Slevitch called the meeting to order with the following members present: Barker, Crick, Daglaris, Eisenberg, Emerson, Fathepure, Fitzgerald, Glenn, Haley, Hildebrand, Hoff, Jadeja, Joshi, Knapp, Lawson, McGlynn, McMaughan, Olsen, Parkison, Perkins, Pranger, Riley, Warren, Weiser, Yates, and Yough.

Also present: Bailey, T., Colquhoun, C., Francisco, C., Hiltz, S., Horton, M., Howerton, K., Kraybill, J., Lacombe, V., Lively, A., Manning-Ouellette, A., Peaster, R., Sewell, K., Thomason, K., and Wikle, T.

Absent: Boileau, Gardner, and Gonzalez.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Special Reports:

Tom Wikle – OSU Ombudsman ………………………….……………………………….

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

Provost’s report on Recommendations made by the Faculty Council and Comments on matters of interest to the Faculty – Chris Francisco for 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 …………………………….…………………....

Slevitch welcomed everyone to our new meeting place. Slevitch established that a quorum was present and brought the meeting to order. Slevitch asked those present to sign the attendance sheet. Slevitch asked everyone on Zoom to please put their name in the chat so their attendance can be recorded. Slevitch asked if those on Zoom can hear OK. Seeing positive response, Slevitch asked anyone who has a question to raise their hand or type their question in the chat. Please direct your questions to Perkins who is watching the chat. He will then communicate the question(s) to the group. Slevitch reminded everyone to please set their microphones to mute. Slevitch stated the first item of business was the approval of the December 10, 2024 minutes. These were electronically distributed and are available on the Faculty Council website. Slevitch asked for corrections or objections to the approval of the minutes. Seeing none, stated the minutes are approved. Slevitch 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. Slevitch asked if there were any corrections to the agenda. Seeing none, Slevitch asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Yough moved and Hildebrand seconded the motion. Slevitch stated that it had been moved and seconded to adopt the agenda. Slevitch asked those in favor to enter their vote in the chat. Those opposed do the same. Motion passed and the agenda was adopted. Slevitch stated we have one special report today and introduced Tom Wikle, OSU Ombudsman.

**Special Reports:**

1. **Tom Wikle – OSU Ombudsman**



Wikle was appointed as the University Ombudsman in October. Wikle presented the above PowerPoint to the Council members. The Ombuds office operating principles are Confidentiality, Neutrality, Independence, and Informality. Wikle stated that many of his first time meetings with a visitor last 45 minutes to 1 ½ hours. They are sometimes this long so he can hear the visitor’s entire story (why they are visiting). Wikle stated that conflicts arise, and he is there to help resolve issues in an amicable way.

Wikle opened the floor to questions. Haley asked how it would work if someone had a complaint specifically related to President Shrum since he reports to the President’s office. Wikle would deal with the situation as best as he could. He will take on any problems. Knapp asked if his half-time appointment is on a 12-month basis. Wikle answered yes. This means that he is available during the summer. Haley asked if there was a timeframe threshold to meet with a visitor, say, someone wants to talk for 5 minutes instead of 45 minutes. Would you still be willing to meet with them? Wikle stated he wants to take the amount of time necessary to hear the person’s complete story, whether that is 5 or 45 minutes. 45 minutes seems to be the average as of now. Slevitch asked if the ultimate goal of the Ombudsman is to resolve issues at the lowest level possible. Slevitch asked if he recommends this or is there something more formal for those who visit the Ombudsman. Wikle stated that he talks about all possibilities with those who visit his office. Sometimes it’s just listening to what’s going on. If it’s more, recommending some of the numerous resources on campus. Look at what the problem is, identify the problem and then look for solutions. He’s willing to get as involved as he needs to be. Wikle stated he will try to have a meeting with Staff Advisory Council as well.

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

Slevitch stated that President Shrum could not be with us today. Provost Mendez was going to speak for her, but she also had an emergency right before our meeting. Chris Francisco is stepping in for the Provost. Francisco stated there were a couple of questions that came up in the provost meeting with the officers last week. Provost Mendez is looking into those, and we'll report on those when she has a chance to come back. Francisco stated there were some questions about Gen. Ed. Trails, and in the short time he has today he'd be happy to give a quick status update as to where we are on the Gen. Ed trails. Francisco stated we are still planning to launch in Fall 25, with the full complement of trails. He doesn't know exactly how many we'll have. We were talking about having roughly 20, and he thinks we're around there in terms of the number of proposals. We've had two different calls for proposals. We had a call for proposals before the summer and picked five of them to fund during that summer.Over time, people kind of worked out the kinks and helped us understand where we needed to give direction, where we needed to give guidance, allowed us to do a little experimentation with students, where we showed students sample trails, and said, “What do you think of this”? “Are you interested in this”? We found their eyes glazed over as they had a lot of choices and realized we needed to narrow things down a lot more than we had initially anticipated. We're operating from the perspective that there are so many great courses that fit this. But students, if they see a list of 20 courses for one of the things they have to fulfill, it’s too much. They’re just trying to figure out a course that fits in their schedule. We're trying to narrow things down, get things that really fit well and that meet a lot of requirements for students at once. We had a second round of call for proposals in October. We selected around 10 of them for development, and those are to be developed roughly by the end of January so we can get some feedback on those and try to get them in place for the fall. We also have some proposals that came from strategic priority areas that teams were working on. Some of those are very well developed. Some of those are still in the initial stages, and we're kind of working on the side to try to get ready. We don't have a call out for trails right now, although if you have an idea for a trail that you'd like to develop, feel free to talk either Francisco or to Tammy Mix, who is our faculty fellow for general education this year. She's been serving in that role for a while. We're happy to hear ideas, and we’ll tell you if we think it has some promise and would be good addition to what we have that we're trying to prepare to get ready for fall. We're happy to do that. We will have a process for people to propose trails in the future. We have the ability for people to propose degree programs every year and for people to propose new courses. Francisco thinks as this gets off the ground there is a sense among GEAC, the Faculty Committee that evaluates general education courses, that we have too many general education courses right now. We have hundreds of them. Some of them at the upper division level, that are primarily taken only by majors in that area, which is not really the purpose of a general education course. We are talking about ways that we might be able to write a policy going forward that, of course, ASP (Academic Standards and Policies committee) and the broader Faculty Council would have a role in developing to maybe reduce the number of general education courses going forward, creating some rules that would make them truly general education -- fulfilling those gen ed requirements and learning outcomes that we've developed. There shouldn’t be courses that have a lot of barriers to getting there, not courses that are very specific to students in one major but intended for a more general audience -- not necessarily every student on campus, but for a broad segment of students. We'll be developing this going forward. We haven't quite gotten there yet, and the process we've used on all of this is sort of ad hoc, as we're trying to get this ready for fall. When we receive these proposals, we have sent them out to groups of faculty advisors and administrators to look at and to give us comments on. When we've gotten rough drafts of the trail proposals, we have sent them to groups of advisors to give us comments to say, does this actually fit in your students’ degree plans? Would they actually be able to do this? Do you see any courses that are missing? Do you see any courses that students here just won't take? Do you have any other advice for us on these? This has been incredibly helpful. Advisors have been great about giving us honest feedback on that, letting us take that feedback back to the faculty teams that have been developing this and allow us to try to finalize it. We will be proposing certificates for all of these that have to go through a board process. We're going to try to take these to the board this spring to try to get certificates through, so that we can propose those to the state regents for our trails, and I think we're in pretty good shape at this point to meet that timeline. If you do have ideas for trails, feel free to tell me. There's not going to be another formal call before next year, but we will have a process going forward to do that. I am happy to answer any questions. Eisenberg asked if there is a list of the current trails that could be sent to everyone. He stated there is no point in proposing a trail if one already exists**.** Francisco stated we're working with brand management to develop something right now, we don't have the website ready yet, but we will. If you have an idea let me know and I can tell you what we have. Some trails are still under development right now, and I don't want to say those are official because they haven't really been developed. Eisenberg asked if there will be a list of courses that are on the trails? He has already planned his courses for next spring. Francisco stated that a trail comes with a summary of what the idea of the trail is and why the trail might be important for students, and a list of all the courses that satisfy the different requirements that go there. So, it comes with both.Eisenberg asked how do faculty know if one of their courses is on a trail? Francisco stated the intent was the faculty who are developing the trails were working with those who teach those courses to make sure they knew them. Francisco imagines that some of those fell through the cracks, but as soon as those are approved, we will be posting them. You'll be able to check on the website. Francisco doesn't want to post anything that's not approved yet. Francisco said to ask if you have questions about specific courses. Francisco said right now we have 5 or 6 that are basically done, we have a few more that are essentially done. And then we have a number of others in development. Perkins asked if the individuals who are developing the trails reach out to faculty for input? Francisco stated typically they do. Francisco statedthe teams that are developing these trails are from at least 2 colleges, usually at least 3 colleges. Typically they go to department heads and to specific faculty to ask about specific courses to see whether they want their courses to be included in those trails. I can't guarantee that there aren't some courses there that just got thrown on there without somebody talking about it. Butin all the instances I know about the faculty groups developing these trails, they were very actively reaching out to people in each of the disciplines and talking about what courses would be on there. I just don't want to leave the impression that there was a foolproof process that made sure someone was contacted. Knapp stated that it also included the Associate Deans for Instruction. Francisco stated that Instruction Council has been looped in on all of that. They've received all the proposals, and they were part of the review team when we were looking at these.

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

None

**Faculty Council Chair’s Report:**

Slevitch stated she has been meeting with college level faculty councils. The issue that she is trying to address is communication with them and having a liaison with college faculty councils on a continuous basis. The issue we've encountered this year is some of you represent colleges, and those colleges have faculty councils, but you are not on those faculty councils. Oftentimes they don't know what's happening at the university level Faculty Council. So, there is a disconnect between what they are doing and what we are doing. Sometimes we work in parallel. Slevitch said it would be really good to have this communication channel and make sure that college level faculty councils know what's going on here and the other way around. Slevitch stated there are a number of ways we can address this. Slevitch is encouraging those of you here who represent your colleges to make sure that you communicate what we are working with and report to your college level faculty council. Slevitch will try to invite the chairs of the college level faculty council to attend our meetings so they can know what's going on. That's the goal. Slevitch stated there are two important things, nominations are now open for the position of Vice Chair. We will close them at the next meeting. So again, that's something that I would like you to think about. Also, the new election cycle starts in March. Those whose term will be expiring, Slevitch asked them to talk to their colleagues and encourage them to run, vote and represent their colleges.

**Report of Liaison Representatives:**

* 1. Emeriti – Tom Royer

Emeriti Report to the Faculty Council, from Carolyn Gang and Mike Woods, Past President.

In December, the new slate of officers were instituted for 2025. Carolyn Gang is the incoming President, Joyce Sherrer is president-elect, Gary Clark will serve as the vice president for activities and Liz Tarbutton is treasurer. New councilors include Gladeen

Allred and Bob Graalman. A great series of programs for 2025 Monday evening dinners

were put together by Gary Clark. They include guest speaker First Cowboy Darren Shrum, Chancellor Sean Burrage, President Emeritus Burns Hargis, Professor Kevin Wagner and Senior Vice Provost Chris Francisco.

Our December Monday Night Dinner had record attendance and participants were

entertained by the Stillwater High School Choral group.

Obituaries were recognized for Jack Stout, Kenneth Case, Beverly Perkins

Submitted by Tom Royer, Emeriti Liaison to the Faculty Council

* 1. Staff Advisory Council – Aaron Lively – No Report
  2. Graduate Council – Veronique Lacombe – No Report
  3. Student Government Association – Sam Hiltz

1 is 2 many has a new office in 211 D Student Union. It’s located with all the other Student Government offices. This is another place for people to come in and talk confidentially about things.

Election season for next year's president and vice president have started. Additionally, living group Senators are having their elections.

SGA added the Director of Accessibility as a new executive position to raise awareness for accessibility on campus.

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

**GPSGA Meeting Reminder**

The fifth General Assembly Meeting of the academic year—and the first for Spring 2025—will take place on **Wednesday, January 29, at 5:30 PM in SSH 035**. An online option will be available for GPSGA representatives and liaisons from Tulsa and OKC campuses.

**GPSGA Membership Application - Spring 2025**

**New representatives and liaisons** from various graduate and professional student organizations and departments must complete the membership application form. This form will be available for download via Canvas on the day of the January general assembly and needs to be submitted through the designated Microsoft Form Submission Portal.

**GPSGA Assistance/Grant/Fund Information**

The [**Fall 2024 Post Conference Report for the GPSGA Travel Assistance**](https://canvas.okstate.edu/courses/84470/assignments/2195180) and the [**Post Event Visual Report for the Co-Sponsorship Fund**](https://canvas.okstate.edu/courses/84470/assignments/2207455) are now open. Please submit the relevant documents to support the applications to Canvas. All application forms and assignments are available on the GPSGA Canvas page. The Finance Committee will review all applications at the end of the semester, as previously conducted, and applicants will be notified via email of approval decisions after all applications have been collected and evaluated.

The [**Spring 2025 GPSGA Co-Sponsorship Fund Application**](https://canvas.okstate.edu/courses/84470/assignments/2153912)is open until **Monday, February 17**, and it is intended for events taking place between January 1 and May 31. Please carefully review the [**GPSGA Co-Sponsorship Fund Information Page**](https://canvas.okstate.edu/courses/84470/pages/gpsga-co-sponsorship-fund-information)before applying.

**GPSGA Phoenix Awards**

The GPSGA Phoenix Award applications are open from **October 28, 2024, to March 10, 2025**. Late submissions will not be accepted. Please review the criteria and complete the form accurately. The application is available on [**GPSGA Community on Canvas**](https://canvas.okstate.edu/courses/84470/assignments/2213852)via[**Microsoft Forms**](https://forms.office.com/r/uVkiQmgTuq). Please note only one attempt is allowed, and applicants can apply for one category only. For questions, contact [sonika.poudel@okstate.edu](mailto:sonika.poudel@okstate.edu).

**REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

**a.  Academic Standards and Policies: Mike Yough – Update**

Yough stated that the committee has not met yet this semester. They typically meet the week before the Executive Committee meeting, which was last week and during the break. The committee has scheduled their meetings for spring. Yough stated one of the things that was been brought up, on his committee and another one, is the lack of student representation on the committees. This spring, they do have an active SGA representative who can make the monthly meetings. It’s Sam Hiltz. The student representatives make the committee better. Yough stated he just learned from Francisco’s briefing that the committee will be looking at revisions of Gen Ed requirements. Yough stated they will also be looking at course objectives. The committee will have focus groups to gather data from multiple players: faculty, students, advisors, administration, etc.

**b. Access and Community Impact: Ravi Jadeja – No Report**

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

**d. Budget: Brad Lawson – Update**

Lawson stated that the committee will continue its work on budget activities for the university. The spring semester is when the university budgeting process really kicks in, and they start looking towards next year. Our committee hopes to be part of those discussions. We know there's a lot happening at the university level, revising the budgeting process and how they approach things. He is going to be learning a lot. He believes the committee is going to be learning a lot throughout this whole spring semester. The second thing we're working on is related to the budget but specifically raise issues for faculty. This is where our focus is right now. It's obviously not an easy topic to address and figure out.We all like to wave a magic wand and increase salaries for everybody. But it's not that simple. The committee will try to come up with ideas that address this issue. Lawson isglad that this issue is at the forefront of the administration. They know it's an issue. And the Budget Committee is going to do what they can. Perkins asked if anyone has heard about the state budget. Perkins stated that nothing will move at our level without the state first allocating funds. It was stated that February 3rd is the first day of the legislation. To Lawson’s understanding, the university typically finds out towards the end of its budgeting process which is either April or May. He’s not sure this is accurate but how he understands it to be.

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

Daglaris stated he is just taking over as committee chair. They have their first meeting scheduled for next week. They will get their agenda items for the year at this meeting. Daglaris did state they received a request to discuss Lake Carl Blackwell and some flood control concerns. The committee is still working to identify their agenda for the spring.

* 1. **Career Track: Jennifer Glenn – Update**

Glenn stated the Career Track committee meets once a month on the first Friday. Their first meeting will be Friday, February 7th. The committee has been and will continue to work to support the Faculty Committee regarding Reappointment and Promotion documentation for Career Track faculty.

* 1. **Faculty: James Knapp – Update**

Knapp stated the Faculty Committee continues their work on policy revisions to incorporate Career Track Faculty into existing policies. We put out several documents over the break for comment. One was the RPT document.The other one was theworkload policy at the university level which should guide workload policies at the unit level. We'll probably have to go back and make some revisionsto the policy statement to accommodateprovisions for joint appointments across different units and colleges.

Knapp stated that in the process of discussing these issues, it's come to light that there are quite a few faculty who, for all practical purposes, are already jointly appointed.

But there's no framework in which they're evaluated and consistently treated. Knapp thinks it's long overdue that we move those things forward. The committee is continuing with our monthly schedule of meeting on 3rd Monday of the month. This would have been yesterday, so we postponed that meeting until next Monday. We also had to reschedule the one during spring break. But we'll continue to meet on a monthly basis and hopefully have significant proposed revisions to bring to this body in the coming months. Another update real quickly. I did hear from the President's office on Friday about scheduling a meeting with the Faculty Committee. Knapp informed her of what our schedule is and said that we'll try and accommodate whatever schedule the President has. We are waiting to hear back. Yough asked about the RPT and Career Track faculty. One of the things that’s come up in his unit was external letters. Yough asked if you seek those out from other Career Track faculty or institutions who have also gone up and are also in a discipline that is small. This is a challenge. He is wondering if this is something that has come up. Knapp stated it has come up not only in terms of letters but on any number of issues. Knapp stated it's not trivial to figure out how to accommodate the breadth of different types of faculty appointments, especially when we bring in the career track faculty. We need to write something that's fairly broad at the university level and then leave the space open for individual units to craft their documents in ways that are a reflection of their faculty. I think that's going to be the only way forward. And this could apply to letters, for instance, but I think potentially some broad guidance on letters for the different categories of faculty could still be useful along the lines of what you're saying that has come up already in our discussion. Knapp stated we have broad representation on the career track faculty committee across most of the colleges and the different types of career track faculty. Knapp stated we're getting a lot of really valuable input on a lot of those issues. Lacombe stated that a discussion that came up for tenure track in the College of Veterinary Medicine is that to go up for promotion you have to have national or international recognition. This is why external letters are so important. Lacombe asked Knapp what his thoughts were on the national and international recognition of tenure track faculty at the university level. Knappe feels this will be one of the issues that will likely be specific to the nature of the faculty appointment, especially in career track. So professors of practice, for instance, which aren't common in arts and sciences, but in business, or some of the other disciplines, they're very common. Knapp believes the best we're going to be able to do is offer broad guidance at the university level, and then it's going to rely on the individual units to come up with the standards that are appropriate for your discipline. That's going to have to be the way it goes.

* 1. **Long-Range Planning and Information Technology: Melanie Boileau – No Report**
  2. **Research: Wouter Hoff – Update**

The committee has not met. We're in the process of deciding when everybody is available. So we don't have an update. But we'll continue with the same agenda items as I've been reporting on previously. So no further update.

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

Weiser anticipates they will have an update on policy 2-113: Faculty Sick Leave Policy for the next Executive Committee meeting, at least for discussion but hopefully for a vote.

* 1. **Rules and Procedures: Christopher Crick – Update**
  2. **Student Affairs and Learning Resources: Heather Yates – No Report**

**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 3:55 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is Tuesday, February 11, 2025 in room **126 ITLE**.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Crick, Secretary