, with a due date **April 31st**. Before submitting your application, please carefully review the GPSGA Research Material Grant Information Page before applying.
* All **Fall 2024 GPSGA Co-Sponsorship Fund** application is now open. Please carefully review the GPSGA Co-Sponsorship Fund Information Page before applying.

**GPSGA Phoenix Awards (4 categories)**

* **Award Categories:**
	+ Doctoral Student Phoenix Award
	+ Master Student Phoenix Award
	+ Graduate Teaching Assistant Award
	+ Graduate Faculty Mentor Phoenix Award

The Phoenix Awards represent the pinnacle of recognition within GPSGA, honoring individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership, scholarly achievement, community and university service, and professional engagement. Each year, GPSGA presents these prestigious awards to one outstanding master's student, one outstanding doctoral student, one exceptional graduate teaching assistant, and one distinguished faculty member at the Graduate College/GPSGA Awards Ceremony. **The Graduate College/GPSGA Awards Ceremony will be on April 24.**

*-Some updates and modifications on the application process:*

The main focus of the modifications and updates is to increase access and inclusion, especially regarding the Faculty Mentor Award, facilitate a more convenient process in the reference evaluation, and implement the double-blinded evaluation procedure. Also, the application information and links were shared with Faculty Advisory Council, Graduate Council, and faculty listserv.

**Graduate Education Month – April​**

Presenting the lineup of events promoted, supported, and hosted by GPSGA for Graduate Education Month:

* **Solar Eclipse Party:** April 8, 12:30-2:30pm, Willard Back Patio (free eclipse viewing glasses are available)
* **Into the Streets:** April 13th, 9am-noon, Stillwater area
* **GPSGA Accountability Writing Group/GPSGA Inquiries Session -** April 14, 6pm-8pm. Register [here](https://forms.office.com/r/bQgxinBeea)!
* **Undergraduate Research Symposium (seeking graduate student mentors/feedback providers):** April 16th, OSU Alumni Center. Register [here](https://ostatemailokstate-my.sharepoint.com/personal/marcia_sun_okstate_edu/Documents/Desktop/Tinyurl.com/feedbacker2024)!
* **GPSGA Lunch and Learn:** April 19th, 12:30-1:30pm, hybrid format. Register [here](https://forms.office.com/r/0a9EUkXfnr)!
* **GPSGA Professional Development Session:** April 20th, 11:00-noon, online. Register [here](https://forms.office.com/r/5zKY3MshpD)!
* **Capitol Cowboys:** 6:45am-5:30pm, State Capitol

**GPSGA General Assembly Meeting**

The third GPSGA General Assembly Meeting for Spring 2024 is on **Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 5:30 pm in SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES (SSH) 035**. Based on the GPSGA general assembly's interests, the invited speaker session during the meeting focused on inclusive leadership and resources and programs on leadership development.

**GPSGA Campus Engagement**

The campus engagement and participation for this month include:

* **GPSGA & ISO Team Building & Professional Development Day**​
	+ 1. Interactive activities 2. Leadership & professional development sessions 3. Wrap up discussion with lunch​
* GPSGA was invited to the **Bangladesh Student Association (BSA) Iftaar Potluck ​**
* GPSGA was extended an invitation to serve as a campus partner for the **College of Arts and Sciences Grad Chat Series** on February 21. This opportunity allowed us to actively engage with graduate and professional students, providing valuable advice and sharing resources to enhance their academic journey.
	+ GPSGA was invited as the campus partner for the February session. ​
	+ It is casual gatherings with coffee, snacks, and conversation. Each month, they invite campus partners to join and share resources for graduate students.
	+ The last monthly session is on April 24th.

**AFAP Status: Group I - Activity Fee Allocation Process (AFAP)​**

The AFAP process is currently in the third phase. The AFAP committee will distribute the number of organizations that have applied within GPSGA umbrella groups, along with an estimated hearing duration. Appeal process for AFAP will take place in April. AFAP Chair will provide follow-up communications via emails.

* Committee composition: 7 members with specific requirements based on AFAP policies ​
* Hearing will be held from 11AM-1PM, on Mar 28th ​
* 102K Tompkins-McCollom Rm, Edmon Low Library​
* Fifteen groups presented their requests at the hearing.

**GPSGA Friends Pairing Initiative**

* In alignment with inception of the GPSGA GroupMe's focus ​
* Foster meaningful connections​
* Mentorship and guidance​
* Participants in Friend Pairing Imitative will be invited to attend the Graduate Education Month Events in groups.

**GPSGA Exemplary Committee Member Awards**

The GPSGA Exemplary Committee Members Awards recognize outstanding dedication, leadership, and contributions made by committee members within the GPSGA committees. These awards aim to honor individuals who have demonstrated exceptional commitment, initiative, and impact in their respective roles, contributing significantly to the success and effectiveness of GPSGA committees.

**GPSGA Ambassadors Program**

From the pool of eligible applicants, two GPSGA Ambassadors were selected through a double-blinded process.

**General Assembly Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes for the general assembly meetings are available via the GPSGA Canvas page.

**REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

**a.  Academic Standards and Policies: Mike Yough – No Report**

**b. Access and Community Impact: Stephen Perkins – Nor Report**

**c.  Athletics: Aric Warren – Update**

Warren stated that the committee has been doing a lot of work this particular year around the refocus and changes to the charge of the committee looking at equity in services provided for not only varsity student athletes on campus, but also club sports, intramural sports, recreational athletics, and general users of the wellness facilities. This is based on work that began about two years ago. The committee is looking at a recommendation to investigate the employment of an Athletic Trainer who would provide services to club sport athletes, intramural sport athletics and general users of the Colvin Recreation facilities. The committee has done quite a bit of work looking at a long list of peer institutions, many of which have a position like this. Risk management as well as the overall enhancement of health and well-being of students and users of recreational facilities and activities are a few of the benefits of having such a position. The committee has been in collaboration with University Health Services as well as the Department of Wellness to gather data. The committee will present a formal recommendation at the May meeting to support such a position for our campus and institution.

**d. Budget: Maria Mi – No Report**

**e.  Campus Facilities, Safety, and Security: Cristina Gonzalez – Update**

Gonzalez stated that the topic of campus and pedestrian safety affects all of us (faculty, staff, and students) at every level. Recent incidents as well as incidents that have happened over the past few years propelled President Shrum to form a task force at the end of February. This task force is led by Vice President Joe Weaver and under his direction, members of the task force are meeting. Gonzalez wanted to assure the council that the task force is quite diverse with a lot of brilliant minds and experts including parking and facilities, residential life, OSU Police Department, Stillwater PD, etc. Gonzalez represents the Faculty Council and herself as a concerned faculty member and mother on this task force. This task force is the primary group of people who have been charged with making immediate recommendations (things that can be done tomorrow) as well as gathering data to identify pockets of concern then making recommendations to the President’s office and leadership that are more long term. This is not a task force that will go on indefinitely, it is a short term, robust and effective task force.

Some of the short-term things that have been accomplished include a reduction in the speed limit from McElroy to Hall of Fame on Monroe. The speed limit has been reduced from 30 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour. There is also a 4-way stop sign that has been added to Scott Avenue and Monroe Street. Neon flags have been added to select stop signs to catch the attention of drivers in particular areas. Something more long-term has been the hiring of an outside consultant from a traffic and engineering company who has a proven track record that is both robust and effective. The task force has been working hard since the end of March and we expect great things to happen given the data provided to us. The short-term changes have been implemented but the longer-term recommendations will take some time. Gonzalez sits on this task force as part of her role as chair of the Campus Facilities, Safety and Security committee (CFSS). The CFSS committee has met concerning this topic. Gonzalez made the decision to change the committee a bit. Not to exclude anyone but rather to include others such as previous members who have more institutional knowledge and other faculty members who reached out regarding this topic who wanted to get involved.

Zoom question: Has there been discussion about steps to change student behavior? I feel that I’ve seen less caution from students since I arrived at OSU. Gonzalez stated yes, they have discussed everything we can. The conversations are as inclusive of various topics as possible. The task force hasn’t met since Spring Break and the hiring of the consultant. The concern is not just about traffic flow, it’s also concerns about parking and human behavior, social behavior, what is and is not being discussed at orientation. Cole has observed that vehicles are following the stop signs and stop lights, but scooters are just running right through them. Cole asked if there are rules about the use of scooters on campus. Great question and it shows that there are rules and the issue of following the rules. Cyclists are a bit more responsible, but Gonzalez is pretty sure that scooter riders and skateboarders do not know what rules apply to them. This is often the cause of accidents. All of this is on the table as well as conveying these rules and making sure people understand them. Sometimes there will be issues with campus visitors. Miller stated that one group that needs to be notified about parking and driving on campus are the construction trucks. Miller as well as several people she knows have almost been hit by them. The construction people need to be reminded to watch the crosswalks. Gonzalez stated she would this up at the next meeting. She will include delivery trucks as well. Weaver stated that Gonzalez was one of the first to volunteer for the task force. Weaver had over a dozen volunteers before noon the day it was announced. Every issue that has been raised today has or will be talked about. Weaver stated that they will be focusing on pedestrian safety first then will look at bicycles and scooters. Perkins asked if there were particular areas of concern on campus that they are aware of who they should contact. Gonzalez said to contact her. Gonzalez hopes in the near future there will be links on the website that people can go to with their concerns. Weaver stated they are not ready to receive this information on the website yet. Perkins directly asked about a wooden fence near the old Physical Plant and the new Classroom Building. It’s a blind area heading north out of the parking lot. Weaver stated they are demolishing that building this summer. Fathepure is amazed at the number of students on cell phones that just walk out. Is there a way to educate them? Gonzalez said they are surveying different options and how this information can be delivered to new students. Weaver stated its faculty, staff and students. Knapp stated there has been an investment in cameras on campus that monitor many areas. He is wondering if part of the solution could be cameras to monitor these intersections that are problematic to at least get a sense of what type of activity are happening there that could be corrected. Gonzalez stated this is a great suggestion.

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

**g.  Long-Range Planning and Information Technology: Kris Hiney – No Report**

1. **Non-Tenure Track: Jennifer Glenn/Brad Lawson –No Report**

**i.  Research: Gopan Krishnan – No Report**

**j**.  **Retirement & Fringe Benefits: Mark Weiser – Update/Recommendation**

Weiser stated that the staff sick leave policy was passed by the Staff Advisory Council (SAC). Even though this is not a faculty policy, it is part of the policy documents that Faculty Council reviews. The committee originally tabled the document waiting for the SAC to act. They have acted and it now comes before the Faculty Council for approval. Weiser recommended Faculty Council approve the policy for adoption. Gardner stated the recommendation was distributed for review. Are there any comments, questions, or discussion? Knapp added the recommendation was brought before the Executive Committee last week and was approved. Seeing no discussion, Gardner asked for a motion to approve the recommendation. Knapp moved; Cole seconded the motion. Gardner called for a vote. Motion passed.

Weisner stated the committee is now taking up the issue of potentially parallel changes to the faculty sick leave policy. If anyone has feedback after reviewing the staff sick leave policy, please contact him or anyone of the committee members.

**k.  Rules and Procedures: Christopher Crick – Update**

 Crick announced the official election results for next year’s Faculty Council.

 A&S – Jared Fitzgerald, Babu Fathepure and Merle Eisenberg

 CEAT – Jennifer Glenn and Robert Emerson

 CEHS – Amber Manning-Ouellette

 Library – Patrick Daglaris

 FCA – Dr. William McGlynn and Dr. Omkar Joshi

 Vice Chair – Stephen Perkins

Gardner thanked Crick for the update. Gardner stated some folks seated around the table will continue with us and we are happy to have you around for another round. We are grateful for the work you have done and continue to do.

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

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – None

Gardner asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is Tuesday, May 14, 2024 in room 412 Student Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Crick, Secretary