P. Lovern called the zoom meeting to order with the following members present: Bach, Cole, Conway, Curry, Dimotakis, Dunn, Fathepure, Finchum, Gardner, Hall, Hiney, Khojasteh, Krishnan, M. Lovern, Ma, Melancon, Nelson, Neurohr, Noden, Parveen, Peek, Perkins, Pranger, Reichard, Shan, Slevitch, Smith and Stansberry.

Also present: Bayles, M., Chen, K., Colquhoun, C., Eastham, G., Eck, T., Essmiller, K., Francisco, C., Grover, A., Hallenbeck, D., Kirksey, J., Knapp, J., Krutz, G., Loughridge, J., McCullagh, L., Mendez, J., Miller, B., Ormsbee, C., Peaster, R., Sewell, K., Sheehan, R, Shrum, K., Stephens, J., Vasquez, Y., Weaver, D. and Weaver, J.

Absent: Jaroni and Liu.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Special Reports:

Dr. Chris Ormsbee – ITLE Director – Online Teaching Resources.………………….

Remarks and Comments – President Shrum………………………………………..………....

Report of Status of Faculty Council Recommendations and other Vice Presidents…….…….

Reports of Liaison Representatives …………………………………………………….……..

WFC …………………………………………………………………………………..

Wellness……………………………………………………………………………….

Graduate Council………………………………………………………………………

Reports of Standing 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 …………………………….………………..

P. Lovern stated it was 3:00 and has determined that a quorum is present then called the meeting to order. P. Lovern hoped everyone was able to take some time off over the break. P. Lovern stated that we are meeting over zoom due to the increase in Covid cases that’s occurring here and all over the country. P. Lovern stated that the Faculty Council officers decided to go back to a virtual meeting for January. We will monitor the situation and decide for future months as we get closer to those dates. P. Lovern asked everyone to keep an eye out for notifications how we plan to meet for February. P. Lovern stated that we will be taking attendance based on the name displayed on the screen. P. Lovern asked everyone to make sure their name appears on the screen. If you are calling in, please put your name in the chat so we can make sure to count your attendance. P. Lovern asked everyone to mute themselves if they are not speaking to help keep the background noise to a minimum. P. Lovern said you could turn off your video if you wish to help with any bandwidth issues. Please put any technical issues you may have in the chat. White and one of the other officers will be monitoring the chat and help with any issues. P. Lovern stated the first item of business was the approval of the December 14, 2021 minutes. These were electronically distributed and are available on the Faculty Council website. P. Lovern asked for corrections or objections to the minutes. Seeing none, stated the minutes are approved. P. Lovern 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. P. Lovern asked for corrections to the agenda. Seeing no corrections P. Lovern asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Since we are on zoom, please state your name first so it will be correct in the minutes. Curry moved and Smith seconded the motion. P. Lovern asked for a vote. P. Lovern asked those attending to either enter “Aye” in the chat or raise your hand. Motion passed.

P. Lovern introduced, Dr. Chris Ormsbee who will be talking about online teaching resources.

**Special Reports:**

1. **Dr. Chris Ormsbee – Assoc. Provost/ITLE Director – Online Teaching Resources**

Ormsbee shared the following PowerPoint for reference. This PowerPoint does include hyperlinks to all the webpages that she reviewed.



Ormsbee gave an overview of the ITLE website to those at the meeting: [itle.okstate.edu](mailto:itle@okstate.edu).

Ormsbee stated that they also provide individualized assistance if you cannot find what you are looking for on the website or the information did not answer all your questions. You can call them at 744-1000 or send an email to [itle@okstate.edu](mailto:itle@okstate.edu). They are happy to help faculty one-on-one.

P. Lovern thanked Ormsbee for these great resources. She has watched some of the videos and said they are helpful and well put together. P. Lovern opened the floor for questions. Ormsbee stated they continually updating the website so keep checking back.

**Remarks and Comments –President Shrum**

Shrum hoped everyone enjoyed break and had time to spend with loved ones. Since the last time we met, there have been some exciting things happen. To mention a few:

1. Fiesta Bowl win. Shrum hoped everyone watched on New Year’s Day, the Cowboys beat Notre Dame. This was a big victory for our football program and certainly a great way to have the OSU brand out there. Shrum stated that at the end of the game, they were told 15 million people viewed the game with an average of 9 million during the game. A lot of recognition for Oklahoma State during this time.
2. Harold Hamm announcement. It was announced that Harold Hamm is giving a $50 million gift to name the Harold Hamm Institute for American Energy. This is an example, hopefully moving forward, to celebrate more events like this. This is a great example of an interdisciplinary, integrated and agile event. We want all colleges to have a part in this endeavor. We have met with all the deans and asked “- how do you think you can play a role in the Institute”. Integrated from the standpoint of society needs. Is it aligned with industry and/or workforce perspective? Agile from the standpoint of funding – private, federal and/or state dollars to support the initiatives within the Institute.

These are the types of programs we are looking for and a great example of a university level institute.

Shrum stated we want to start engaging the State Regents requesting them to review the funding formula for Higher Ed. We have hosted the new Chancellor, Alison Garrett, on campus and at multiple events. Garrett spoke at graduation. Shrum stated that OSU will be hosting the State Regents on campus in the near future. This will give us an opportunity to talk to them about the needs of Oklahoma State, show them around campus and really begin the conversations.

Shrum stated that she met with Strategy Steering committee today for the first time to kick off this process. She hopes this will be a nine-month process. Shrum stated that Jerome Loughridge will be speaking about this shortly.

Shrum stated that as we start a new semester, top of mind is the rising Covid numbers. These numbers seem to coincide with the start of a semester which is what happened last semester. Each time we have a little more experience. The committee that was formed last year and continues to meet. Dr. Johnny Stephens is joining us today and will give an update.

P. Lovern asked if there were any questions for Shrum before turning it over to Loughridge. Seeing none, introduced Jerome Loughridge, Senior VP of Operations.

Loughridge stated that they have launched the strategy process which coincides with the beginning of our semester. The university wide strategy that Dr. Shrum had envisioned as she was preparing to take the reins of the Presidency. They have been working on the concepts since summer up until now. The steering committee was launched just before the break. The steering committee is a 12-person group representing on-campus constituencies. This steering committee will be chaired by both Dr. Mendez and Loughridge. Loughridge stated the strategy is a set of choices. Ultimately our intent is to set forth those things that OSU intends to do well. Equally as important identify those things that need to be de-emphasized and figure out the appropriate way to treat these things. Along the way, the committee will be asking some detailed questions:

1. What are our aspirations for enrollment?

2. How do we think of big-time large conference athletics in the context of our future going forward?

3. How should we connect our work here in Stillwater and in Okmulgee, Tulsa and OKC?

4. How do we connect our teaching and research with the workforce needs of the state?

These are all questions that will animate this process. This will be a strategy for our entire system. Loughridge stated that no one else boasts the footprint that we have in the state. Our first point of departure will be to craft a strategy for the entire OSU system. Given the complexity of us in Stillwater, the decentralization/multiple locations, it would be too grand an undertaking to try to come up with a detailed strategy for every corner of our forest. Instead, what we intend to do is to clearly define a purpose, to lay out what our strategic priorities will be and then to work towards some agreed to priorities. When we think about our purpose, this is a fantastic opportunity for us as a university community to rethink about/reassess the Land Grant Mission and re-envision it for the 21st century. Loughridge feels this is one of the most exciting and engaging parts of the strategy process. When we think about strategic principles these are the things that will guide us. Generally applicable statements of aspiration and intent that will then inform the decisions that each of our colleges, schools and departments can use to craft their own detailed plans. Loughridge said the details will reflect where we choose to invest. A word on priorities, Dr. Shrum has identified a handful of that she has chosen to be Presidential priorities. Among these are going to be things like energy, agriculture, aerospace and health. Running through these as a theme will be STEM education. These won’t be all we do but when we talk about the initiatives that Dr. Shrum chooses to elevate in the strategy process we will focus a great deal of effort and intent around these. The commencement of the Hamm Institute for American Energy is an example. We were fortitous to have a gift from Mr. Hamm to get us well on the way to funding this institute. It emphasizes the characteristics of interdisciplinarity, integratedness and agility. Going forward, part of what you will see going through the strategy process is for these Presidential level priorities is that we will try to integrate these concepts in them. How will the work occur? The composition of the steering committee will set forth questions that the working groups (yet to be constituted) will take up as research questions. The heavy lifting between January and May of this year will be to define the questions that will be asked pursuant to the development of our strategy. To work in concert with our research consultant EAB. We will both use their external expertise as well as our own internal institutional research capabilities. We will ask particular and pertinent questions that will inform us both with respect to our internal capacities and to market conditions. Having done this work along side with a robust listening tour outside of our campus, so aspirational we hope to touch as many of the quarter million OSU alumni as there are out in the field. The intent is for the steering committee to reconstitute in the summer months. Collect and collate the comments that have come in so that by September we would have a working document that’s ready to be circulated to solicit comments and ultimately provide for review and approval by the Board of Regents. If you were to map the timeline, Loughridge stated that we have just announced and constituted the steering committee. We are underway. Anyone who has an interest in speaking into this process, Loughridge encouraged everyone to look to the website (<https://go.okstate.edu/about-osu/leadership/president/strategic-plan/index.html>). It will soon have links and portals for comments. They will actively solicit comments soon. Stay tuned for ways for your ideas to be integrated into this work.

Loughridge opened the floor for questions. P. Lovern thanked Loughridge for this update. P. Lovern asked if the September report would be the first opportunity that faculty have to see what is envisioned with the Strategic Plan? Will there be any interim communications? Loughridge stated that there will be interim points of interaction. The document will not be given to faculty to review with just a few days’ notice. Loughridge stated that one of the reasons they wanted to make everyone aware of who is on the steering committee (the working groups will also be announced once they are formed) is so everyone has a personal point of contact that is specifically working within the strategy process as it moves forward. Loughridge and the committee welcome all comments. Miller asked if there was a way to integrate the arts into the plan. Loughridge stated that yes, the arts will be integral in how the plan is approached. When Loughridge mentioned the four areas of emphasis earlier they are areas that President Shrum has identified as needing specific investment relative to our mission and especially to the workforce. The conversation around the arts is very alive and vibrant. The process of crafting a strategy the type which we are undertaking takes something as vital as the arts.

**Report of Status of Council Recommendations:**

**Vice Provost Francisco for Interim Provost Mendez and Vice Presidents**

Mendez thanked faculty members for all they did last semester and are currently doing this semester as we work our way through the current Covid spike. We started things differently knowing we would be in a Covid spike.

Mendez gave the Council members an update on current recommendations:

21-12-01-DIV: Land Acknowledgement Statement for the OSU Stillwater Campus. Pending. Review and discussion pending with Staff Advisory Council, Council of Deans, Stillwater Cabinet and others as determined.

21-02-01-RES: Modify P&P 1-0505, The Care and Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Teaching. Pending. Revisions have been reviewed and approved by the Office of Research and by the Council of Deans on 3/11/2021. The draft has been approved by OSU-OKC campus representatives and by Legal Counsel, and the modified policy will be submitted to Executive Team for approval.

18-05-02-FAC: Proposed changes to the Preface and Body of the “Policy Statement to

Govern Appointments, Tenure, Promotions, and Related Matters of the Faculty of OSU”. Pending. Revisions have been reviewed by a working group of representatives from Legal Counsel, Academic Affairs, and Faculty Council. The document will now be referred back to the Faculty Committee for review.

**Other Vice Presidents:**

**Johnny Stephens – Interim President at OSU Center for Health Sciences and Senior VP for**

**Health Affairs at the OSU Stillwater Campus**

Stephens presented the following PowerPoint on Covid:



These numbers were updated as of yesterday. Stephens stated that the committee continues to meet a few times a week and did a lot of work over the break. Over the past two years we have learned a lot and that is what we used as a reference for the beginning of this semester. We knew there would be positive results when the semester began. We treated the beginning like there was a positive case in each classroom. Stephens stated that University Health Services and Dr. Hallenbeck have done a great job. There are 400 tests available to be given each day. These are not available in either Tulsa or OKC. Tests will be PCR with a turnaround time of 24 to 48 hours. Stephens stated we will watch testing since there is not an infinite supply. Stephens opened the floor to questions.

Chat question: Students are not wearing masks in public locations and what is the plan to enforce this? Stephens stated that the mask mandate is for the classroom, not public spaces around campus. We highly encourage them to wear a mask. The mandate does not include the public spaces. P. Lovern asked about the classroom. What can faculty do to students who do not comply with the mandate? Hallenbeck stated that a memo was sent out from the Provost’s office outlining the process by which a faculty member could fill out a report. The report would go to student conduct. The student would be called in and encouraged to comply with the mandate. No one will come into the classroom; it would be handled outside the classroom. Online options would be given to the student. Stephens stated communications are being worked on and distributed often to faculty and students.

Stephens stated that the Covid dashboard is a great place to get updated information. New numbers will be out today.

Chat question: What percentage of OSU students are vaccinated? Stephens stated that he does not have this information. OSU collected data around the students who were going to be affected by the federal contractor mandate. This data showed that the student and faculty numbers were not that different from a percentage standpoint. Hallenbeck stated that the dashboard has a number of student vaccinations that OSU has record of. Stephens stated that this number needs to be updated.

Neurohr asked Stephens to confirm that people should send questions to [covid19@okstate.edu](mailto:covid19@okstate.edu). Stephens confirmed and these may be addressed in the FAQ on the website. These are looked at and answered multiple times a day. It is constantly monitored.

**Dr. Kenneth Sewell – VP Research**

Sewell stated that he had a great meeting with the Faculty Council Research committee recently where he had an opportunity to describe the various ways that his office and other areas of the university invest in research. How our facilities and administration (F&A) funds flow as we recover these funds in research. Sewell came away from this meeting understanding some concerns around additional ways we could support research. Particularly around perhaps working with the Provost’s office on spousal accommodation in recruiting, retaining research faculty, issues around publications costs and open access costs (they may be able to partner with the library on these issues). Great meeting.

Sewell mentioned the campus-wide announcement that went out regarding the community funded projects that Congress has started contemplating. His office has a call out for ideas to be pitched. A reminder will be out in a few days. The deadline will be January 20th. This is a tight timeline, but we’d like to get your ideas in as quickly as possible. P. Lovern asked for questions.

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

Hallenbeck announced that the Remembrance Garden construction has begun. It will be located on the corner by the fire station. The Student Government Association brought up the idea of a remembrance garden and fully support this effort. This allows a place on campus where we can remember those we have lost throughout the year. This will also be a quiet place for reflection for students, faculty and staff. Hallenbeck stated that this is a tremendous addition to our campus. Hallenbeck thanked J. Weaver’s office and campus facilities for getting this project done.

**Report of Liaison Representatives:**

1. Women’s Faculty Council – Aditi Grover

**Announcements:**

* WFC is seeking members for our WFC Faculty Award Fundraising Committee. This committee seeks to establish a sustainable funding source to ensure the annual Outstanding Achievement and Mentorship of Women Faculty Awards continue in the years to come and are funded at a comparable level as other prestigious University awards. If interested, please email WFC Chair, Erin Dyke ([erin.dyke@okstate.edu](mailto:erin.dyke@okstate.edu)) or committee chair, Kay Bjornen ([kay.bjornen@okstate.edu](mailto:kay.bjornen@okstate.edu)).
* We are continuing to work on exciting speakers through the next semester.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

**Spring 2022 Monthly Meetings**

This spring, WFC is planning to hold meetings on the second Wednesday of the month, 2-3pm beginning February.  An email announcement will be shared soon with information about our first meeting of the semester.

Anyone interested in the WFC 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=04%7C01%7Caditi.grover%40okstate.edu%7C706189d28b1e4a324efc08d974e18c64%7C2a69c91de8494e34a230cdf8b27e1964%7C0%7C0%7C637669334331320294%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Xgnm3%2FhMrx%2Bs1eIbSZDgWaku7eXjp4%2FYos0z6Hvv7EM%3D&reserved=0) and email [wfc@okstate.edu](mailto:wfc@okstate.edu) to sign up to be put on our email list.

1. Wellness Center – Kim Beard



b. Graduate Council – Rebecca Sheehan

*Vaccination Mandate Injunction.* Dean Tucker reported that the tuition waiver letters have been updated again due to the injunction. The programs have been notified of the change.

*Matriculation.* The new Geology Professional Science Master’s (PSM) degree has been approved for affiliation with the National Professional Science Master’s Association (NPSMA). This is the second PSM at OSU and the only ones in the state of Oklahoma.

*GTA workshop*. Spring workshop will be held on January 5, 2022 and focus on “Inclusive Teaching”.

*Fall2021 Graduate Commencement Data.* Two hundred and forty-four graduate students participated in the ceremony.

*April 15 CGS Resolution Vacation.* The Graduate College will work on drafting new policy with the Graduate Council Academic Program Committee for Council consideration. Changes will not be effective until the fall 2023 recruiting cycle.

*APC Items.* The following were approved by Council:

Program Modifications:

1. Substance Abuse Graduate Certificate – request to offer online.
2. MS Nutritional Sciences – request to delete the option in Dietetics.
3. Graduate Certificate in Gerontology – request to delete program.

Re-activation of Programs:

1. PhD Human Sciences, option in Design, Housing and Merchandising.

*Possible Policy Language at the Graduate College Level.*  Dean Tucker requested comment about including the handbook template language, requiring students to find a new chair/research advisor within 30 days to continue, in the Graduate Catalog. Discussion included adding wording about student’s good standing and SR/UR grades

*Application Fee Waiver for Veterans.* Council voted to support application fee waivers for veterans starting with the Fall 2023 application cycle.

*Non-Resident Tuition Waiver Pilot Program.* A partial, non-resident tuition waiver will be piloted with a small number of graduate programs to attract more non-resident students to OSU and examine our graduate financial model. Recruiting is for students entering in Fall 2022

*Policy On Faculty Earning an OSU Graduate Degree.* Upon request for a faculty member, Council reviewed this policy. Deans Tucker and Van Delinder provided the history of the policy that has been in existence since the Graduate College was re-organized in the 1940’s. Council has voted to retain this policy twice in the last several years. Council vote not to change this policy.

*Graduate Council Meetings for Spring 2022.* The January 28, 2022 meeting of the Graduate Council will be a Zoom format and continue until further information regarding the status of the pandemic is obtained.

*Group VI – CHS*. Dr. Wagner reported that Dr. Jim Hess was named Vice Provost for Graduate Programs, replacing Dr. Bruce Benjamin, who retired.

P. Lovern asked if there were any questions? Krishnan asked what the timeline is to ask graduate students to respond to an offer letter? We may be able to ask them to accept an offer in January. Sheehan stated that the changes will not be effective until fall 2023 recruiting cycle. We don’t know exactly what the changes will be, but the policy will cover all of OSU. All programs will have to adhere to this new policy. Not sure if prospective students will have 2, 3 or 4 weeks from the time they receive their offer. Updates will be announced as we make progress on drafting this policy. Krishnan feels that this policy change will help OSU in recruiting.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

* 1. **Academic Standards and Policies: Brandt Gardner – No Report**
  2. **Athletics: Cindy Melancon – No Report**
  3. **Budget: Tyrrell Conway – No Report**
  4. **Campus Facilities, Safety, and Security: Tieming Liu – No Report**
  5. **Diversity: Divya Jaroni – No Report**
  6. **Faculty: Matt Lovern – No Report**
  7. **Long-Range Planning and Information Technology: Kris Hiney – No Report**
  8. **Research: Bruce Dunn – No Report**
  9. **Retirement & Fringe Benefits: Sarah Hall – No Report**
  10. **Rules and Procedures: Karen Neurohr – Update**

Neurohr stated that the Rules and Procedures committee has reviewed the bylaws and has amendments to propose. We sought input from the Executive Committee. The proposed amendments are now ready to go out to all faculty. These amendments will come from Tricia White tomorrow. We are asking any faculty who have suggestions, questions or comments to please send those to your respective college representatives who will share them with the committee. Neurohr anticipates being able to vote on these amendments at the February meeting. The Faculty Council is the body that will vote on the amendments.

Neurohr reminded everyone that the election for new officers is coming up. At the February meeting we will need to identify 2 nominees for Vice Chair. In March we will have the election for the position of Vice Chair as well as college representatives. Stay tuned and watch for messages. P. Lovern clarified that we are discussing and making changes to the bylaws of Faculty Council. These are the bylaws that the suggested changes are being made to. Neurohr stated yes, this is correct. P. Lovern asked everyone to look at the proposed changes. Please direct any suggestions/questions received from faculty members to the Rules and Procedures committee. So, we can review them prior to the February meeting.

* 1. **Student Affairs and Learning Resources: Toby Nelson – No Report**

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

P. Lovern reminded everyone of the Martin Luther King Day activities that are planned for next week. There are several events planned on different days. These events were discussed at last months Faculty Council meeting. All the events can be found on the following website:

<https://studentaffairs.okstate.edu/students/dr-mlk-jr-celebration-2022/martin-luther-king-jr-celebration.html>. Please check out and plan to participate in these events.

Neurohr moved, Dimotakis seconded and the meeting is adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Neurohr, Secretary