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

Also present: Francisco, C., Hackworth, H., Hallenbeck, D., Horton, M., Jacobs, J., McLaughlin, T., Mendez, J, Milani, A., Miller, B., Murthy, R., Peaster, R., Pivinski, C., Ringsmuth, S., Sheehan, R., Shrum, K., Smith, A., Sun, M., Van Den Bussche, R., Weaver, J., Wingo, R. and Wray, K.

Absent: Bach.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Special Reports:

Aaron Smith – Information Security Officer/Director……………………………………..

Jamey Jacob – Oklahoma Aerospace Institute for Research and Education……………….

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…………………………….

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 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 February 14, 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 stated that we do have one correction to the agenda. Mark Pranger will give his special report in April instead of today. Cole asked if there were any other corrections to the agenda. Seeing none, Cole asked for a motion to adopt the agenda with the modification. Lawson moved and Slevitch 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 Aaron Smith, Officer and Director with Information Security. He will talk security of social media.

**Special Reports:**

**A. Aaron Smith – Information Security Officer/Director**

Smith stated that Dr. Kris Hiney, Long Range Planning and Information Technology Committee Chair, had reached out to his office regarding concerns/issues about Tik Tok, uses of social media and emergency communications. Smith provided the following PowerPoint:



The first of these issues is the Tik Tok ban that has been implemented on campus. Smith stated that the justification for blocking Tik Tok was that they determined there were potential security, privacy and compliance risks with the use of the Tik Tok application on the OSU network. This specifically refers to compliance risks concerning the Executive Order that was issued at the beginning of the year. The Executive Order indicated that the application is to be banned on all state networks. In response, OSU consulted and evaluated with other schools and engaged OSU legal and other university administrators to create a unified response as well as to determine whether their compliance was expected with everyone. After assessing the potential risks, OSU determined that we should block Tik Tok. Once it was determined to block the app and after final grades were submitted, his office facilitated the blocking of the app. Smith stated that in the event that someone feels they need to use Tik Tok his office is certainly open to reevaluating the risks. They will work with anyone if there was a specific way they wanted to use Tik Tok to try to come up with a solution but at this point Tik Tok has been blocked on all OSU networks. Smith stated that there were also questions regarding social media in general. Smith stated when it comes to the use of social media there are potential security, privacy and compliance concerns. Smith said if anyone has questions they are welcome to contact his office. They work with everyone and offer security consultation services. But in general, Smith stated the idea that institutional data could be stored, kept or maintained on some type of social media system could present potential issues. OSU has data classification system so public data (data that is not regulated) could potentially be collected and used. There are concerns using social media if that is where faculty would have institutional data. We have a retention policy when it comes to the use of social media. Smith stated that this should not be the repository of this type of data. Smith stated again if there is a specific question regarding an institutional or business needing to use social media, please contact his office. They will consult with you and come up with an appropriate action plan. Another issue that we discussed was business continuity issues. If an individual is using social media for institutional business and they leave or something happens to the faculty member the institution no longer has access to the individual’s account. This is another concern. Once again, his office is willing to work with anyone regarding any issues. The last point of concern is Emergency Communications. Smith’s office has been working with Brand Management to address potential communications for IT related emergencies. If there is a significant cyber security incident we would work with Brand Management to help get communications out. Smith stated that there were some other institutional units that would be more helpful or more involved for potential public safety issues. His office will help facilitate whatever technology needs will or can help address any of these concerns. Smith stated that his office has already engaged with public safety officers to let them know this concern has been brought to their attention. What can we do to come up with a solution.

Smith opened the floor to questions. Knapp asked if Tik Tok was only blocked when someone is on the campus network, i.e., an individual can still access the app as long as they are not on the campus network. Smith stated correct. An individual can use it as long as they are not on the campus network. Smith stated that if someone is going to use social media, if there is some reason you have institutional data or you are wanting to use social media for some type of institutional use there could be concerns. It depends on the situation. If you were doing some type of research that involved regulated data, you probably do not want to have that on Tik Tok or social media. If you are working in a clinic, this would not be an appropriate place to have this data. Knapp, as chair of the Faculty Committee, was approached with an issue about the degree to which different disciplines rely very heavily on social media for the scholarly work they do. This could include Tik Tok. Knapp’s committee was asked how this would be accounted for on a discipline by discipline basis and he stated that as a Faculty Committee this question/issue belongs with the unit to determine. They are the ones who should determine how social media use is created to a given faculty member’s productivity. Knapp stated that if a faculty member or unit had a heavy reliance on these social media platforms they should contact his office to get a variance. Smith stated yes, absolutely. Hoff asked if the ban includes Zoom and Dropbox? Smith stated no. The Executive Order was specific to Tik Tok. Smith stated that group meetings were not included. Hiney stated that any concerns or questions regarding the use of social media individuals should contact his office but there is not formal policy regarding security measures. Smith stated that the Institutional Data Classification Policy would be the one he would point to for reference. Smith stated that public information being on social media is fine. But regulated data is not. Hoff stated that being hacked is an issue. Anything out there (on Dropbox) can be hacked and out there the next day so there is a risk of exposure in a sense. Smith stated that in the Data Classification Policy it does go into a full procedural area where it will show (has an actual table) some common areas where people can store data. Smith believes that Dropbox is listed. The policy will say, if you have regulated data it is not ok to put it on drop box. Public data is fine. It is not appropriate for regulated or data with a compliance expectation to be on Dropbox.

**B**. **Jamey Jacob – Oklahoma Aerospace Institute for Research and Education**

Jacob discussed the vision for the Oklahoma Aerospace Institute for Research and Education and stated the goal is primarily to support the President’s mission to become the preeminent Land Grant University focusing on the four pillars that came out in the Strategic Plan for OSU last year. Aerospace is one of these sectors that is not only important from a statewide prospective (to be one of the leading primary industries within the state with agriculture and oil and gas) but also nationally. Helping the U.S. to be globally competitive in aerospace in both the commercial and defense perspective. This is an issue that impacts us from a very broad perspective. We are aiming to help support not just the state but the university in all aspects of the aerospace initiative.

Jacob presented the following PowerPoint to the Council:



Jacob stated that we are very purposeful in choosing what we want to go after in regards to emerging aerospace technologies. Aerospace is a very broad field. We are currently in the golden age of aerospace technology for applying advances made in other areas such as autonomy in Artificial Intelligence as well as energy to generate new aircraft that will help provide a sustainable planet in the future. Thinking about NASA’s goal for 2050 where we have electrified aircraft, Jacob stated we are building on this from expertise that we already have. Rather than building this completely from scratch, we want to build on the excellence that we have already generated over the past decade primarily with the Unmanned Systems Research and Institute (USRI). We want to increase the scope beyond the realm of small drones, to be able to support broader areas of research across the university and broaden the campuswide support. Jacob stated that the USRI was formed in 2015. It was formed as a response to a need seen across the university since other departments were asking questions about the use of drones to accomplish both our research and education missions as well as a knowledge component. This includes segments of the “A” part of the A&M mission which is agriculture. We utilize drones to provide a more sustainable food source. As an institute, we are focused on OSU’s mission of research, scholarship and service. Being able to serve each partner across not only the university but also the state. Jacob stated their goal is to not be all aerospace things to all people. We need to be very purposeful in what we think is the number one area related to aerospace. Some of the areas will fall outside what you normally think of as the typical aerospace realm. Aerospace engineering is often misconstrued when we say aerospace they think of engineering, aerospace is much broader than this in terms of how we pull these resources particularly from the aviation and space side of the house to Education and Human Sciences. We really focus on our campus partners. See slide 5. Researchers ask questions about how to improve their ability to get data. How do we utilize such things as autonomous systems. This is really the goal of broadening this from USRI (which currently sits within CEAT) to Oklahoma Aerospace Institute of Research and Education (OAIRE) which sits outside CEAT and will be easier to assist researchers and students across the campus in performing their mission. Jacob gave an example from Spears School of Business regarding Entrepreneurship. Jacob stated that the use of drones is a great opportunity for students from building the systems to those who will market them to companies. We have a unique opportunity to combine all these elements together and utilize resources from across the university. There will be several collaboration opportunities. See slide 6. Jacob stated one of the benchmarks they are going after that fits within our realm is the National Institute of Aviation Research (NIAR). See slide 7. Jacob opened the floor to questions. Seeing none, Cole thanked Jacob for his presentation.

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

Shrum announced that Garth Brooks was coming back to campus to do two concerts. The background for these stemmed from his forum with students last semester. One of the students asked him if he would come and do a concert. He said yes, he would be happy to. Discussions started. The idea is to have two concerts in the McKnight Center with the goal of raising $1 million for scholarships. Shrum stated we are very fortunate that we have an anonymous donor say they would give $500,000 so one concert will be set aside for students only. The students have to donate a food item and then there will be a lottery drawing for tickets. We are hoping to raise more money but this is the launch of an initiative to continue to grow scholarships. The concerts will be April 14th and 15th. Shrum wants to make access to the university a priority. She does not want the costs to be something that stands in the way of a qualified student from attending OSU. This is the beginning of the mission and we hope to continue to raise more funds. Garth will be the face of this and hopefully catch momentum and raise the awareness for the need for scholarships. Shrum is hoping we exceed the $1 million goal. She is very excited to have Garth back on campus. He has really enjoyed engaging students.

Shrum stated that we are continuing to go to the Capitol, work on funding for Higher Education at the State level, some specific programs for OSU and as well as with a federal delegation. Shrum stated there are targeted programs that we are working through and putting proposals forward on. Shrum will continue to give updates as they become available.

Shrum stated the Human Performance Nutrition Research Institute was recently launched. Shrum wanted to let everyone know that Friday April 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Nancy Randolph Davis Building, there will a symposium. The goal of the symposium is to raise awareness of the Institute, explore current resources and identify possible interdisciplinary opportunities across the OSU/A&M system. The symposium will be limited to 100 people who will be representatives from all colleges, athletics, extension, faculty researchers and more. If you are interested in attending, Shrum encouraged everyone to RSVP soon. Visit [hpnri@okstate.edu](mailto:hpnri@okstate.edu) for more information. Shrum stated that this is another example of an institute that we want to have robust multi-disciplinary focus on a particular area in health. Shrum stated the deans should be receiving “save the date” notices and this should filter out to faculty members.

Shrum opened the floor to questions. Miller asked the university is concerned about the bills going through the legislature lately regarding what books are allowed in schools in Oklahoma. Shrum stated that OSU has governmental affair folks at the Capitol who monitor all bills that they think have an impact on higher education. This is a coalition of all higher education, not just OSU. Shrum stated that we try to take the perspective of educating legislators why policies are not supportive of higher education or why we have concerns about them. Shrum stated there are always things at the Capitol that we may find we do not support but if they are not a direct impact on higher education we have to balance whether or not we as a university want to take it on. When there is something that directly impacts higher education, it’s harder if we are taking a stance on every single issue. Shrum always encourages people as a citizen’s duty to speak to your Representatives and Senators. Shrum asked this not be done on a university email account. Do it on your gmail as a public citizen. Speak out, speak your mind. There is a balance for OSU in taking a hard stance on something vs trying to educate legislators one on one. Shrum feels the advantage to going to the Capitol and building relationships is the legislators start to listen to you more. Shrum has found it to be more effective by building relationships, trying to educate the legislators and allowing them to ask questions. They begin to reach out to you and ask your opinion on things. This is where Shrum believes we can have the biggest impact in talking to our individual representatives. On matters relating directly to higher education, we do have a coalition of people that work on behalf of higher education.

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

Provost Mendez updated the Council members on current recommendation:

21-12-01-DIV: Land Acknowledgement Statement for the OSU Stillwater Campus. Pending. The proposed statement originally drafted in 2019 and reviewed and modified by multiple campus organizations and administrative groups has now been recommended by the FC Diversity Committee and is recommended for adoption by OSU.

Mendez does not expect any delays as this works its way through Deans Council and the Executive Team.

Mendez updated the Council members on staffing in her office and Faculty Fellows. Mendez expects as we close out the semester she will have another update on the Faculty Fellows. Mendez stated that an Associate Vice Provost position is posted, and this search is moving along. Mendez stated there are several dean openings as well:

Arts & Sciences: The dean left over the summer. Keith Garbutt Honors College Dean was put in place for two years. A search for a new dean will begin fall of 2023 and have someone in place a year from now.

Spears School of Business: Ken Eastman announced his retirement at the end of the summer. He will be retiring this summer, so a search is underway.

Ferguson College of Agriculture: Tom Coon announced his retirement, and this search is underway.

CEAT: Dean Paul Tikalsky has decided to step down as dean and is getting his retirement plan in place in the coming months.

Graduate College: Sheryl Tucker has accepted a Provost position at another institution so she will be leaving this summer.

Mendez stated that the life span of dean positions is usually 5-6 years (national average). Of these deans the shortest serving has been 9 years with the longest being 12 years. We have very long-serving deans which is great. Mendez had received a few questions about this and wanted to let everyone know there is a plan in place and they are communicating with engineering and constituents at the Grad College in the coming weeks to identify timelines. Mendez will keep Faculty Council updated as we move forward. Mendez is not worried about any of these searches and believes we will find extremely qualified candidates to lead these colleges. She does understand that change concerns people, so she wanted to assure everyone that there is no cause for concern. The search committees are doing their due diligence and she is confident in the process.

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

None

**Faculty Council Chair’s report:**

Cole stated that we will soon be voting on new Faculty Council representatives as well as officers. We are still needing a few nominees from a few colleges.

The Faculty and Staff Community Special Committee is currently collecting information to help understand what elements OSU faculty and staff want. Launching this committee is something that was discussed earlier in the semester. Cole stated they are doing a great job. There will be three opportunities for faculty and staff to provide feedback on Stillwater and what you’d like to see. One is a comment box. This is a very well-written survey to gather input. There will be a listening session at the Public Library on April 6th. There will be a Zoom listening session on April 13th. These details were sent to faculty and staff. If you did not receive them, please let Cole know. This information is also being shared with the colleges so we can gather as many responses as we can.

Cole stated that there have been a lot of questions regarding Chat-GPT and AI. Cole wanted to let everyone know that Chris Ormsbee will be coming to Faculty Council in April to discuss Chat-GPT and related tools. Ormsbee spoke to Graduate Council a few months ago and it was a great presentation. The library also has a Data Bytes workshop coming up on Chat-GPT March 23rd if you are interested.

**Report of Liaison Representatives:**

* 1. Emeriti – Barbara Miller

The Executive Board has approved working with the Foundation to name another scholarship, funded by a donation from Katherine McCollum, for Ken McCollum, one of the founders of the Emeriti Association.

Notes from Emeriti President Gary Sheerer:

At the last Emeriti Council Meeting, a great deal of discussion centered around the concern of a settlement being reached between the Stillwater Medical Center and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma. There was optimism of a settlement being reached but concern over the possibility of higher premiums to faculty and staff.  The Emeriti Association will voice their concerns on behalf of the faculty and staff at OSU. (We are aware that VP Joe Weaver is working hard on this problem).

The Emeriti Association Council also wishes to invite any staff or faculty member who may be on the verge of retiring to please consider joining the association. It is a great way to enjoy fellowship with other retirees and to stay in touch with university activities.

* 1. Women’s Faculty Council – Morgan Pfeiffer

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Description automatically generated

* 1. Staff Advisory Council – Michelle Stewart/Chris Pivinski

Staff Advisory Council will have a table at the Staff Development Day to answer questions for any staff members on March 28th near the ballroom.

Later this week notifications will be going out for nominees for the new election cycle will be opening. If you know any staff members in your area that you think would be a good fit for Staff Advisory Council, please encourage them to complete a nomination form. You can find them on our website. <https://sac.okstate.edu/>

* 1. Graduate Council – Rebecca Sheehan

*ChatGPT.* Dr. Chris Ormsbee discussed ChatGPT and fielded questions Council. ChatGPT was launched in November 2022 and released to the public in December 2022 by Open AI. ChatGPT is a machine learning and language prediction model. It does not “learn.” OSU is examining best practices concerning this technology.

*International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Program Changes*. Dr. Nathan Horton discussed potential changes concerning the ITA Exam. He suggested moving away from the “native speaker” terminology as well as an exemption list. Instead, he recommended using “completed higher education in an English-speaking country” as exempt from taking the ITA exam, which aligns with our admissions requirement. A motion was made for these changes, and Council approved the motion, effective Fall 2023.

*Enrollment*.Dean Sheryl Tucker reported that Spring 2023 enrollment was up approximately 6% year-over-year across the three campuses with a total of 4900 graduate students. Additionally, more full-time graduate students are enrolled compared to 10 years ago. In other enrollment news, Saudi Arabia has now approved almost all graduate programs for application by their citizens.

*Optional Practical Training (OPT)*. Dr. Jean Van Delinder stated students that wish to apply for OPT must start the process six months prior to graduation. Also, the student’s advising committee, Graduate Coordinator and ISS all must approve the OPT application suing the available form.

*Advising Committee Roles*. Graduate College Round-Up now has automatic emails that explain the roles of each advisory committee member.

*Vice Chair Elections*. Dr. Mary Jo Self distributed a handout listing the current election committee members, the Graduate College policy on Election of the Vice-Chair of the Graduate Council, and the two nominees, Dr. Marten Brienen and Dr. Veronique Lacombe. Council voted to accept the two nominees. Additional nominations from the floor were requested. There were none. Each nominee was asked to prepare a brief statement (3 minutes) for the Spring 2023 General Graduate Faculty Meeting on March 29, 2023. The Graduate Council voted to approve the election taking place in April 2023.

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

Lawson asked if the ITA exam changes were for admissions policy or does this also apply to GTA requirements. Sheehan stated that this is for admission. There is a higher level of English proficiency needed for employment. Sheehan stated that in terms of English proficiency there are several courses for oral and written skills to help improve/ensure the success of the graduate student whose English in not where they or OSU would like them to be. These are excellent tools to help ensure success. These are generally international students who are coming to OSU encountering a lot of changes, they are usually passionate/motivated and yet they struggle at times with English. We want to set them up for success. Sheehan encouraged Graduate Programs to look into these courses. Sheehan also said you can say these certain courses (beyond the program of study) are needed/required to be in the classroom in the offer letter. If these are listed in the offer letter and are 5000 level or higher course it will be covered by tuition waivers if they are offered an assistantship.

* 1. Student Government Association – Ty McLaughlin

SGA had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C for the Big 12 on the Hill conference from February 26th through March 1st. During this conference we met with both members of Congress and senators to talk about issues that students experience within higher education. This was a great opportunity for our association to advocate for students.

We had our annual presidential and vice-presidential debate on March 3rd. We had four state representatives attend Eddy Dempsey District 1, John Talley District 33, Trish Ranson District 34, and Ty Burns District 35. Representatives Ranson and Talley both moderated the debate. We were also able to have the O'Colly livestream the debate.

Our spring elections took place on March 7th & 8th. These elections were for living group senators and student body president and vice president. We are still waiting for the results.

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

**GPSGA General Assembly Meeting**

**Based on the general assembly's feedback, the topic for the invited guest speaker session of the sixth meeting focused on graduate student well-being. Our invited speaker was Dr. Toby Brown, a visiting assistant professor from the College of Education and Human Sciences. Dr. Brown curated resources specifically for the GPSGA assembly through Padlet. The resource packet was shared in the GPSGA general assembly minutes and uploaded to Canvas and distributed through the GPSGA listserv.**

The seventh general assembly meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 29, in Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) 035. An online option will be provided for Tulsa and OKC representatives/liaisons. The invited guest speaker will be Provost Mendez.

**New GPSGA Initiatives and Updates**

GPSGA Engagement Program

* + Three key pillars of the program:
    - highlighting and raising awareness on existing resources and programming
    - cultivating co-curricular growth
    - fostering friendship, social engagement, and reciprocal mentorship
  + The initiative aligns with the graduate student’s well-being research from the National College Health Assessment (NCHA). One of the key best practices highlighted is connecting with other graduate students.
  + The friends pairing process application was distributed and completed:
    - voluntary application process
    - currently 45 participants in the group
  + Currently working on reaching out to other area clubs on campus to promote the initiative.

Impact Report

* The GPSGA President proposed compiling an impact report to be shared with the Graduate College and the graduate and professional student community. The advisor and the current board approved the proposal.
* Key components of the report:
* Collection of a record of the recipients for travel awards and other GPSGA awards for Fall 2022-Spring 2023
* Highlighted testimonials from students on how the awards impacted their academic endeavors.
* A list of events and new initiatives

**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 is currently seeking nominations for outstanding master's students, doctoral students, graduate teaching assistants, and faculty members for the four categories of the Phoenix Awards. Descriptions of each award and eligibility requirements are available via Canvas. GPSGA will receive applications through the GPSGA Canvas Community page, and the due date for all four awards is April 3. For additional questions, please contact [gpsga@okstate.edu](mailto:gpsga@okstate.edu).

**General Assembly Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes from the sixth/February general assembly meeting are available via the GPSGA Canvas page.

**REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

1. **Academic Standards and Policies: Kathy Curry – Update**

Curry stated the committee had two items on their agenda.

* One is the Faculty awards for non-tenure track faculty and with the creation of the special committee on non-tenure track faculty, this task has been delegated to be a part of this longer/larger conversation.
* Second item has been consideration of a resolution that came from Arts and Sciences addressing HB1775 and its influence on academic freedom at OSU. There has been lengthy discussion on the issue. To gain some perspective and insight, they reached out to the Provost’s office. They met with Brandee Hancock in Legal Counsel and Chris Francisco on January 27th. They were very, very clear in their message to the committee that HB1775 does not influence academic freedom at OSU. There was quite a long conversation at the committee meeting. After the meeting, Curry distributed a survey through Qualtrics to gauge the committee’s opinions and feelings if they needed to continue this discussion. The survey was open from February 7 to March 1 with three reminders sent to the committee members. From the ten members on the committee, there were 2 yes to continue the discussion, there were 4 no votes to not continue the discussion and 1 abstention. The discussion on HB1775 is done.

**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 – No Report**

**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 – Update**

Slevitch stated the committee received a proposal from Equity Advocates and A&S Faculty Council. The proposal was regarding the shared sick leave policy that they were advocating for. Their main justification for the proposal was that other institutions within the A&M system currently have such policies. The Equity Advocates and A&S Faculty Council felt that such a policy would be beneficial for OSU faculty. The committee took the proposal into careful consideration. The committee solicited feedback from college representatives and consulted with OSU Human Resources (HR). Ultimately the committee really struggled finding support that such a policy is truly needed by faculty at OSU. It appears that a lot of faculty have sick leave at the maximum level and do not use it that frequently, therefore very few faculty seemed to exhaust it. The committee does feel we need stronger evidence whether such a policy is needed. The committee decided to work with HR on a survey that will give us a more comprehensive picture if the policy is needed. The committee is working with HR and hopes to launch the survey in April and will revisit the policy after the survey.

**j**. **Rules and Procedures: Karen Neurohr – No Report**

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

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – None

Cole asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 3:00 in room 412 Student Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Neurohr, Secretary