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

Also present: Barnes, A., Colquhoun, C., Essmiller, K., Ford, A., Fitzgerald, J., Francisco, C., Glenn, J., Hallenbeck, D., Hawkins, K., Horton, M., Lacombe, V., Mendez, J., Miller, B., Noll, S., Peaster, R., Peek, G., Sewell, K. and Sun, M.

Absent: Carrion, Cecil, Gonzalez, Jadeja, Knapp and Riley.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Special Reports:

Dr. Tamara Mix – OSU Faculty Fellow – Guiding General Education Reform….……….

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

Provost’s report on Recommendations made by the Faculty Council and Comments on matters of interest to the Faculty-Provost Mendez………………………………………...

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

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

Reports of Liaison Representatives

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 November 14, 2023 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. Hildebrand moved and Yough 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.

Gardner stated that we have a special report today and introduced Dr. Tamara Mix.

**Special Reports:**

**A.  Dr. Tamara Mix – OSU Faculty Fellow – Guiding General Education Reform**

Dr. Mix is a department head in Sociology and a Faculty Fellow for General Education Reform. Mix shared and reviewed the following PowerPoint:



Mix stated in 2022 a General Education Task Force was formed. This was a university wide task force. The constituency of the task force was created by nominations from Deans and other key stakeholders at OSU. In alignment with the Strategic Plan, this task force was formed to consider what was happening with the general education system at OSU.

Mix opened the floor for questions. Parkison asked if the “F” designation (optional elective choice) could be optional and one of the pools. Mix stated that it could be one of the pools. Mix stated that “F” has a very complicated set of dimensions within the Regents’ policy. They are still trying to figure out what this will look like, but she feels it certainly could and work into the 40 credit hours that a student could be taking. Mix stated that one thing they are working on now is five strategic areas that are building pilot trails they would like to test and program match. These may include energy, nourishing the world, leadership, arts, aerospace and several other options. Once the thematic trails are complete they will look at programs that have flexibility and see how students can mix and match things together. The intention is to pilot five trails starting Fall 2024 with the intention of additional trails rolling out Fall 2025. Gardner asked Mix to address advising students. Some faculty have expressed concerns about colleges/departments losing control over advising. Mix stated this was not within her purview so she could not answer the question. Hoff asked whom he or a colleague should contact if they have questions or are interested in developing a General Education (GE) course. Mix asked if they want to develop a GE course or trail set. If they are interested in developing a trail set an initial call will go out in December with a workload/workflow call going out in January. Mix stated for a regular GE right now they have the General Education Advisory Council (GEAC) system in place with no significant modifications made at this time. Fransisco stated that the Associate Deans in academic programs have also asked if anyone is interested in these. There have been conversations with the Associate Deans, so they can help. Lawson stated that the Business College has several short-term study abroad programs which all have the “I” designation. Going forward, will these courses need to be put into a specific trail or will they apply across all the trails? Mix stated that study abroad is something they have discussed extensively and how it would look in the trail system. Could it be a culminating course or possibly paired with another designation to help enhance its strength as a GE offering? Mix anticipates further discussions about this. Gardner asked for additional questions, and seeing none introduced Jerome Loughridge who will speak for President Shrum.

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

Loughridge stated that President Shrum was in Tulsa today. Loughridge stated there has been an exciting announcement relative to OSU Poly Tech. Loughridge stated that approximately 212 people attended the announcement at the Helmerich Research Center in Tulsa. Among those attending were tribal partners with an exceptionally strong statement from the Cherokee Nation relative to the partnership capabilities and direction we are headed, which is highly industry driven. Representatives from numerous organizations were in Aerospace and manufacturing were there. Loughridge shared the following video:

[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/w4hschkj7cgikgt65p26d/h?rlkey=k6vz6i438qhu2087cmxpqxpom&dl=0](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dropbox.com%2Fscl%2Ffo%2Fw4hschkj7cgikgt65p26d%2Fh%3Frlkey%3Dk6vz6i438qhu2087cmxpqxpom%26dl%3D0&data=05|02|tricia.white@okstate.edu|73cc4e47d6034c65ef9b08dbfb2ce598|2a69c91de8494e34a230cdf8b27e1964|0|0|638379943086923804|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D|3000|||&sdata=6TiTeDRTNKm1nt91VJhNKj3TQx%2F%2BFrTx0rLtKuVHsF4%3D&reserved=0)

Loughridge stated that this aligns with the strategic direction outlined last year in the four key areas of priority for the university are featured prominently through Poly Tech. The connective area running through all of it is the workforce readiness component. This is one expression of this particular aspiration. The final strategic imperative of leveraging the entire OSU system which will participate in this endeavor. It will not just be OSU Tulsa, OSU-OKC or OSU-IT. All campuses will play an integral role in rolling out Poly Tech. Loughridge will be available after the meetings for comments and thoughts to share. Garnder introduced Provost Mendez for her report.

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

Mendez stated there are no recommendations in the queue but that will probably change today. Mendez updated the council on current dean searches. There are currently three: Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology (CEAT) and the Graduate College. She is working with two search firms. Greenwood, Asher and Associates are running the Arts and Sciences as well as the Graduate College searches. Martin Baker is running the Engineering, Architecture and Technology search. The search firms have been on campus and met with stakeholders. We’ve had preferred application dates of either December 4th or 5th depending on the search. The search and screening committees are all now at the reviewing files stage of the process. For Arts and Sciences, they will be meeting on December 18th to discuss the pool of candidates. We are targeting the third week of January for the first round of interviews. For CEAT, the screening committee is meeting tomorrow with a target of the beginning of January for the semifinalist interviews. The Grad College is meeting on December 14th with the first round of interviews slated for the third week of January. Mendez stated that everything is on schedule. She is expecting a lot of interviews in February for all three searches. We hope to make offers in late February. Mendez stated that she does not review the pool of candidates yet so anything she knows is informally from the search committee chairperson. Sewell is a committee chair and said they have a lot of good candidates. Gardner asked for questions. Seeing none, moved to Vice President reports.

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

None

**Faculty Council Chair’s report:**

Gardner stated that when we serve on Faculty Council and accept various assignments we do so often without understanding how visible or consequential the assignment may be. It’s often not until we are partway through an assignment that something arises that requires our attention. We’ve had several of these situations arise this semester. Gardner wanted to sincerely thank everyone who has put thought and effort into each assignment. Differences are being made in the lives of faculty members and students here at OSU because of the thoughtful consideration that our committee chairs and committee members are bringing to their assignments. Gardner wanted everyone to know that we will be conducting an evaluation of the various assignments that Faculty Councilors are given on university committees in order to determine goodness and fit. It’s been a while since we reviewed this, and it’s been brought to our attention that there may be a better way of arranging some of these assignments. This will start next semester. We appreciate the insight that people have given us regarding these assignments.

**Report of Liaison Representatives:**

* 1. **Emeriti – Barbara Miller**

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the Emeriti Association President for the past year.  Next month, Mike Woods will take over as president for 2024. Carolyn Gang will be president elect for 2025.

I have enjoyed working with such a fine group of Emeriti Council Members this year too. Just being a member of the Emeriti Association has been a real delight. I can't think of a finer group of people.

That is one reason, in each of my Faculty Council reports, I have invited any of you who are considering retirement to please join our association. I believe that you will find it to be a worthwhile endeavor.

At our final Emeriti Association Dinner of the year, our members were entertained by the Stillwater High School Choral group, who did an outstanding job of singing Christmas songs.

Recapping the year, we had wonderful dinners each month. We also celebrated 35 years of our association's existence back in September. We honored our Emeriti Military Veterans at our November meeting. Already we have a slate of excellent speakers and/or entertainment lined up for 2024.

Thank you for allowing me to write a report to your group each month to let you know what the Emeriti Association is doing.

Again, when your retirement time comes, please come join this wonderful group of individuals.  I know you will fit right in.

Merry Christmas!

Respectfully,

Gary Sherrer, President

* 1. **Women’s Faculty Council – Erin Dyke**
* **Faculty Awards for the Outstanding Achievement and Mentorship of Women - Nominations:** Winners were [announced](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwomensfacultycouncil.okstate.edu%2Ffaculty-awards%2Fawardees.html&data=05|01|tricia.white@okstate.edu|2e7f54e645f043b40d7f08dbf7f9fde6|2a69c91de8494e34a230cdf8b27e1964|0|0|638376425301337567|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D|3000|||&sdata=N%2FYoi2Db4DYh8aCQ9c1s6gxDpgKrFL9JGnqgE%2FPaQVE%3D&reserved=0) at the University Awards Recognition Ceremony on December 4th. Congrats!
  + Rising Star Award - Dr. Corinne Schwarz, Assistant Professor of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies
  + Outstanding Achievement - Dr. Amber Manning-Ouellette, Assistant Professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs
  + Inspiring Excellence - Dr. Lanette López Compton, Professor of Music
* **Student Research Awards:** We are currently fundraising for our annual student research awards program. Applications for the awards will open for students in January.
* **November FCGE Meeting:** We hosted an invited speaker via Zoom - **“Researching and Teaching Gendered Histories”,** Dr. Kathleen Crowther, Associate Professor, History of Science, Technology, and Medicine at University of Oklahoma
* Spring Semester Speakers and Meetings will be announced early January.

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|01|tricia.white@okstate.edu|2e7f54e645f043b40d7f08dbf7f9fde6|2a69c91de8494e34a230cdf8b27e1964|0|0|638376425301337567|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D|3000|||&sdata=3NBoy1tiUwL60Y9myqDmaOAt%2FRaOWNJArVdQp2Qc2hg%3D&reserved=0) and email [wfc@okstate.edu](mailto:wfc@okstate.edu) to sign up to be put on our email list.

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

SAC is working on some bylaw updates, planning the Staff Celebration Day event in May and the Distinguished Service Awards event on January 18th at 3 PM in the Student Union Ballroom.

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

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

* + - M.S. Counseling Psychology
    - Graduate Certificate Digital Design in Design & Merchandising
    - Graduate Certificate in Mathematics
    - Graduate Certificate in Digital Forensics and Incident Response
    - Graduate Certificate in Forensic Crime Analysis
    - Graduate Certificate in Forensic Threat Assessment & Management
    - Graduate Certificate in Food Safety Management
    - Graduate Certificate in in Food Safety Science
    - M.S. School Psychology
    - Quantum Information Science Certificate

*Membership Committee Report with recommendations on appointment for membership (at the level Associate Member 1-3 or Full member) for the 6 Subject Matter Groups - followed by membership vote.*

* Group I – Biological Sciences: 19 applicants approved
* Group II – Humanities: 5 applicants approved
* Group III – Physical Sciences and Technology: 6 applicants approved
* Group IV – Social Sciences: 8 applicants approved
* Group V – Education: 13 applicants approved
* Group VI – Biomedical Sciences: 16 applicants approved

*Doctoral Candidacy Reception,* The Graduate College resumed hosting a Doctoral Candidacy Reception and 77 candidates were invited on November 29.

*Government Shutdown -* Dean Van Delinder reported the Government shutdown has been averted.

*BOB Bus -* The BOB Shuttle Bus has been adjusted to accommodate classes held later in the day.

*Coursera –* OSU has purchased a contract with Coursera for the 2023-2024 academic year. This contract includes access for all students, staff, and faculty [to Coursera’s Career Academy](https://www.coursera.org/career-academy/programs/career-academy-learning-ry4cc), which has nearly 400 industry-specific certificate programs. The general Coursera catalog includes more than 11,000 programs from 1 hour to 8 weeks in duration.

*The Fall 2023 Graduate Commencement* is scheduled at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, December 15, 2023 in Gallagher-Iba Arena. 580 students have applied for graduation this Fall.

* 1. **Student Government Association – Ashley Peterson/Ty McLaughlin**
* We are currently planning events for next semester that engage students and increase communication between faculty and students, more details to come.
* We are currently planning the schedule and structure for the AFAP, Activity Fee Allocation Process, hearings for this upcoming semester.
* We are looking at ways to increase our funding and overall impact of our Stache Network pantries across campus as food insecurity on college campuses is continuing to increase.
* We received 31 coats from the coat drive, November 27 to December 1, we hosted along with PHPA, AMSA, STORM, Global Medical Brigades, and HOSA. These coats were donated to the clothes closet on campus, Wings of Hope, Mission of Hope, and the Payne County Youth Shelter.
* As it is the end of the semester, we had our last senate and executive meetings last week and do not have any events happening currently.
* At our last SGA meeting of the semester, we elected a new vice speaker Wyatt Moore. He will be serving as the vice speaker until May 2024.
  1. **Graduate & Professional Student Government Association – Marcia Sun**

**GPSGA Travel Award**

All Fall 2023 Travel Award applicants have been notified about the status of their applications. Please check the inbox of the provided email contact on the application to view the notification regarding your application. Additionally, processing for all award/grant/fund paperwork will commence after the collection of supplementary documents following the due date of January 15, 2024. The expected timeline for applicants who have completed all necessary application steps to receive the Fall GPSGA award/grant/fund is Spring 2024. Please carefully read through the GPSGA Travel Award Application Information Page before submission.

**GPSGA Ambassador Program**

GPSGA invites applications from interested GPSGA representatives and liaisons for the opportunity to assist, learn, and serve alongside the executive board​. Selected GPSGA Ambassadors will be able to identify their areas of interest and work on tasks and projects to gain valuable leadership experience and insight​. The program is aimed to facilitate a better transition for the executive board​.

**Activity Fee Allocation Process (AFAP)**

The Activity Fee Allocation Process (AFAP) applications under Campus Life for the 2024–25 fiscal year have opened on CampusLink. The application closes on February 2, 2024. All recognized student organizations, clubs, and associations are encouraged to apply. The [link](https://campuslife.okstate.edu/student-government-association/sga-afap.html) provides additional information and links to forms necessary for completion. The final application must be submitted via CampusLink. Upon receiving all applications, GPSGA will assist in the review and allocation process.

**General Assembly Meeting Minutes**

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

**REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

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

**b.  Athletics: Aric Warren – No Report**

**c. Budget: Maria Mi – No Report**

**d.  Campus Facilities, Safety, and Security: Cristina Gonzalez – No Report**

**e.  Diversity: Babu Fathepure – No Report**

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

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

**Update/Recommendation**

Hiney reviewed the committee charge changes that were distributed with the agenda. Gardner stated that this is holdover business from last year. Every committee was asked to review and update their charge. Gardner asked for a motion to accept the recommendation. Lawson moved and Yough seconded. Gardner then asked for questions/discussion. Yates, chair of the Student Affairs and Learning Resource committee, stated that one thing they dabble in is Canvas because it’s a learning resource for students. They have also discussed AI a little bit because students are also using it as a learning resource. Yates stated that when there are overlapping charges everyone needs to be aware of it and discuss which committee should look at any issues/concerns. Students using something as a learning resource would go to SALR but if the issue is viewed as a technology issue it may then shift to LRPIT. Gardner stated this is a great point. Depending on the use there could be multiple committees handling the business. It would be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting and given to the appropriate committee(s). Gardner asked for additional questions/discussion. Seeing none moved to a vote. Motion passed.

* 1. **Non-Tenure Track: Jennifer Glenn/Brad Lawson – Update/Recommendations**

Glenn introduced herself. She is an Associate Professor of teaching in the school of Industrial Engineering and Management. She is co-chairing the Non-Tenure Track (NTT) Faculty Council committee with Brad Lawson, a tenured professor in the school of Accounting. Today they are bringing forward two items to be voted on. The gist of these items is to provide Non-Tenure Track faculty, which they are now calling “Career” track faculty, with voting rights in faculty governance. Changes to the current Charter of the General Faculty is the first item they are suggesting changing. The Charter defines who is considered part of the General Faculty. The changes were included in the agenda for everyone to see and review. Basically, these changes include Career track (formerly Non-Tenure Track) as a part of the General Faculty such that they would have voting rights in faculty governance. Glenn stated the second item is a policy change to Policy 2-0903. These changes would further define what “Career Track” means. The committee has taken the Non-Tenure Track (NTT) designation and broken it into two pieces. One is Career Track, and the other is Temporary. These designations are clarified and outlined in the policy changes they are bringing forward today and hope to have adopted. Glenn reviewed the following handout:



Glenn explained what the scope of the changes does and does not impact. It does grant voting rights to the Career Track faculty and participation in faculty governance. It does not grant voting rights to Career Track faculty on matters of Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure (RPT) for tenure and tenure track faculty. Glenn wanted to make this perfectly clear to everyone. Glenn shared the information about faculty governance at our peer institutions and how Career track faculty are handled by them and nationwide. Most of them include Career Track faculty in faculty governance decisions. Glenn discussed the distribution of faculty on the Stillwater campus and the entire OSU system. Glenn stated that the Stillwater campus has 432 that would be designated as Career Track. System wide there are 878 faculty that would be designated as Career Track. Glenn thanked OSU Institutional Research and Analytics for the information. The charter changes had been tabled at the November meeting and the committee is proposing the changes to policy 2-0903 at today's meeting. Gardner opened the floor for questions/discussion. Miller asked if Emeriti faculty would be removed from the Charter as well. She asked if an official statement needed to be introduced for this change. Lawson stated that a lot of information will be available to the General Faculty before the vote takes place and it should be clear regarding how Career Track will be redefined going forward. It will also show that Emeriti faculty are no longer a part of what is considered Career Track. Miller asked if the Emeriti Association needs to submit something stating that they are in agreement with this new policy. Gardner thinks a response from the Emeriti Association would be helpful to include with the information as it is rolled out prior to a vote so everyone understands. Glenn stated the Charter change once approved by Faculty Council will go to a vote of the General Faculty. Information will be distributed 30 days in advance of this vote. The faculty voting will be the Tenure and Tenure track faculty since they are the only ones who have voting rights currently. Information and frequently asked questions will be available on the Faculty Council website. One of the questions to be included is “how does this impact Emeriti faculty” and letting them know they can still serve on committees. Gardner stated they had a question online: Should this vote occur, and Career Track faculty have voting rights what is the percentage break down of tenure vs career track. White stated the handout was distributed to all Faculty Council members via email prior to today’s meeting. Non-Faculty Council members attending via zoom did not receive it. The handout will be included in the minutes. Glenn provided the following breakdown as shown on the handout:

OSU Stillwater campus:

Tenured/Tenure Track faculty are 58.83% or 983; Career Track are 25.87% or 432; Temporary are 14.91%

OSU System-wide:

Tenured/Tenure Track faculty are 48.8% or 1,120; Career Track are 38.26% or 878; Temporary are 12.64%

Fathepure asked what would happen if someone was hired as a Career Track faculty member and in five or so years applied to be Tenure Track. What would their title be/change to. Lawson stated that the current changes being voted on today does not address this situation. If a faculty member switches from a Career track to Tenure Track if these changes pass once Career Track and Tenure Track are in the same voting pool the person would just change designations. As far as the faculty governance perspective, the person still votes regardless. These changes are just to include Career Track in the same voting pool as Tenured/Tenure-track as far as faculty governance goes. Parkison asked this last month but is still confused on Career Track voting rights. In her department, they are trying to figure out if Non-Tenure (Career) track faculty should be voting on the hires of Tenure Track faculty. Her department has been asked to vote on this and they are still waiting for guidance from the university on this matter. Francisco stated that what is often done is that anyone in a department can give input on a decision but typically the voting on Tenure or Tenure Track faculty member is done by Tenure/Tenure Track faculty only. Parkison asked if there would be language in a university policy to address this situation. She has been told it’s been done differently in different departments. Fransico stated that there is language somewhere that said that only Tenure Track and Tenured faculty members will make decisions on matters of RPT, and he would consider hiring to be a part of the appointment portion. Parkinson agrees but some in her department are looking at this differently. Francisco said he would look to see where we have language regarding this issue. He knows the Faculty Committee has been looking at RPT. Lawson stated these changes will have nothing to do with the RPT process. Career Track faculty cannot weigh in on RPT for Tenure Track faculty. Glenn stated there will be other policies that will need to be changed from Non-Tenure track to Career track, but this will not affect RPT decisions. The Faculty Committee is looking at some of these policies. Gardner stated that one of the first questions/worries people ask/have is if this will allow Non-Tenure track faculty to vote on Tenured/Tenure track faculty and the answer is unequivocally NO! Gardner asked all the Faculty Council members to big quick to reassure and clarify that these changes have no bearing people voting on RPT for Tenure Track faculty. This is simply allowing Career Track faculty to have a voice in the votes in faculty governance. Gardner asked for more questions. Seeing none asked for a motion and second for the Changers to the Charter recommendation. Yates moved and Fathepure seconded the motion. Gardner asked for additional discussion. Seeing none moved to a vote. Those in favor say “Aye”. Those opposed say “Nay”. Motion passed. Gardner asked for a motion on the changes to Policy 2-0903. Yough moved and Yates seconded the motion. Gardner asked for additional discussion. Seeing none moved to a vote. Those in favor say “Aye”, those opposed say “Nay”. Motion passed. Gardner thanked Drs. Glenn, Lawson and Knapp as well as the entire NTT committee for the tremendous amount of work they have done to have this move forward in such a short amount of time.

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

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

Retirement and Fringe Benefits Committee discussed the potentially unknown/misunderstood impact of the SMC group moving from Blue Preferred to Blue Choice -- that will be a reality in less than a month.

Ultimately, we requested that Benefits/HR send out information about the potential individual real dollar impact of the SMC group moving from Blue Preferred to Blue Choice with a couple illustrative examples about that impact and ways to potentially navigate that, possibly with the help of Provider Finder and Benefits Value Advisor. Christa Louthan was developing that communication and planned to distribute it broadly by the Thursday of this dead week.

We request that counselors consider re-sending, if that is customary in your units and may cause the information to be more widely actually read and understood.

Separate issue: At this time, we do not plan to create a follow-up campus-wide survey in our area; however, if a larger survey initiative is undertaken by Faculty Council, we would participate with some questions.

**k.  Rules and Procedures: Christopher Crick – No Report**

**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 4:06 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is Tuesday, January 16, 2024 in room 412 Student Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Crick, Secretary