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

Also present: Colquhoun, C., Francisco, C., Hallenbeck, D., Horton, M., Jones, C., Kyle, D., Landaverde, S., Louthan, C., Mendez, J, Peaster, R., Sewell, K., Sheehan, R., Shrum, K., Stephens, J., Van Den Bussche, R., Weaver, J. Woods, M., and Wray, K.

Absent: Barker and Warren.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Special Reports:

VPR Dr. Kenneth Sewell and Dr. Ron Van Den Bussche – Research Security...………..

Dr. Don Kyle – National Center for Wellness and Recovery….…………………………

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

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

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

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

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

Reports of Liaison Representatives

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wellness……………………………………………………………………………………

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cole reminded everyone that there are refreshments and asked everyone to help themselves. Cole asked everyone to please sign the sign-in sheet that is being passed around. Cole established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. Cole asked those attending via Zoom to please put their name in the chat so their attendance can be recorded. Cole let those attending via Zoom know if they have a question they could privately message Gardner who is watching the chat. He will then communicate the question(s) to the group. Cole stated the first item of business was the approval of the January 17, 2023 minutes. These were electronically distributed and are available on the Faculty Council website. Cole asked for corrections or objections to the approval of the minutes. Seeing none, stated the minutes are approved. Cole stated the second item of business is adoption of the agenda which was also electronically distributed and is also available on the Faculty Council website. Cole asked if there were any corrections to the agenda. Seeing none, Cole asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Lawson moved and Hoff seconded the motion. Cole stated that it had been moved and seconded to adopt the agenda. Cole asked those in favor to say “Aye”; those on Zoom to enter their vote in the chat. Motion passed and the agenda is adopted.

Cole stated that we have two special reports today. Our first special report is from VP of Research Dr. Kenneth Sewell and Dr. Ron Van Den Bussche.

**Special Reports:**

**A. Dr. Kenneth Sewell, VP Research and Dr. Ron Van Den Bussche – Research Security**

Dr. Sewell stated he has one of the most fun jobs on campus because of all the cool research that all faculty do. He stated that there are some aspects of his job that are not particularly glamorous, and it involves the word “compliance”. Sewell stated that doing compliance work particularly in the research field is trying to keep everyone safe at various levels. This includes the institution and in some cases the country. Sewell stated that some of our compliance demands are changing/shifting because of actions at the federal level, in particular from the White House. These actions are charging federal agencies that fund OSU to hold us to new and slightly stricter standards around things that involve national security. Sewell and Van Den Bussche want to give Faculty Council a heads up on what they see “coming down the pike” and the types of actions that OSU is undertaking to make sure we are compliant with these new demands. With that, Van Den Bussche presented the following PowerPoint to the Council members:



Van Den Bussche stated that things are changing and he is giving the best information available at this time. Van Den Bussche described National Security Presidential Memorandum 33 (NSPM-33) and how it applies to OSU. There have already been changes to NSPM-33 and it’s not even in effect yet. NSPM-33 is a directive from the President that requires all federal research funding agencies to strengthen and standardize disclosure requirements. Additionally, it also mandates the establishment of a research security program at major institutions receiving federal funding – any institution receiving awards of more than $40 million. OSU surpasses this amount so we will have to abide by the new rules. This is needed to protect U.S. funded scientific research from foreign interference and exploitation, including espionage and intellectual property theft. Van Den Bussche went over the timeline (slide 3). A few federal agencies have standardized (as much as possible) all their disclosure forms. There needs to also be a research training program which is not yet available. Once these programs are available, NSPM-33 becomes effective. OSU has one year from this date to be compliant. OSU is being proactive and moving forward now. Van Den Bussche reviewed NSPM-33 Disclosure Policy (slides 6 & 7), Oversight and Enforcement (slide 8) and Research Security Programs (slide 9).

* Disclosure Policy: Van Den Bussche stated they have been in discussion with the Library and the Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) is the only currently available digital persistent identifier available. Most universities already use ORCID. OSU already uses ORCID so we will be pushing this method to be compliant with NSPM-33. Reviews for conflicts of interest/commitment disclosure forms from individuals engaged in sponsored activities will be done by the Office of Research Compliance (ORC). Van Den Bussche stated that OSU already has a committee in place. The Director of Research heads this committee and three faculty members sit on it.
* Oversight and Enforcement: Failure to make or update disclosures may trigger a range of penalties. These include criminal liability, civil liability or research impediments. Van Den Bussche reviewed the “tips to avoid penalties.” If you have a chance to correct an error do so. If you do not, this is when problems will occur.
* Research Security Programs – There are four parts to this: Cybersecurity, Foreign Travel Security, Research Security Training and Export Control Training. Van Den Bussche stated that these are the four different modules that are being created at four different universities currently.

1. Cybersecurity. This happens in two places at OSU: IT under the direction of Raj Murthy, Chief Information Officer and in the Vice President for Research Office.
2. Foreign Travel Security. This is where OSU has its biggest potential liability. What they are looking at is any foreign travel, regardless of who is paying for it, must be disclosed.
3. Research Security Training. Modules will be available and need to be completed by faculty members.
4. Export Control Training. This will be for specific faculty members who have export control issues.

Van Den Bussche stated that OSU already has an Insider Threat Program (IPT) in place. This current committee will be broadened to include five or six more entities. This will be the Research Security Program Advisory Team. They will be looking at issues, training programs, who needs to do training and a variety of other things. This is the group who will review any type of Research Security allegations. This committee will then do inquires. They will not do any type of investigation. If an investigation is warranted, it will be turned over to the FBI or the appropriate agency.

Van Den Bussche opened the floor for questions. Jaroni asked Van Den Bussche to expand on the Foreign Travel Security. Is it just research travel or any travel? Van Den Bussche stated that it includes any OSU related travel. OSU research travel for sure. If a faculty member for example is going to Germany on a holiday and while there decides to talk to someone at a university. This will have to be disclosed. Any time you travel that is related to OSU, regardless of who is paying for it, you have to disclose it. Hoff asked if this will be more focused on more sensitive areas to espionage or all foreign areas. Van Den Bussche stated this applies to any foreign travel related to any OSU-related business, irrespective of country. They are really trying not to pick specific areas to target so this is across the world and involves all areas of research if there is federal funding involved. Knapp asked if these same types of processes will filter down to the state level as well? Van Den Bussche stated potentially yes. OSU is trying to set up a system so this will not be a big deal. OSU needs to set up a system that it will not matter if the requirement is at the federal or state level. Van Den Bussche stated these will be good practices. This is the way most of the research institutes he has talked to are handling this. OSU’s view is no matter what agency you are submitting too, state or federal, get an ORCID number right now. This applies to graduate students as well. Fathepure asked for a definition of a foreign country. Fathepure stated that many postdocs call their homeland home, not a foreign country. Van Den Bussche stated a foreign country according to the NPSM-33 definition is anywhere outside the United States or US Territory.

Cole asked for additional questions. Van Den Bussche asked faculty members to reach out to him with any additional questions as we are pushing this forward. Cole introduced our second special report, Dr. Don Kyle.

**B**. **Dr.** **Don Kyle – CEO for the National Center for Wellness and Recovery**

Kyle presented the following update to the Council members.



Kyle detailed why the National Center for Wellness and Recovery (NCWR) is needed in Oklahoma and nationwide (slide 2). Regarding Cannabis in Oklahoma, the isolated oil can be obtained in high concentrations in gummy bears and potato chips. These snack bags are designed to look exactly like the originals (clearly labeled but still exactly like the non-cannabis ones). Kyle stated that last year there were over 200 calls regarding small children who had overdosed on these products. Regarding Fentanyl, Kyle stated that you cannot tell the difference between the actual pills and the fake ones. Kyle stated that 60% of the counterfeit pills had Fentanyl in them and caused opioid related deaths. Last year, the DEA intercepted 50 million tablets that were smuggled into the United States as well as 2,000 tablets from online sources. The Fentanyl problem is really growing. Kyle stated that Fentanyl and Methamphetamines are largely manufactured in Mexico by drug cartels. They are trafficked across our highways north and south as well as east and west. This is why Kyle says that Oklahoma is in the crosshairs of the drug crisis.

Kyle stated that the urgent mission of the NCWR is to communicate to the public in Oklahoma and nationally about these emerging threats, where to seek help and to conduct research to try to understand the basis of addiction and overdose deaths and use this data to advance science to translate these discoveries into new medications. The addiction center and outpatient clinic is located in Tulsa and is available throughout the state via virtual clinics. Kyle stated that NCWR has already attracted some companies (two actually) to locate in Oklahoma. One is a drug delivery company. They are working with a faculty researcher at the Veterinary Sciences Center conducting research already. The other company has to do with pain assets. Unfortunately they could not generate enough money to carry the programs along but they are now in the process of donating those assets to the NCWR. Kyle stated that a benefit of the partnership with the Center for Excellence in Addiction Sciences at the University of Arizona allows the NCWR to build our labs but do not have to wait on the research. We can collaborate with a group that already has significant time in this urgent mission. Kyle stated the NCWR is well funded from the $177 million settlement from Purdue Pharma. Kyle stated the scientific projects (last slide) are cutting edge projects aimed at understanding addiction, developing medication assisted treatments for addiction and searching for non-opioid analgesic new generation medication.

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

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

Shrum thanked the Council for allowing our institutes to speak about what they are doing as a reminder of how they play out in our strategy. These institutes are focused on an issue that greatly impacts society as well as Oklahoma. These institutes are intended to be places where the university and industry can come together in a way that really moves the needle for our state and the nation. Dr. Kyle talked about collaborations that focus on talent development and research and allow our students to have the opportunity to work with industry but also for faculty to have this opportunity. These are all broad areas because we looked at where the university has a great deal of expertise to help. The NCWR is a great first example. We will hear from others moving forward.

Shrum announced that Dr. Carol Jones has agreed to serve as the new Ombuds Officer for the university. Shrum stated that we are pleased to have her serving in this capacity.

Shrum stated that the Big 12 has negotiated the early exit of OU and Texas from the conference. Shrum is glad that an agreement was reached that was in the best interest of all parties. They will leave a year early. This allows us to look at what’s best for the future of the conference. Our commissioner is new, and he really wants to focus on creating new energy and potentially expanding to even more schools. Shrum is glad to have this issue behind us. We are in a good place in the conference. We’ve added some good schools and will continue to look at how to improve the conference.

Shrum stated that works continues on the Strategic Plan. The Provost’s office is working on Faculty Fellows and detailing out the University Strategy that the Regents just approved. As this process moves forward, the next step will be for colleges to begin planning for how they play into the strategy. This is important as we begin to think about a campaign. We will start understanding the needs and where we should focus our fundraising. Shrum stated that in the short term it will be focusing on raising funds for scholarships. Shrum anticipates as this work gets done we will have more clarity on the broader focus of the campaign. Shrum imagines that our goal is going to be a larger number than the previous campaign. Shrum stated that Athletics will be introducing their vision and campus master plan for athletic facilities in the near term. This is something they have been working on for a while. This is not a reflection of the entire scope of what we are doing, they have their plans ready to go and there’s no reason for them not to move forward.

Shrum opened the floor for questions. Ramsey asked for an update on the new Chancellor and the comments the Governor made regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and how this impacts institutions of higher education and what this might mean for OSU. Shrum stated that the question directed at OSU were regarding how much we spent from a budget perspective. This request came from the Secretary of Education. Shrum spent some time with the State Regents, and they do not have an obligation to answer to the Secretary of Education. Shrum spent a lot of time talking to OU about how to respond and/or if we should. Shrum stated that we didn’t feel like we had to respond but if we didn’t then there would be open record requests. Shrum feels that we had an opportunity to say, “Here’s what this encompasses.” It’s a broad range of sources and protects a broad range of people. We wanted them to understand in the context of our budget that what we spend is not out of line. Shrum believes we did a good job doing this. Shrum has not heard much from the State Regents as far as requests to do anything. As the new session begins, just so everyone is aware, we do have government liaisons who are at the Capitol everyday watching for bills that will have an impact on OSU. There are not any flagged right now. Right now, we don’t see anything related to this issue. We will be vigilant about watching for bills that may have an impact. There are a lot of bills passed that do not impact higher education or common education or state agencies. But since we are a constitutional entity they do not impact us even though we still track them. Shrum stated that we responded because we wanted to control the messaging and not be reacting to outside messages.

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

Provost updated the Council members on Faculty Fellows. Her office met with the Faculty Fellows last week for the first time. They were given their charges and asked to think through what the rest of the semester will be like as well as next year. Mendez believes we are on track with where we want them to be.

Mendez stated that the Associate Vice Provost position search is underway. Chris Francisco is chairing this committee. The committee has already met, and they are reviewing applications. This person will be overseeing student success and retention. We anticipate moving forward in the next few weeks on this position. The Provost’s office will be hiring another staff member and will be putting out an announcement out for it.

Other changes administratively, Mendez is at the tail end of a Business Dean search. We have already had three candidates on campus. We will be wrapping up this search soon. Mendez stated that Tom Coon, Vice President and Dean of Ferguson College of Ag, has announced his retirement this summer. We are underway on this search as well. An ad is already posted, and we will be using the remainder of this semester and the summer for this search.

Provost Mendez updated the Council members on current recommendation:

21-12-01-DIV: Land Acknowledgement Statement for the OSU Stillwater Campus. Pending. Following review by constituent groups, Institutional Diversity team members, the Council of Deans, the OSU Native American Faculty and Staff Association, tribal representatives and OSU Legal Counsel, the proposed statement was returned in December to Faculty Council for review and consideration.

Mendez stated that we will have action on this later today at the meeting and will begin moving through the process.

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

**Joe Weaver – VP Finance**

Weaver wanted to give the Council members an update on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS)/Stillwater Medical Center (SMC) discussions. Last month, it was reported that SMC wanted to break off negotiations with BCBS. This month, Weaver can report that the two groups are talking again. BCBS and SMC are back into negotiations. Weaver stated they are not at an agreement yet. Weaver wanted to remind everyone that BCBS is negotiating on behalf of OSU. They are helping OSU keep our healthcare costs down. BCBS is our plan administrator. OSU has a self-insured plan. Premium dollars go into a bucket along with OSU’s contributions and this is how we pay our healthcare claims. BCBS is the mediary between OSU employees and the various providers. We adjust the premiums annually if necessary to make sure that the bucket doesn’t run dry. So far we have managed this plan with a positive balance.

Weaver opened the floor to questions. Slevitch asked if there was a timeframe for progress. Weaver stated we are in good shape until May 1st. The current agreement will go at least this long. They can agree to extend it if needed so negotiations can continue. Weaver has conveyed to both parties that in the best interest of our community (the city of Stillwater and all those who live here as well as our faculty and staff), sooner is better than later. We want them to reach an agreement and get this done. Weaver stated it’s a money issue. It’s not about philosophy or healthcare, it’s all about money. When you are negotiating about money, there usually is a point where you can reach an agreement. Weaver stated that if we did what SMC wants to do, the premium increase that we would experience this cycle (which was $30-$40 per month) would be 5x this amount. It would be thousands of dollars. This would have been catastrophic for our employees on the lower end of the scale. We need BCBS to be a good negotiator on our behalf. Get these rates down that SMC is proposing and get us an agreement. Weaver is confident that we will get there. Knapp asked if this negotiation is between OSU (BCBS on our behalf) and SMC. Does it affect people outside of our community? Weaver stated pretty much. Weaver stated it will affect our employees in all 77 counties. Weaver stated that there is a non-disclosure negotiating agreement between BCBS and SMC. Weaver does not get to know the details of the negotiations. These negotiations are between those two parties and would be in violation of this non-disclosure if they told any details to anyone. Knapp asked at what point is it appropriate to start contemplating contingency plans. Weaver stated last month. Knapp asked if they were in the process? Weaver stated yes. We are considering all options. Honestly, Weaver stated that SMC has to have OSU (in his opinion) as a plan member so they can provide service to our employees. OSU is 70% or more of their business. They cannot lose that big of a piece of their business. OSU could replace SMC as a healthcare provider but they cannot replace OSU with another client that brings as many members as OSU does. This is why Weaver is confident that at the end of the day an agreement will be reached. Knapp stated he thought there was a similar situation with OU and OU Medical last year summer. Weaver stated Integris and St. Francis has had this same problem. This is not uncommon for hospitals to push back and get as much as they can. Wood asked if OSU retirees fall into this negotiation or are they separate. Weaver stated they are not separate from this. Christa Louthan stated that retirees under 65 are impacted. Retirees over 65 on the Medicare supplement are not impacted. Louthan stated that Medicare supplements run through OSU by BCBS are not impacted by these negotiations. Weaver stated that as many know, President Shrum is on the BCBS Advisory Board. This is a good thing for OSU. She is in when the board meets and is able to share our views as well as represent us. She is not paid to sit on this board and does not benefit from it in any way. BCBS will not make any more money from OSU whether this deal is negotiated or not. OSU pays them a flat fee for their services per employee. This is all about paying a fair market rate based on what is happening nationwide. Pranger asked if this will affect the satellite campuses? Weaver stated yes. All those in network across the state and nation where we have employees. This is the beauty of BCBS, they have the best network. BCBS has to negotiate with all local hospitals in all areas where OSU employees are located.

**Faculty Council Chair’s report:**

Cole stated that included with the agenda was a recommendation for members of the Non-tenure track special committee. Cole stated there were 36 non-tenure track faculty members who showed interest in this committee. They were thoroughly reviewed. A representative group was chosen across various titles, ranks and colleges. In the end, eleven were chosen to sit on the committee. Along with these eleven, Brandt Gardner as Faculty Council Vice Chair, James Knapp as Faculty Council Faculty Committee representative were also appointed to the committee. Cole stated we are waiting on the representative from the Academic Standards and Policies committee. Cole reviewed the recommendation. Cole asked for discussion/questions. Seeing none asked for a motion to approve the recommendation. Slevitch moved and Jaroni seconded the motion. Cole moved to a vote. Motion passed.

Cole introduced two new members to Faculty Council. Two members are not with Faculty Council this semester. Dr. McKale Montgomery, Assistant Professor of Nutritional Sciences from the College of Education and Human Sciences will be replacing Dr. Susan Stansberry. Also, Dr. Nathan Hardy, Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Science from the College of Education and Human Sciences will be replacing Mike Yough for this semester. Dr. Jon Ramsey, Professor of Agricultural Education from the Ferguson College of Agriculture, is filling in for Bruce Noden. Cole thanked those who were shuffled around or their role was altered on various committees for this spring.

Cole wanted to say that the Council’s thoughts and prayers are with Michigan State and the community. This is a terrible tragedy, and our hearts and thoughts are with you.

**Report of Liaison Representatives:**

* 1. **Emeriti – Barbara Miller**

The Emeriti Board met on Monday January 29.  There was much discussion on how to use our income with scholarships, and a committee is studying this in regard to how many and how large the scholarships should be should we decide to change.  A committee on the board is also reviewing our Bylaws in regard to which committees are still meeting, and deadlines involved in placing members on university committees.

The Emeriti Council monthly dinner was held on Monday February 6 in the Alumni Center.  Guests were delighted to be entertained by a talk on Pete’s Pet Posse, with Kendria Cost and Anne Hargis presiding.  We heard about the complex training procedures required of dogs entering the program and how popular it is on campus.  To this date there have been no other programs across college campuses so well developed and so popular!

Our first travel event of the season will be a one-day visit to Chouteau OK on April 25, to shop at the Amish Cheese House, followed by an Amish lunch created with their fresh ingredients.  The afternoon will feature a visit to the Muskogee Azalea festival, with over 30,000 blooms.

Our next dinner on March 6 will feature new VP for Operations Jerome Loughridge who will discuss the new Strategic plan for OSU.

Please remember, as faculty develop plans for retirement this year, to recommend joining the Emeriti Council!

* 1. **Women’s Faculty Council – Morgan Pfeiffer**

In September 2021, representatives from the CAS Equity Advocates Council joined the Women's Faculty Council for "Engaging Equity: Learning with and from the CAS Equity Advocates Council." This month, we are delighted to revisit that conversation with current CAS Equity Advocates Council leadership. Join us on Tuesday, February 21st from 10-11 AM for "Reengaging Equity: Updates and Developments from the CAS Equity Advocates Council." WFC will be joined by Drs. Smita Mohanty, Joey Senat, and Rosemary Avance to learn from the past year of CAS EAC's labor. We will meet in-person in the Student Union Suite 1600 and maintain a livestream option for virtual participation linked on our flyer.

As well, WFC Student Research Award applications are now open! Please visit our website to learn more about the application process and March deadlines. Any faculty members interested in serving as award reviewers can sign up via Google Docs by March 1st: [https://forms.gle/J3crQRUri6NcyJEy8](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FJ3crQRUri6NcyJEy8&data=05%7C01%7Ctricia.white%40okstate.edu%7Cc959dff12cf54130e7ae08db0a0ac610%7C2a69c91de8494e34a230cdf8b27e1964%7C0%7C0%7C638114813606890277%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LEqR1ViVg4%2FRQY4TqcxITnOUcZXyJJ5k0lHSwtrCbyc%3D&reserved=0)



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

Our current concentration is working on plans for our Staff Celebration Day on May 24th.

We’re continuing to work on plans promoting our scholarship account at the Foundation for increasing our ability to provide scholarships to staff members. Continuing our efforts to increase awareness among staff members of SAC and solicit feedback from current employees we are working on plans to attend a couple of university-wide events and advertise SAC and how they can contact us with feedback, questions, and concerns.

* 1. **Graduate Council – Rebecca Sheehan**

*Accommodations.* Accommodations for graduate students are different for academic work and employment. The former goes through Accessibility Services while the latter goes through OSU’s HR department.

*ITA Exam and Courses to Improve English Proficiency.* Ninety out of 91 students passed (fully or provisionally) the ITA exam for this Spring 2023 semester. For students seeking or requiring additional English proficiency qualifications, GRAD 5082 or now GRAD 5092 may be taken to increase flexibility for the ITA.

*Regalia and Commencement.* The Graduate College is working with ITLE to create a Graduate Commencement Regalia Instructional Video for doctoral hooding to facilitate the process at commencements.

*Outside Committee Member.* Clarification of the role of the outside committee member for doctoral students will soon be included on the POS emails. Outside committee members serve as the representative of the Graduate College and ensure a high level of integrity in the processes that the Advisory Committee utilizes to review and evaluate the student throughout the graduate program. A *sometimes*-secondary role of the outside member may be to provide expert advice when appropriate to the student in the conduct of research and writing of the dissertation. This secondary role is not required.

*Academic Program Review (APR) Process*. Dean Tucker shared that a new process for academic program review continues to be developed.

*Suppressing GRE Scores on Applications*. Graduate Council voted to endorse the Graduate College suppressing GRE scores on applications for those programs that do not require the GRE. Programs that have the GRE as optional may opt not to have scores suppressed. Implementation will be for spring 2024 admissions.

*New Vice-Chair of Graduate Council*. All full members of the Graduate Faculty will vote on a new Vice-Chair of Graduate Council this spring. An election committee comprised of full members from all subject matter groups will bring at least two nominees to Graduate Council in the February meeting. Nominations may also be taken from the floor at that meeting. Only Full Members who have been employed full-time by Oklahoma State University for three academic years, and who have served at least one, two-year term on the Graduate Council, may hold the office of Vice-Chair.

*APC Items.* Council approved the following:

Program Modifications:

* 1. Ph.D. in Education – Mathematics Education. Remove GRE as application and admission requirement.

*Spring General Graduate Faculty Meeting*. March 29th, 1-3 p.m. via Zoom.

* 1. **Student Government Association – Ty McLaughlin**
* SGA will be traveling to Washington DC in two weeks for Big XII on the Hill where we and our Big XII partners will advocate for various higher education issues with our federal delegation.
* I attended the first meeting of the OSU Mental Health Advisory Council. It was a productive meeting, and I am excited to work with our branch campuses to improve students’ access to mental health resources.
* Maddie and I had the opportunity to attend the Remember the Ten basketball game. We plan to involve SGA much more in remembering the Ten and will be participating in the Remember the Ten Run in April. We are grateful to OSU Athletics for their partnership and look forward to working with them in the future.
  1. **Graduate & Professional Student Government Association – Marcia Sun**

**Upcoming General Assembly Meeting**

The upcoming general assembly meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 22, in Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) 035. An online option will be provided for Tulsa and OKC representatives/liaisons. The invited guest speaker session will focus on graduate student wellness.

**New GPSGA Initiatives and Updates**

Based on feedback and meetings with members of the general assembly, a list of initiatives was proposed by the GPSGA President. The advisor and the current board approved the proposals. The new updates and initiatives will be implemented in the Spring 2023 semester.

* Perfectly Present Award Program for the General Assembly
  + recognize and promote engagement and attendance for the general assembly meetings
  + reps/liaisons who attend and participate in 8 GPSGA meetings in the academic year will be eligible
* GPSGA Ambassador Program
  + open to the current general assembly
  + to facilitate a better transition and prepare interested members for the upcoming executive board
  + upon review of applications, 2-3 members will be invited to participate
* Exemplary Committee Member Award Program
  + recognize and promote participation in the GPSGA committees
* GPSGA Engagement Program
  + motivating participants to make connections and get involved with campus activities
  + highlighting and raising awareness on existing resources and programming
  + cultivating co-curricular growth
  + fostering friendship and social engagement
* GPSGA Travel Awards Application and Submission Instructions
  + instructional slides will be uploaded to Canvas for clarification of the application process, and further explanation will be presented at the next general meeting

**Additional GPSGA Awards – Spring 2023**

* Applications for Travel Award, Research Material Award, and Co-Sponsorship Award are available on Canvas, and the due date is April 3.
* GPSGA Phoenix Awards will open on February 20 on Canvas.

**New GPSGA Liaisons/Representatives**

New GPSGA Representatives and Liaisons (only new) for graduate student organizations and academic units, email gpsga@okstate.edu with an update on your status of representation. Also, please complete the membership application form available to download and submit through the GPSGA Canvas page. The due date for the new applications is **February 15**.

**Meeting with the Provost**

A meeting has been requested and arranged with the Provost to speak about the status of OSU's graduate and professional student community.

**General Assembly Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes from the fifth/January general assembly meeting are available via the GPSGA Canvas page.

g. **Wellness – Kim Beard**



**REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

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

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

**c. Budget: Maria Ma – No Report**

**d**. **Campus Facilities, Safety, and Security: Bruce Noden – No Report**

**e**. **Diversity: Divya Jaroni – Update**

Jaroni discussed the Land Acknowledgement Statement recommendation that was provided with the agenda. Cole asked for discussion/questions. Hearing none, Cole asked for a motion to approve the recommendation. Slevitch moved and Fathepure seconded. Cole called for a vote. Motion passed.

Cole stated that this new Land Acknowledgement Statement is for the OSU system. The previous statement for OSU Stillwater is replaced by today’s new statement. This will be the statement used moving forward.

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

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

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

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

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

Neurohr stated that Faculty Council elections are coming up in March. The following Councilor terms will be expiring:

Mason Reichard – College of Veterinary Medicine

Divya Jaroni – Ferguson College of Agriculture

Bruce Noden – Ferguson College of Agriculture

Tyrrell Conway – College of Arts and Sciences

Lisa Slevitch – Spears School of Business

Yongwei Shan – College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology

Susan Stansberry – College of Education and Human Sciences

Kathy Curry – OSU- Tulsa

Neurohr thanked these Councilors for their service. Neurohr stated that those Councilors who were appointed to complete remaining terms are eligible to run if they would like to do so.

Faculty members will receive election information within the next week. If you know anyone who would be a good candidate, please encourage them to run. If they have any questions, they may contact Tricia White or any of the current officers. Neurohr stated the filing period for the election of new Councilors will be March 1-10.

Cole asked if there were any questions. Neurohr stated that Faculty Council members will need to remain at the end of the meeting to vote for nominees for Vice Chair and Secretary positions. Those who are not Councilors will be asked to leave at that time.

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

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – Vice Chair and Secretary nominations

At this time, Cole asked Faculty Council voting members to remain and excused our guests so we can nominate new officers.

Cole stated that according to our bylaws, Faculty Council shall nominate two people for each position of Vice Chair and Secretary. If more than two are nominated during this time after nominations are closed we will do a vote in real time. The top two candidates will serve as the nominees of Faculty Council. However, if there are other nominees for Vice Chair or Secretary, those are acceptable through a support of signatures. This form will be distributed to faculty members or acquired through Tricia White. Cole turned the floor over to Brandt Gardner who is the chair of the Nominating Committee.

Gardner opened nominations for the office of Vice Chair. Ki Cole nominated Dr. Jon Ramsey, Professor of Agricultural Education. Dr. Ramsey served on Council from 2016-2019. He is currently serving in place of Bruce Noden. Gardner stated that Dr. Ramsey has been nominated and asked if he accepts this nomination. Ramsey stated yes. Gardner asked for further nominations. Pam Lovern nominated Dr. Lisa Slevitch, Associate Professor in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management in the Spears School of Business. Lovern stated that Dr. Slevitch has served the past three years on Council as the Spears School of Business representative. Gardner stated that Dr. Slevitch has been nominated and asked if she accepts this nomination. Slevitch answered yes. Gardner asked for further nominations for Vice Chair. Seeing none, closed the nominations. Gardner opened the floor for nominations for the position of Secretary. Ki Cole nominated Dr. Divya Jaroni, Associate Professor of Animal and Food Sciences. She has been serving on Council for three years. Gardner stated that Dr. Divya Jaroni has been nominated to serve as Secretary. Gardner asked if she accepts this nomination. Jaroni stated yes. Gardner asked for further nominations. Pam Lovern nominated Dr. Chris Crick, Associate Professor in Computer Science in the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Crick previously served on Faculty Council from 2018-2021. He is not here today but has accepted this nomination. Gardner stated that Dr. Crick has been nominated and accepts this nomination. Gardner asked for further nominations for Secretary. Seeing none, closed nominations. Cole stated that we will approve the nominations for Vice Chair and Secretary collectively. Cole asked for a motion to approve the nominations. Conway moved and Knapp seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Cole asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved and seconded to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 3:00 in room 412 Student Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Neurohr, Secretary