Perkins called the meeting to order with the following members present: Beckmann, Bennett, Boileau, Charter, Crick, Daglaris, Du, Eisenberg, Emerson, Fathepure, Fitzgerald, Haley, Harp, Hildebrand, Joshi, Joyce, Lutter, McGlynn, Olsen, Parkison, Pranger, Riley, Shear, Slevitch, Weiser, Xie and Yates.

Also present: Colquhoun, C., DeTamble, R., Francisco, C., Howell, R., Jackson, N., Lacombe, V., Link, S., Mendez, J., Mindedahl, P., Schwarz, C. and Wingate, L.

Absent: Glenn.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

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

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…………………………………………………………………………………….

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

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

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

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

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

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

Access and Community Impact ……………………………………………………………

Athletic, Health and Wellness ………..………………………………….………………..

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

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

Career Track…………..………………………………………………….………………..

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

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

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

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

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

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

Perkins welcomed everyone to the meeting. Perkins established that a quorum was present and brought the meeting to order. Perkins asked those present to sign the attendance sheet. Perkins asked everyone on Zoom to please put their name in the chat so their attendance can be recorded. Perkins asked anyone who has a question to raise their hand or type their question in the chat. Please direct your questions to Yates who is watching the chat. She will then communicate the questions to the group. Perkins reminded everyone to please set their microphones to mute. Perkins stated the first item of business was the approval of the May 13, 2025 minutes. These were electronically distributed and are available on the Faculty Council website. Perkins asked for corrections or objections to the approval of the minutes. Seeing none, stated the minutes are approved. Perkins 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. Perkins asked if there were any corrections to the agenda. Seeing none, Perkins asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Eisenberg moved and Olsen seconded the motion. Perkins stated that it had been moved and seconded to adopt the agenda. Perkins asked those in favor to say “Aye”, those on zoom to enter their vote in the chat. Those opposed do the same. Motion passed and the agenda was adopted. Perkins stated we will not have a President's report today. President Hess is in Tulsa on business and could not be here today. He is very conscientious in terms of coming to Facutly Council. We really appreciate this, however he was called away today and cannot attend.

Perkins stated next on the agenda is the Provost's Report and introduced Provost Mendez.

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

Mendez started her report with the Faculty Council recommendation update. We start off the new year with the OSU Policy of Complaints of Research Misconduct that was discussed and approved last May. It went to the Council of Deans in June, then to Executive Leadership at the end of June. Now it will go on the September Board of Regents agenda. It should fall off our recommendation sheet. Once this is done, we will start the new year with a clean slate.

Mendez does not have a big presentation but has one topic to address. First, she welcomed everyone back. She is happy to have everyone and all the students back on campus. Mendez stated that this year’s unofficial freshman class is 5,184. Once the census is completed, we will have an official total. Mendez stated that at the end of census last year we were 5,030. We’re already up 150 freshmen. Mendez stated you could tell there were more students at the Cowboy Kickoff Friday. This is a good problem to have. It’s a big class and it is going to be crowded. Mendez stated the first football game is next Thursday. We have both Thursday and Friday night games this year. Good news is we lived through the April concert. We know how to handle these Thursday and Friday night events. We know that those in business and engineering are going to get a little crunched with parking on game day. There will be notifications coming out. We are still having our classes. Accommodations that can be made, we always leave that to faculty. This isn't our first year with a Thursday or Friday night game.

Mendez stated a few big things are coming up this year and they will be reported on throughout the year. One is the HLC visit in April. We are excited about this. A lot of planning is involved with this visit. Ryan Chung and Chris Francisco are taking the lead for the institution. Another item is an open dean search for Education and Human Sciences. The priority application has closed, and the search committee is already reviewing applications. Mendez stated they do anticipate a dean search in Vet Med. Mendez and President Hess are working on this and will launch in the coming weeks. Mendez stated that President Hess was going to address course cancellations, but she stated that administration understands this was challenging for many faculty. The feedback they had received was that most faculty were aware of the minimums that are published in the course catalog. Mendez stated they didn’t know how widely these had not been looked at across colleges. She understands from the faculty perspective that it’s jarring when suddenly something you didn’t know about is being enforced and suddenly you are told your class maybe are going to be canceled. Mendez stated that they will work with the deans on messaging. There was strong internal messaging but when it went out to the colleges every college interpreted the messaging differently. The Provosts office fielded a lot of questions that were handled at the college or things being implemented by the college that they were not involved in.

Mendez stated that if President Hess were here today, he would say this is something that they had met early on to discuss and have implemented. President Hess did a cost analysis of the number of adjuncts we have, and we are spending over $14 million on adjuncts. If you remember, Faculty Council did a salary compression study that it's about $10.5 million to address salary compression. That is a priority of President Hess’s within the budget, and so I think, one of the things that he asked early on was about faculty workload. Where that stands, are we maximizing it, and are there ways that we can be more efficient? If we're running really small classes, can eliminate that? Does that mean we don't have to rely as heavily on temporary faculty? There's a lot we need to learn and address. It will be ongoing.

This year, from Mendez's perspective, what we'd really like to talk to the colleges about is course rotations and degree plans, and the extent to which you maximize your course rotations. Not every course has to be offered every semester or every year, and when you have predictable course rotations, it helps students finish within four years, and you can efficiently develop them. We have some tools to work with departments. We've talked to department heads about this as well. Francisco does regular trainings with our department heads. We understand if you were one of those, or your colleagues were, and your course was canceled. We understand what that's like.

Mendez opened the floor for questions. Haley asked how many exceptions were granted. Mendez stated they granted almost every exception that was given to them. That said, Mendez stated that not every exception came to the Provost's office. She empowered the deans and they sent their requests to her office. Just like faculty hiring, the deans put forward a plan, she took it to the position review committee and then approved 92% of the faculty hires. However, the deans did not send forth the full list that the colleges asked for and that’s what she thinks happened. Once the requests hit the Provosts office, they granted the vast majority of exceptions. What the deans sent forward might not match what your department sent forward for an exception. Mendez does not have data on this. Haley stated there may have been some miscommunication. Haley expressed to his department head they should try to keep his class, but it was cancelled. He is teaching another class with just as few students, but it is less useful to teach but he has to teach something. Haley stated the process was jarring but thinks there was a communication gap. Mendez stated that if we work on degree plans and course rotations this should get us to a place where we reduce the amount of underenrolled courses right off. They had some colleges state they didn’t register their grad students until August. This is a really bad practice. Mendez stated she understands first-year students, but colleges know who they have admitted, and we can control this. She stated you shouldn’t send second, third, fourth or fifth-year grad students off for the summer not enrolled in classes. Mendez stated you shouldn’t send any undergraduates off for the summer without being enrolled. We did learn a lot about some practices that were going on. We would like to encourage some best practices to get everyone enrolled sooner and then we can plan more effectively. Mendez does not believe next year we will be faced with as much of the cancelling because we will be controlling what’s going on the schedule in the first place, making those arguments on what has to be taught that year and what’s crucial. Fathepure asked if this was for graduate students. Mendez stated yes. If the exceptions came to her office, they erred on the side of approving the exception and prioritizing students’ progress through the program and graduation.

One of the things we also learned is that some grad programs artificially cap their enrollment at the number of TA positions they have. If you don't have a lot of TA positions, and you're running classes of 5, and you're admitting classes of 5, that's not efficient either. So, there's some work that we want to do with the colleges on what that looks like, too. Eisenberg asked how much the departments are working with the Provosts office to generate information. Example, Physics will have more required courses as part of their curriculum than History will. Mendez believes there will be close coordination, and she will lean on Francisco and Ormsbee on department head training and workshops throughout the semester. There would be half-day workshops where we sit down and talk about curriculum, what we learned, what data they have/what data we have, and how do we effectively make a plan. Mendez stated Ormsbee is developing some online types of videos. They are going to try to put as much information as possible in the hands of the departments. Eisenberg stated the follow-up question is messaging because that was part of the problem. Eisenberg asked when the deadline was for spring so this information can get out ASAP. Mendez does not have this information right now. She did state there will be a longer time period between announcing it and what the deadline would be. Mendez stated they thought the deadlines were okay because the semester had ended and we need to have a big push on upper division classes that we are sending students off in May registered that we don’t get as much movement on. The most movement we get is on graduate students throughout the summer. Mendez believes we can front-load this a little bit. They will be working with departments more. We will be getting ready for the fall schedule, draft in November, finalized in December. We want to have discussions now about next fall and what those rotations will look like. Haley stated the cancellation was the issue. Students signed up for classes and then the classes got cancelled.

Olsen stated an observation he has learned through this process. The time that we could have would be very helpful in between when the deadline will be. Because what we kind of found is there are predictable patterns, especially in the graduate programming, where students do enroll later, which, unfortunately, we can't change human behavior, which is to procrastinate. What type of emphasis or understanding will lead to predictable patterns? Certain programs and departments realize that students get their acts together way too late in the summer. We had a bunch of classes on the chopping block in June, even though we know that they were going to fill up by the end of the summer, and lo and behold, they did, but what it did is it required faculty when we're off contract to spend a considerable amount of time working, which we do all summer anyway, and I'm happy to do it, it's not a big deal. But we had to jump through, like, what felt like a lot of extra hoops to save these classes, to then now, at the end of the semester, they're all maxed out, and the wait lists are maxed out. We knew they were going to come, so I think maybe what my question is, is how can we think strategically about how to get graduate students enrolled earlier in the process, and maybe there is institutional support that can be helpful for faculty and programs, because human behavior, these students wait until the last minute. Mendez stated this is where we are making those exceptions. She believes we can work with the graduate college and associate deans on how to better manage this. Olsen stated we work with teachers who become enrolled in graduate programs, and they're all on summer break, summer, and then they get back to school, and they're like, oh, wait, I need to do this, and they all enroll way late. Maybe there's some information you all can learn to help us know how to get people to move that process up. Mendez stated we'll work on that. We'll work with the grant coordinators, too. Olsen stated the learning communication back and forth, what you're learning, what we're learning, could really help that process be smooth. Mendez agreed.

Haley stated that trying to get the classes that are approved not getting cancelled is the big issue. In Physics they teach huge classes. Their number of majors is small enough that it’s always difficult to get any of the ones that only majors take to make the number threshold. This is really the problem. Most of the ones that will be taught are the ones that will be granted exceptions because the students need to graduate. Haley stated if you had even distribution then on average their classes would always make the cut. But when you have 150 students in these 3 classes and 5 students in these other 3 classes it’s an issue. Mendez stated that we certainly have some under-enrolled programs. We have some service departments. We have some recruitment issues. We have some curricular design issues. While Haley was speaking, she saw 4 or 5 ways to address all of this. Mendez stated we recognize that this was one way we were trying to help, trying to start the process of looking at efficiencies at the department level. We realize not all departments were doing this. There are plenty of departments that do this regularly and have no issues with them. We have a lot more to discuss, and we need to solve this issue. We need to figure out what’s going on, why do we have some under-enrolled departments, why do we have some cohorts of 9 undergrads and things like this. We’ve asked a lot of questions and have a lot we are still going to ask to help us work through this and figure it out.

Mendez stated we do not want to cancel classes. We do not want to put that burden on students and faculty. But structurally, if we can fix some of the reasons that led to that we would be in a good place. Degree plans are going to be central in this. If you have a smaller department, where are you building things up? The trend in the last 10-15 years has been overly rigid degree plans with major-specific classes only and very few electives. This doesn’t help if you don’t have a large group of students to pull from. This exacerbated the problem. Mendez believes there are a lot of things we can help work into these discussions. Haley stated that it ends up then that students get distributed across electives, then no elective can make it, and those get canceled because they're just electives. Mendez statethere are formulas, and we have not been formulaic in what we've done, but there are formulas based on the size of your major, the size of your undergrad population, the number of departments you have, about how many required courses you should offer in a semester per department and how many elective hours. We can be overly formulaic, we haven't, but we have tools that can help us correctly size the number of our course offerings, I think, in an efficiency. Haley stated this is great, and like you said, working with the departments to come up with the degree plans. Fathepure stated there may be some problems with the lab sections. Some sections get full, others do not. Mendez believes it’s because of the time of the labs. The 7-9 p.m. one does not fill up. They do not want the late night or early morning options. Mendez stated there are ways and tools we could use that can help distribute the number of students and the offerings. The prime-time lab sections in the hours between 10-2 did very well.

Perkins thanked Provost Mendez and asked if there were any Vice Presidents who had any comments.

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

**Amber Manning-Ouellette: Interim Vice President for Student Affairs:**

Manning-Ouellette reviewed the following website and distributed the following handout to those attending the meeting:

go.okstate.edu/student-life/mental-health-resources/

A white and orange card with black text and a qr code

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Manning-Ouellette stated this will be my last Faculty Council meeting, as the Interim Vice President for Student Affairs. There will be a new Vice President for Student Affairs beginning on September 2nd. Dr. Brent Marsh will be that individual. I'll be helping with transition, and he will be a part of a lot of the initiatives coming on, and then I will transition back on Faculty Council, I believe, in November, so I will be a colleague like you in the room.

Manning-Ouellette wanted to share with you all an initiative, that is, Dr. Hess and Angela Hess, their initiative for this year. It is called Cowboys Care, and this is our landing page, and you can get to it by scanning the code on the handout. Mental health and mental health support and student support are very, very important to the Hesses, and one of their major initiatives and priorities, really that has flown through Student Affairs and our division is mental health support, for college students. We have several different ways that we provide mental health support across campus for students. Many of you know a lot of our existing services. There are a few new ones, or at least one new one that I wanted to highlight for you all. Many of you are familiar with care reports. I know that because the data shows that faculty are actually the second or third top referral source for care reports across campus. So, thank you for that. That is a really important resource that we have for students. When you have students in the classroom and you notice behaviors, you have concerns, they share with you things that you are concerned about, you have the ability to submit a care report. You also can be an advocate to show students where they can submit a care report as well. Anyone can submit a care report. That includes family, alumni, faculty, students themselves, their peers. So that's a really important resource.

On this landing page you will see all of those options that are available to them. This is through Student Life. You'll see at the bottom, submitting a care report. You can also Google care report, Oklahoma State, it will take you directly to that website as well. Continuing to do that will be very important throughout the school year. We have seen a 24% increase of care reports being submitted every single year, and especially over the last year. Because of the Cowboys Care Initiative, we will see probably more care reports this year. Those go directly to the student support staff, Scott Alexander, who is the director, and then a group of case managers will follow up appropriately with the students. Get them connected to resources, that may be counseling services, that may be basic needs, that may be our Cowboy Strong emergency funding, depending on what the issue is. These students are connected right away with some sort of resource. The care reports are really, integral to what our division does, and what student support does.

You all know that University Counseling Service is also available in the Student Union. There's a direct link to that website, and students do receive at least 6 free sessions for counseling. We do have funding available if they go beyond that, and they're not able to afford the cost, which is very, very subsidized for them anyways, but we have funding available to do that. We also have University Health Services. Surprisingly, more students don't know about health services aside from if you have a cold, if you have the flu, you go. There's a pharmacy in University Health Services on this campus, and surprisingly, students are not as aware. This landing page can help with that. You are a great advocate or a person in the classroom to help them navigate that as well.

There is a new referral source that we have, it's called TimelyCare. TimelyCare does not replace university counseling services. It's supplemental to counseling that we have in person on campus. Data shows us that students prefer face-to-face counseling. TimelyCare is a virtual option, it is 24-7. It's that wraparound care. If there's an emergency at 2 AM, they can click on TimelyCare, through the link. They can be connected with a counselor immediately, counselors that are there for crisis, but also to set up ongoing appointments should they want to do that. But that is a service that is brand new to OSU. Our state regent's office actually, did a contract with TimelyCare. All Oklahoma institutions have access to TimelyCare. There's a lot to navigate with all that, I won't get into the details, but this is a 24-7 resource for college students if they are in crisis, and they need to be seen immediately. Maybe they can't get over to counseling, or it's 2AM, or it's the weekend. Students can be distressed on the weekends and not know what resources there are. This is one of them. On the landing page, you'll see more and more about, Cowboys Care. We did Rock the Block on Friday night. We had over 1,600 students attend that, and we did a kickoff with Cowboys Care, where the President and Mrs. Hess handed out t-shirts, and we handed out flyers, so students are aware of this as well.

You are a critical component in awareness in the classrooms. Some other things that we have access to are BetterHelp, which is another virtual option. We've had it for a long time. It's also another great resource. You can see from the landing page, there are many, many things going on, and this will be great to offer in your classes. Does anyone have questions about Cowboy Care? Seeing none, Perkins thanked Manning-Ouellette and welcomed her back to Faculty Council.

**Faculty Council Chair’s Report:**

Good afternoon. For those of you who don’t know me, I am Dr. Stephen Perkins, Associate Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Sociology. I am in my 23rd year as a faculty member at Oklahoma State and I am currently serving my third 3-year term on OSU’s General Faculty Council (FC). My first term began in 2007.

In gaveling in today, we begin the 72nd year of FC. Founded in 1953, this faculty organization is singular in its direct interaction with OSU’s “upper administration” (i.e., the Offices of President, Provost, Vice Presidents, etc.). Less appreciated, FC is also charged with identifying and nominating faculty members to represent our interests in the upper administration’s many university committees. As stated in FC’s Charter, the organization exists “to provide the most effective means for utilizing the competencies of the members of the faculty for formulating, recommending, and executing the educational policies, procedures, and long-range plans of the University.”

As someone who believes in the significance of FC’s contribution to the success of OSU and its faculty, permit me to make a few observations about where we’ve been as an organization and where we are today.

On November 17, 1953, the first Faculty Council meeting was gaveled in by Oklahoma A&M President Oliver S. Willham, serving as the first chair of Faculty Council. The newly created council consisted of a Vice Chair (Dr. H.I. Featherly), and 23 faculty members organized into four standing committees, each one chaired by a faculty councilor. Based on those eligible to vote on FC’s bylaws, Oklahoma A&M’s faculty body numbered 580 individuals in 1953. As we know, Higher Education in the United States grew immensely in the years following WWII. In 1957 Oklahoma A&M became Oklahoma State University. As a well-recognized Land Grant institution, OSU’s professoriate steadily increased in number, and in professors’ national and international stature thanks to excellence in research, teaching, and agricultural extension.

Fast forward to today. Last year in 2024, we welcomed all career-track faculty as full members of OSU’s General Faculty Council, increasing the organization’s electorate to approximately 2,384 individuals representing OSU-Stillwater’s many colleges, and some of its branch campuses.

Has corresponding growth occurred in the FC? Compared with the 23 faculty councilors in 1953, FC in 2025 has 27 councilors. Our 27 councilors are today spread across 12 different Faculty Council committees, some members serving two different committees, while other members (either councilors, or faculty nominated by FC) serve on a growing number of University Committees as part of Council’s shared governance agreements with upper administration.

So, while our faculty has more than quadrupled since 1953, the number of councilors has stagnated. This underrepresentation is compounded by the outdated electoral system used by FC whereby some academic departments have multiple elected representatives serving on FC, while most OSU’s departments have no representation at all.

Underrepresentation leads to poor communication about the Council’s activities and accomplishments, and subsequently to lack of knowledge and general apathy about the significance of FC in representing its constituency. This apathy can be measured by examining the number and percentage of faculty by college who participate in Faculty Council’s annual elections.

**Faculty Participation by OSU Department/School/Program,**

**Faculty Council Elections**

**March-April 2025**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Department/**  **School/Program** | **Number of faculty eligible to vote** | **Number of faculty**  **voting** | **% of voters among eligible faculty** |
| CAS | 667 | 159 | **24%** |
| CEAT | 240 | 37 | **15%** |
| CEHS | 258 | 47 | **18%** |
| FCA | 355 | 20 | **6%** |
| SSB | 200 | 63 | **32%** |
| CVM | 131 | n/a | no candidate up for election |
| Library | 55 | n/a | no candidate up for election |
| OSU-CHS | 260 | 32 | **12%** |
| OSU-OKC | 150 | 9 | **6%** |
| OSU-TULSA | 68 | n/a | no candidate up for election |
| FC Vice Chair  (Open to All) | 2,384 | 319 | **13%** |

In discussions with faculty colleagues in the past year it has become very apparent that our generation needs to undertake the project of revising and rejuvenating Oklahoma State’s faculty governance structure. Amid another watershed moment in United States Higher Education, OSU’s faculty body needs to be more engaged and more active in assisting OSU’s upper administration in navigating these changes. Otherwise, change will be imposed from above without input from those who are impacted by these policies.

So, without saying more at this time, let me conclude by stating that over the coming academic year I seek to work with willing and energetic colleagues to bring these issues and deficiencies to the attention of the wider faculty and to initiate organizational changes that will benefit and reenergize faculty governance at OSU. I believe it’s critical that we begin to do so.

**Report of Liaison Representatives:**

* 1. Emeriti – Tom Royer

Carolyn Gang opened the June evening dinner. We hosted Dr Chris Francisco who served as the Senior Vice Provost in the Division of Academic Affairs at OSU. The dinner was well attended, and Dr. Francisco discussed some of the new changes that involve the General Education components of the OSU Undergraduate degree plans, especially the new options called “trails” which can be obtained to fulfill the General Education requirements.

Our 2025 Member Directory has been distributed, and our monthly summer activities will revolve around informal social gatherings at Hideaway.

We noted the passing of Marlene Collins Walker who passed away on May 14, 2025.

* 1. Staff Advisory Council – Sam Morse
  2. Graduate Council – Veronique Lacombe
  3. Student Government Association – Sam Hiltz

Hi, everybody. For those who don't know, I'm Sam, I'm the student government representative to Faculty Council. As far as student government goes, we've kind of been starting again this year, so it's kind of been slow. Our first Senate meeting is next week on Wednesday night. However, tomorrow from 6 to 9 p.m, we are having our annual Lights on Stillwater event. For those who don't know, it's a major outreach event with the Oklahoma, the Stillwater community, we have about 60 groups registered currently. A lot of those are student organization groups, but we also have a lot of local Stillwater organizations and businesses coming out as well, and I would recommend everybody come by and see what's going on in the Stillwater community. Are there any questions for me? Yeah, Sam, and we look forward to your participation on our committees. Some of our committees have student representatives, so we're going to make sure that we communicate with Dr. Mendez and Sam and members, if you don't have active members. Those of you who have students, let’s get them involved.

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

**General Assembly Meeting Reminder – Fall 2025**

The 2025 – 2026 GPSGA executive team is looking forward to serving the graduate and professional community!

The first General Assembly meeting for Fall 2025 is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 27, at 5:30 PM in Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) 035**. An online attendance option will be available for representatives and liaisons from the Tulsa and OKC campuses.

**GPSGA Assistance/Grant/Fund Information – Fall 2025**

**-GPSGA Travel Assistance Application**

* Application period: **August 18 – October 31**
* Exception Application period: **November 1 – November 30**
* Post Meeting/Conference Report due: **October 31, 2025 – January 15, 2026**
* Application materials and instructions will be available on the [GPSGA Canvas page](https://canvas.okstate.edu/courses/84470/pages/gpsga-travel-assistance-information?module_item_id=1952508).
* All award recipients must submit their **Post Meeting/Conference Report** between **October 31, 2025**, and **January 15, 2026**.

**-GPSGA Co-Sponsorship Fund Application**

* Application period: **August 18 – September 30**
* Post-Event Visual Report due: **September 30, 2025 – January 15, 2026**
* All application materials and reporting instructions will be available on the [GPSGA Canvas page](https://canvas.okstate.edu/courses/84470/pages/gpsga-co-sponsorship-fund-information?module_item_id=1952516).

**GPSGA Membership Application – Fall 2025**

All new and returning [representatives](https://canvas.okstate.edu/courses/84470/files/20636999?module_item_id=5965904) and [liaisons](https://canvas.okstate.edu/courses/84470/files/20637121?module_item_id=5965917) from graduate and professional student organizations and departments are required to complete the **GPSGA Membership Application Form**. The form is now available to download on Canvas and must be submitted via the designated Microsoft Form Submission Portal by October 3 at 5 PM.

**Issues Raised by the GPSGA General Assembly**

The following concerns were raised by graduate and professional student representatives and liaisons:

* **On-campus housing availability** for returning graduate students
* **Graduate student orientation** – A suggestion for a more centralized and comprehensive orientation that includes pertinent information for all graduate students.
* **Assistantship opportunities** – Interest in developing a more centralized platform to share available graduate assistantship positions across the university.

**REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

Perkins stated that we are just beginning the semester but did ask the chairs if they would introduce themselves, and if you want to say a word about some initiatives that you're looking into, that would be wonderful. If you're not yet going that's fine. We'll start off with John Michael Riley, Chair of Academic Standards and Policies.

**a. Academic Standards and Policies: John Michael Riley**

Hi, John Michael Riley, and we have our first meeting set for Monday, and we'll start diving into our calendar and slate of agenda items then.

**b. Access and Community Impact: Aimee Parkison**

I'm Amy Parkinson, Access and Community Impact Committee, which is a newly renamed committee. Our initiatives and goals are to engage with various OSU organizations connected to populations, that might be challenged right now, given the current situation. We will be in touch with groups like CAS Equity Advocates, the Center for Sovereign Nations, and the Division of Access and Community Impact, among others. If you have ideas for organizations or groups that we should be contacting, please let me know so I can bring that to the committee. Thank you.

Haley stated the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation that OSU has been the lead on, and it has I think 13 universities and colleges in Oklahoma. But it's a big program that with the new administration, they're going to have an upcoming meeting over the status of that, but it's huge for undergraduate research from minorities. Parkison asked Haley to email her the information. Absolutely.

**c. Athletics, Health and Wellness: Jill Joyce**

I'm Jill Joyce. I'm taking over for Eric Warren for that committee. Eric and I have met, I'm new to it all, we're still working with Trisha to get some student reps. We do have the student representatives. But I've met with him. I know there were some initiatives that were going to kick off in September. I'm aware of what they were working on and what to continue on, but one thing to bring up to everybody is that, in the end of late September coming up here, the Healthy Minds Survey that they were working on, including with Todd Meissner's group, will, hopefully kick off. So that'll be something, hopefully, to pass down to your colleges and your departments or your units. We'll have more information on that in September. Which beautifully fits in with CowboyCare.

**d. Budget: Merle Eisenberg**

We have all four meetings for the fall set, so that's done. We have five items on our agenda, ranging from questions about course cancellation and budgetary impact. It'd be interesting to know about the adjunct question and the raise question. To stuff like follow-up on the raise reports, we'll probably be in touch about that. And then also, returning to get the budget committee back to a role on the questions of college budgets, which it always used to be involved in, so I've been working with Chris Kravitzki on that already. So hopefully that'll be done in the next few months.

**e. Campus Facilities, Safety, and Security: Patrick Daglaris**

My name is Patrick and there is not much movement yet, but we can change that soon.

**f. Career Track: Jennifer Glenn/Mark Pranger**

Perkins stated that Glenn is out of town but is actively working to set up meetings. Mark Pranger, committee member from OSU-IT, a large group of Career Track employees. The meetings have been set for the first Friday of each month at 2:00. The committee is getting ready to send out a survey to Career Track faculty only asking for their opinions and seeking information about how long their contracts are and a few other items on it.

**g. Faculty: Joe Haley**

From last year, there's a big item, which was updating the RPT documents to include the career track faculty, which basically was edited and put forward, but there wasn't enough time to really get through the process. That's the main thing on the docket moving forward. He mentioned that also the office had some additional changes I might want to make. I contacted Chris. He's going to get back to me to make sure they have what edits they want to make. I sent an introduction email to the rest of the committee to schedule meetings in the coming weeks.

**h. Long-Range Planning and Information Technology: Melanie Boileau**

I'm chairing the Long-Range Planning and Informational Technology committee for the second year. I'm trying to get our first meeting scheduled still, so that's in the works. If you guys recall, our committee sent out last spring a faculty needs assessment over artificial intelligence, so I'm hoping to be able to use this raw data and continue on some of the discussion as to how to use the date, what to do with the data we got and move forward, and so that's what's in the works.

**i. Research: Jared Fitzgerald**

So far kind of in the same boat, scheduling, a meeting with folks right now, so we got a poll out for that. So I'll have that meeting going. I will be meeting with, Dr. Sewell, Vice President of Research, here, next week, as well to get an idea of issues they see and then go from there.

**j. Retirement & Fringe Benefits: Mark Weiser**

We have set up our meetings. The president has specifically indicated an interest in retirement plans and benefits for faculty. He's actually told multiple people this, so we have our meeting starting next week. I've reached out to the president's office to try to have a meeting with him to see what sort of things he's talking about. I had a conversation with him last Friday, and it really seems like he's open to revisiting everything. I anticipate that we'll have a busy and impactful year.

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

Rules and Procedures Committee's job is to support the production of policies that other committees put together. We are also focused on a couple of very wizened procedures that haven't been updated since the 80’s for things like termination and grievances. We're overhauling those guys this year, too. Perkins stated that the officers of Faculty Council, predominantly, along with Mark, constitute the Rules and Procedures Committee, so we're going to work together to iron out some of the problems with some of those procedures.

**l. Student Affairs and Learning Resources: William McGlynn**

I'm a new chair as well, and we're, trying to get things organized and get our first meeting scheduled. I'm hoping to get some feedback from the people who were on the committee last year as to what our initiatives are going to be for this year. So, more coming, I'm sure.

Perkins stated we need to, if I haven't, indicated, we should get you the minutes from last year, so you can review the final report and what was going on with the committee, so you can pick that up. Some of those, but I didn't seem to be able to find the most recent ones. Okay. We'll get those to you.

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – None

Slevitch asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is Tuesday, September 9, 2025 in room **126 ITLE**.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Crick, Secretary