Peek called the meeting to order with the following members present: Yough for Cole, Conway, Crick, DeSilva, Dunn, Hall, Finchum, Frazier, Gardner, Gonzalez, Jaroni, Freeman for Kaipa, Kakani, Kazianga, Liu, M. Lovern, P. Lovern, Melancon, Nelson, Neurohr, Noden, Reichard, Slevitch, Smith, Talley and Yates.

Also present: Beard, K., Berg, M., Cheves, T., Eck, T., Griffith, H., Habiger, J., Hallenbeck, D., Hargis, B., Kirksey, J., Maupin, J., McCullagh, L., Miller, B., Misener, T., Ormsbee, C., Peaster, R., Pybus, N., Sandefur, G., Sewell, K., Sheehan, R., Shreffler, R., Towner, M., Tucker, S., Weaver, D., and Weaver, J.

Absent: Bindewald, Bulut, Shreffler and Ware.

 **HIGHLIGHTS**

Special Reports:

 Dr. Todd Misener - Campus Mental Health & Mental Health Resources……………

Remarks and Comments – President Hargis………………………..……………………..….

Report of Status of Faculty Council Recommendations and other Vice Presidents…….…….

Reports of Liaison Representatives …………………………………………………….……..

Emeriti…………………………………………………………………………………

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

Wellness Center….…………………………………………………………………….

SGA ……………………………………………………………………………………

GPSGA ………………………………………………………………………………..

Graduate Council………………………………………………………………………

SAC……………………………………………………………………………………

Reports of Standing 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 …………………………….………………..

Peek introduced herself and established a quorum. Peek asked for approval of the October minutes. The minutes have been distributed to everyone. Peek asked if there were any corrections to them? Seeing none asked for approval. Crick moved, Conway second. Motion passed. Peek stated that a modified agenda was distributed earlier this afternoon. Peek asked for a motion to approve today’s modified agenda. DeSilva moved, Smith second. Motion passed.

**Special Report:**

1. **Dr. Todd Misener – Chief Wellness Officer -** Cam**pus Mental Health & Mental Health Resources**

Misener thanked Peek and presented the following PowerPoint presentation to the Council members:



Misener stated that mental health related issues are getting a lot of attention across the board and he feels that it is important to raise awareness of resources that are available to faculty and staff on campus as much as possible. Misener stated that we are all keenly aware of the mental health issues related to students. Back in 2019 they began working with the national organization, JED Foundation, which provides leadership and guidance to campuses on best practices in mental health issues and substance abuse prevention. His department did a study and he wanted to share the results from a student perspective. Misener stated that the numbers from the study (Healthy Minds Study) are pre-Covid. Misener highlighted the difference between the Personal and Perceived stigmas attached to mental health issues. Misener wants to raise the awareness that mental health struggles are not limited to students alone. It also affects faculty and staff. While we are keenly aware of and striving constantly to prevent suicide within our student population Misener stated that something a lot of people do not realize is that suicide rates actually reach its peak more in the standard age range for faculty and staff on our campus. Yes, we need to continue to be vigilant and supportive of all efforts to minimize the risk and likelihood of suicide on our campus for our students. Misener also advocates that we take care of ourselves as well and most importantly take care of each other. Misener said typically the person who is suffering is going to reach out for help in some way, shape or form. It will typically not be to a trained counselor, it’s often a colleague, friend or family member. Being prepared to be able to address the issues and be a resource for people is essential in our overall campus response to mental health across the board. To assume this is only a student issue is a mistake. Really and truly we are not at a capacity to truly serve our students at our best when we ourselves are suffering. Never be afraid to seek out help. It’s never too late in the process. Misener stated that mental health is not limited to one group or member of a community. It’s truly a community effort. Misener stated that we need to work together to point out opportunities to work together to solve the mental health needs of our faculty, staff and students. All campus resources are open to faculty, staff and students.

Peek asked the following question from the zoom chat – Dean Tucker asked if the survey results reflect undergrad and grad students? Misener said yes. He will be happy to share the overall survey responses. Misener reiterated this survey is pre-Covid. Misener stated they just completed a national college health assessment. Over 1,000 students completed this survey in October which included Covid related questions. There will be real data in the middle of the pandemic to report by late November early December. Peek commented that she completed the Kognito training and it took 36 minutes to do. She thought it was fantastic. Sheehan asked Misener if his PowerPoint can be shared with Faculty Council. Dr. Hall would also like the report. Tricia White will include the PowerPoint with the minutes as well as send it out to faculty members tomorrow.

As a point of order, Peek asked everyone using a telephone number to sign in and change their name for attendance purposes. DeSilva stated you do not need to sign out then sign back in. You can just click on the (…).

**Remarks and Comments – President Hargis**

Hargis stated they appeared before the State Regents as well as several appropriation and budget chairman about funding requests. Hargis made a big pitch for the endowed chairs. We are still owed $86 million in matching funds from the state. Donations were made in 2008. Bonds were authorized last year but did not appropriate anything for the debt service. If we get the funds and award these chairs it will produce over $4 million a year in additional money. This would be a huge boost to faculty and the university. Hargis believes there will be budget shortfalls – tax revenues will be down due to the pandemic. Hargis is optimistic that they will fund the endowed chairs. The appropriation for 2010 was $134 million for Stillwater and Tulsa. This year is $92 million. It’s been difficulty to make things work. Hargis stated that the increase in Covid numbers is concerning, not where they were at the peak, but still concerning. The only other thing since our last meeting was he announced his retirement date of July 1, 2021.

Opened the floor to questions. Frazier thanked President Hargis for his service. Peek stated that she for one has enjoyed working with President Hargis and will be sad to see him go. Peek commented that we still have a few months together.

**Report of Status of Council Recommendations:**

**Provost Sandefur and Vice Presidents**

Dr. Sandefur gave the Council members an update on current recommendations:

20-10-01-Res: Modifying Conflict of Interest in Sponsored Research P&P 4-0130

18-05-02-Faculty: Proposed changes to the Preface and Body of the “Policy Statement to

Govern Appointments, Tenure, Promotions, and Related Matters of the Faculty of OSU” Still being reviewed by Legal Counsel.

Spring semester will begin a week later and there will be no spring break. We are allowing and encouraging faculty members to consider class attendance and participation when deciding on grades. We feel this will encourage more students to actually go to class and participate. There will be a mixture of in-person, fewer hybrid (due to problems with this format) and some online classes for the spring. If students are ill or unable to attend class, we are encouraging instructors to make sure students have access to the materials they need to be successful in the course. Sandefur is very pleased with how everyone has responded to a very difficult situation and help with their students’ success. Sandefur feels that this is part of the reason the 6-week grades were higher then they have been in the past. There is a concern about how much students are actually learning in this challenging environment and he appreciates what everyone is doing to make this work. Sandefur stated that we only have a few more weeks until Thanksgiving. Sandefur is encouraged by today’s Covid numbers. He’s hoping this is the beginning of a new trend.

Peek asked for questions. DeSilva, yesterday was the last day to drop a class. Did we have an uptick in drops over normal? Sandefur does not know. Registrar Peaster stated she looked at the data today. The overall number of students who dropped with a “W” is slightly down from fall of 2019. They did see that more students waited until the last minute to drop a class. Last Friday was the deadline. There was about 27% higher drop rate that day then we had on the same day in 2019.

Peek relayed a chat question – Sheehan asked if face-to-face courses will be required to be live streamed and recorded? Sandefur stated no, we are asking instructors to make the material available to students who cannot be in class. Either livestream, record it or somehow otherwise make it available for students who are ill or in quarantine. Instructors are not required to live stream like this semester.

Next chat question. Do students know that attendance will be required? Sandefur stated that it will vary from class to class. Not all instructors have recorded attendance in the past. It varies from instructor to instructor. We are not saying you have to take attendance. Sandefur hopes instructors will take attendance and consider the participation of students in the class but this is up to the instructor to decide. Sandefur stated that students will not know this until they get the class syllabus which will state if attendance is required. Sandefur cannot issue a proclamation that attendance is required in all face to face classes because this is the prerogative of the instructors to make this decision. Hargis believes that a lot of the stress students are feeling has to do with taking advantage of the online offering. They think it’s easier to do. Hargis wonders if the pass/fail survey/petition is a result of people falling behind and now they are scared. Hargis feels that having students together in the class is a much healthier experience.

Chat question for Registrar Peaster. Can you briefly explain week 13 and 14 drops? Peaster stated that two changes were made this fall to registration policy. One of these changes was the ability for students to drop a class during weeks 13 and 14 with an assigned grade of “W” or “F” by the instructor. Peaster explained that this is something that has existed in the past but only for students who were going to completely withdraw from all classes at OSU. Peaster stated that the change here is to allow students who are struggling past the automatic “W” drop period an opportunity to salvage some of their classes if possible. This allows them to drop individual classes with that assigned grade of “W” or “F.” Peaster stated that there was a working group that evaluated this and developed a form that students would be required to use if dropping a class during this period. This form requires the student to discuss dropping the class with the instructor and their advisor. The form was created to help start a conversation between the student and instructor and to allow the student to explain any extraordinary circumstances that they may have encountered that affected their performance in the class. Chat question for Provost Sandefur, will OSU consider starting spring semester online if Oklahoma is in the red level? Sandefur stated this is a collective decision that will be made given the health conditions at that particular time. Sandefur stated that all options are on the table and our most important priority is the health and safety of our faculty, staff and students. We will do what puts their health first. We will have to wait and see what things look like as we approach the beginning of the spring semester.

**Other Vice Presidents:**

**Joe Weaver – VP Admin & Finance**



Weaver presented the above information to the council members regarding life insurance plan changes. The reason why OSU was motivated to make these changes is because we are constantly looking for savings to our benefit programs where we can that will impact the least number of employees. As everyone knows, healthcare costs are always going up. If Weaver can find savings in other areas, that will mitigate premium increases to the health insurance as we move forward. Weaver stated that employees can buy-up and pay for supplemental life insurance with our current provider in $10,000 increments. It can be structured how the faculty/staff member sees fit up to $300,000. Weaver stated evidence of insurability will need to be provided. The premium information is listed on our website. Weaver stated it had been so long since we had taken a hard look at the old plan that the rates we were paying for the insurance were high, a little out of the norm. Weaver stated we needed to rebid it anyway. Through this process we discovered that not only could we save money, but if we got more in line with our peer group we could save considerably more money. Peek asked for questions. No questions regarding insurance.

Weaver wanted to make the council aware of an issue happening in the city of Stillwater. Weaver stated that he had a meeting today with folks at City Hall. There have been a number of petitions filed by citizens of Stillwater to recall the mayor and the entire City Council for the way they have managed the coronavirus response. They are particularly mad about the mask ordinance and the limited hours at the bars/restaurants. They believe the solution is to throw out the entire City Council and mayor. Weaver believes they have completed their petition drive and it’s expected they will have enough signatures to create a ballot that will be up for a vote. Weaver stated that OSU worked with and partnered with the City Council to create the mask ordinance. Weaver credits the city with helping OSU save our semester. Weaver stated that an election date is yet to be determined. Information about this election will be passed along at a later date providing the group has enough signatures or the petition is thrown out.

**Doug Hallenbeck – VP Student Affairs**

Hallenbeck stated that OSU will have a virtual visit with the JED Foundation this week. This meeting was originally planned for March. They are the organization that deals specifically with suicide prevention. They work with over 300 universities. We are reviewing all our mental health and suicide prevention programs. This includes our counseling and messaging. This includes resources through the JED Foundation to provide specific training for faculty and instructors on how to best assist students in need/crisis. Hallenbeck will have more information later. The JED Foundation is currently reviewing all our programs. We had already planned this so it’s not a reaction to the current times but it sure is good timing. Hallenbeck is pulling together a group that is looking at other options for how to reduce stress and anxiety during the spring since there is no spring break. More information will come on this. Our Greek students organized a “Greek Strong” hashtag to offer peer support. Hallenbeck stated that we had a group of moms and dads on campus that organized a hug event to offer support which had a huge impact on our students. Hallenbeck stated it takes a village and we are getting there.

**Kenneth Sewell – VP Research**

Sewell stated that they continue to look for ways to support faculty during these difficult times. Sewell said research productivity is going strong. Sewell said the Experts Directory is coming along well. Once completed, it will help monitor where we need to bolster our support for faculty as we come on the other side of what we hope will be a pandemic in the past instead of an ongoing pandemic. Sewell stated that in general faculty are doing amazing things and we are seeing the benefits when we look at grant proposals, awards and publications. It’s amazing what’s being accomplished. Peek commented that she had a chance to look at her page in the new directory and she likes how everything is grouped together and finds it visually very nice. Sewell believes it will be an asset and we will be glad we did it.

**Report of Liaison Representatives:**

1. Emeriti Association – Barbara Miller

The Emeriti Board has decided to not charge dues for 2021, typically due in December of this year, to those who were paid members for 2020.  This decision was based in part on the fact that the dinners and other events have been cancelled for the year.

1. Women’s Faculty Council – Liz McCullagh
* Our Zoom meeting of the WFC on November 2nd, 2020 featured Dr. Hendratta Ali. Dr. Ali spoke about how to create diverse networks using social media and professional organizations as well as her own personal path in her career.
* We are looking forward to announcing the winners of our outstanding achievement and mentorship of women awards soon- stay tuned!

**Announcements:**

* Seeking reviewers for the Student Research Awards please email wfc@okstate.edu if interested in volunteering. We are also in the process of seeking funds for these awards. Thank you for those who have already committed!
* Canvas page created to help volunteers become organized to offer social groups, book clubs, etc. Email wfc@okstate.edu to join this page.
* Anyone interested in the WFC can visit our website at womensfacultycouncil.okstate.edu and sign up to be put on our email list.
* Discussed a social event to end the semester. This will be a zoom event. It will more than likely be on November 30th.
1. Wellness Center – Kim Beard



1. SGA – Hadley Griffith
* Senate has continued to meet via Zoom.
* This month we are coordinating new SGA Senate Intent to Run Forms and Applications.
* SGA is continuing to work to create a more inclusive community and student body. As a part of that mission we have “Pride Month” activities for students this month.
* SGA just passed official legislation signed by our SGA President and Vice President, Executive Committee, and Senate Chairs, to offer official student condolences to the families of the students, the cowboy family has lost this semester.
* We are continuing to work hard in ensuring accurate information about the university and its students is being shared on social media and elsewhere.
1. GPSGA – Maegan Berg

 **Group Fund Applications Open**

The group fund application is now open! All student organizations that are affiliated with GPSGA and are in good standing are eligible to apply! [Find more information and the application here.](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmx.technolutions.net%2Fss%2Fc%2FBQM-IylQKwVhFDmSUz94JKH4ndfIobk2IHGq96wH54LLmKEK9g7fOMmw1xDgSvHOxMKB6tenpSsUtxrQXEFlB8r1tjKPsa6SE0g-ekzNNJI%2F36j%2FmhjER9UkQWmKnyNl5vytNA%2Fh23%2FB25a3W0CBA8PCJH2HDcVLuwGAStDV6xCCSoY07MxHE0&data=04%7C01%7Ctricia.white%40okstate.edu%7C9a8b93b3ad824833a86d08d8804f06bd%7C2a69c91de8494e34a230cdf8b27e1964%7C0%7C0%7C637400424195735086%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=lIJDIipI1bxdHpZV2Ay5PjhJYJnfSitS5eO7Z5mSoBY%3D&reserved=0)

**Announcements**

* Nominations for Parliamentarian positions are now being accepted. Send us your statement of interest, a brief bio, and your picture to gpsga@okstate.edu
* The third GPSGA General Assembly [meeting minutes are now available in Canvas](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmx.technolutions.net%2Fss%2Fc%2FBQM-IylQKwVhFDmSUz94JKH4ndfIobk2IHGq96wH54LLmKEK9g7fOMmw1xDgSvHOqlCn9ajvc-oms_yB-C7gDETtLpWJJxRTQfZApXwPsxPmk1X1szyNizR9rOT2ERJB%2F36j%2FmhjER9UkQWmKnyNl5vytNA%2Fh24%2FisOUbsjt2DoHJUXtdtnphd0q3WQgnNUCy4cm2TVKArY&data=04%7C01%7Ctricia.white%40okstate.edu%7C9a8b93b3ad824833a86d08d8804f06bd%7C2a69c91de8494e34a230cdf8b27e1964%7C0%7C0%7C637400424195745075%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6PKIO2pOkKKzCF%2FpJx3rFrPCGQ9pBZY0CSkGQ9%2BR0wI%3D&reserved=0).
* GPSGA has launched its networking group for graduate students on LinkedIn. Connect with [OKSTATE GPSGA](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmx.technolutions.net%2Fss%2Fc%2Fgsby7xed_Q9kJKoUKuDGdDwsLyg64Cb31K4Axf4jcvsZIy8uO3hHIXyxVR924Ax-%2F36j%2FmhjER9UkQWmKnyNl5vytNA%2Fh25%2FeRxrZWVYB9SwZB0S8z053TbU_WpHPp4tdlvo7hqPUkE&data=04%7C01%7Ctricia.white%40okstate.edu%7C9a8b93b3ad824833a86d08d8804f06bd%7C2a69c91de8494e34a230cdf8b27e1964%7C0%7C0%7C637400424195745075%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=E4gkbdiws6digg7z%2B0Ir5uIublz8NHrJZjnkQbOiId0%3D&reserved=0) and request to join the [networking group](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmx.technolutions.net%2Fss%2Fc%2Fgsby7xed_Q9kJKoUKuDGdDwsLyg64Cb31K4Axf4jcvuBBhsN287ALysqByAzTr5S%2F36j%2FmhjER9UkQWmKnyNl5vytNA%2Fh26%2FYb745UFobPeVfsBuUPV4Pw6gdg-OMeOCGej-f3t78W4&data=04%7C01%7Ctricia.white%40okstate.edu%7C9a8b93b3ad824833a86d08d8804f06bd%7C2a69c91de8494e34a230cdf8b27e1964%7C0%7C0%7C637400424195755074%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=OhhV8moxiUSN7%2FatCee6uIlSyNXMkJh15bTcrawQM6s%3D&reserved=0).
* Representatives and liaisons can now compensate your attendance for good standing by volunteering or donating blood at the Bedlam blood battle 2020. [**Interested volunteers can sign up here**](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmx.technolutions.net%2Fss%2Fc%2FyoYk2D2UBkKolXlytdQ2hSOmKeLgg1rlQ56Y_u4ai0nHE6IrtWfAR0d6cILKDVMr0TWxCJN94rjppwORHBd10P-rZgP9ZcfJL-rzPFZnt5P6VvWJoLyTYyW3mXN09acJK8QINU0Nur9JvSmHiQ3aHw%2F36j%2FmhjER9UkQWmKnyNl5vytNA%2Fh27%2FAwdG6nITU4XnVaWvpd28CTcH_E0k-cv3vo-9l2sgExY&data=04%7C01%7Ctricia.white%40okstate.edu%7C9a8b93b3ad824833a86d08d8804f06bd%7C2a69c91de8494e34a230cdf8b27e1964%7C0%7C0%7C637400424195765067%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=bxrkpPZq73T9lIJag6LH0xDInxcWcJExH1A9FnBaR%2BQ%3D&reserved=0) **or** [**register yourself as a donor by making an appointment here**](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmx.technolutions.net%2Fss%2Fc%2Fgsby7xed_Q9kJKoUKuDGdMtQ-H3-7uBTncKxRdy7ptWLJs8B63zenomu5kR7vhtw7IpzRXXjAVZJ2FkUo7N5Dw%2F36j%2FmhjER9UkQWmKnyNl5vytNA%2Fh28%2FOQmhzIWQGNG3teG-M1Mss45VSvIafaVR0ZEHHC46gug&data=04%7C01%7Ctricia.white%40okstate.edu%7C9a8b93b3ad824833a86d08d8804f06bd%7C2a69c91de8494e34a230cdf8b27e1964%7C0%7C0%7C637400424195765067%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=eh0ClP3ZdJ2%2Fq%2BXlUO%2Fjpcl8cYLMzz97filAxfaawaY%3D&reserved=0)**.** (Enter Stillwater Zip code and select the dates from November 9 - 13 to make appointments for the Oklahoma State University Bedlam Event!)
* The CORD reception is coming soon to appreciate and honor the graduating students for their commitment to service. [Learn more about the CORD program here](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmx.technolutions.net%2Fss%2Fc%2FbFxy-dQOuvRhgvP-yg7fw2b7qLAy_x52kATJ1jkn3i00QrN5HCDJl-7BE9W1584OQN7K1jt6jGIQ6-LnMkLsmg%2F36j%2FmhjER9UkQWmKnyNl5vytNA%2Fh29%2F5fZueUB-MBeAvH-voXbn-YfjlPPvYZRmT11eUrNclNc&data=04%7C01%7Ctricia.white%40okstate.edu%7C9a8b93b3ad824833a86d08d8804f06bd%7C2a69c91de8494e34a230cdf8b27e1964%7C0%7C0%7C637400424195775056%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6S1Rz4PqYtwkvNrPa6v50MJE%2FXtTTSNQyuZmEzso9g8%3D&reserved=0)!
* The Graduate and Professional Student Experience survey went out to all graduate students. We hope to collect data on their gradate experience as either a GRA, GTA or working fulltime. We are trying to understand funding, mostly the funding that they receive and how they are paying for school (such as tuition and fees). We are trying to identify those percentages and where their expenses go. From here we hope to gather enough data to learn about ways to help our graduates financially. Keep an eye out for the survey and encourage them to participate.
1. Graduate Council – Rebecca Sheehan

*Spring Applications*. Dr. Smith reported that there are over 900 applications for Spring 2021 admission, a 50% increase over Spring 2020. However, 460 of these are deferrals from Fall 2020. Most of the deferrals are international students, who deferred because of the pandemic.

*Council of Graduate Schools April 15 Resolution Update*. Starting in Fall 2021, any graduate student who decides to rescind their acceptance of a financial offer from a graduate program only has to notify the Graduate College and/or graduate program. In the past, they were required to obtain a release from the original program prior to accepting another financial offer. This change reflects the recent legal challenges to undergraduate admissions practices.

*Graduate Faculty Database.* Dr. Van Delinder announced that the Graduate Faculty Database has been rebuilt and may be found under “Faculty Resources” in Canvas and on the Graduate College webpage.

*Graduate College Commencement.* A combined Spring/Fall 2020 Graduate College Commencement Ceremony will be held virtually on Friday, December 11.

*Doctoral Hooding Photo Opportunity.* Dean Tucker noted that the Graduate College will be holding a doctoral hooding photo opportunity with staging and professional photographers after the Fall Break. Hooding is by appointment only and will be held on Monday, December 7 from 10 am to 7 pm. Deadline to sign up is Friday, November 20 at 5 PM CST. Additional details can be found at <https://grad.okstate.edu/portal/hooding>.

*Pandemic Tuition Waivers.* Dean Tucker stated that tuition waivers for students with financial offers who start their graduate programs online outside of the US will continue for Spring 2021.

*Graduate Faculty Survey*. Dr. Self provided an update on the Graduate Faculty Survey, which seeks input on what would help graduate faculty better serve graduate students. Results from the survey will be used to inform future programming for graduate faculty. The15-minute survey link is located in the Graduate College Monday Memo. As incentive, graduate faculty may choose to enter a drawing to win one of three Amazon Gift Cards (one at $500, two at $250). At the end of the survey, graduate faculty will be asked to participate in an optional interview to further explore how best to help graduate faculty serve graduate students. Interviews will take place in Spring 2021.

*Dual M.S. Degrees*. After input from the Fall Graduate Faculty Meeting, Council approved the ability for graduate programs to offer approved dual master’s degree programs. Such programs will reduce the time to earn the master’s degrees by sharing up to 30 percent of the coursework required for two stand-alone master’s degrees. Typically, these are non-thesis, professional master’s degrees.

*Theses and Dissertations Templates*. After input from the Fall Graduate Faculty Meeting, Council approved a policy that does not allow changes to theses and dissertations templates.

*Changes to Theses and Dissertations after Approval*. After input from the Fall Graduate Faculty Meeting, Council approved a policy where changes to theses or dissertations are prohibited after they have been approved by the Graduate College.

*Graduate Faculty without a Graduate Program Home*. Dr. Van Delinder explained that the Academic Programs Committee (APC) recommended that faculty should be affiliated with a graduate program to be a graduate faculty member. The APC will continue to discuss the details concerning the level of graduate faculty membership for such faculty.

*Academic Program Committee.* The following program modifications were approved:

* MS DHM – offer in electronic format
* Graduate Certificate in Effective Teaching Elementary Schools – course requirement change
* MS Teaching, Learning and Leadership – option name change from Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and K-12 Education to K-12 Education
* MS Counseling – course requirement change
* MS Physician Assistant Studies – change in number of required hours in the degree from 128 to 124
* MS Teaching, Learning and Leadership option in Special Education – course requirement change

The following new program was approved:

* Graduate Certificate in Facilitating Career Development – traditional, online, Tulsa, Stillwater

*Wellness Initiative*. Dean Tucker and Graduate Council will be working together to explore how to better serve graduate students’ wellness.

Peek asked everyone to read the Monday memos.

1. Staff Advisory Council – Tashia Cheves

Distinguished Service Awards are November 17th at 2:30. This will be a digital event this year and live streamed. We received 19 nominations this year. Even though that is down from previous years, we feel this is a decent number considering everything that has gone on this year.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

1. Academic Standards and Policies: Cristina Gonzalez – No Report

 b. Athletics: Justin Talley – No Report

 c. Budget: Tyrrell Conway – No Report

 d. Campus Facilities, Safety, and Security: Tieming Liu – No Report

 e. Diversity: Divya Jaroni for Ki Cole – No Report

f. Faculty: Matt Lovern – No Report

g. Long-Range Planning and Information Technology: Christopher Crick – No Report

 h. Research: Bruce Dunn – No Report

1. Retirement & Fringe Benefits: Bruce Dunn – No Report

j. Rules and Procedures: Karen Neurohr – No Report

 k. Student Affairs and Learning Resources: Toby Nelson – Update

Nelson stated that the committee has been discussing concerns about student food security on campus as well as the lack of availability on campus dining options. This is a major concern particularly due to the coronavirus. Students need nutritious food to either fight off or resist the virus. It is Nelson’s understanding that there are not that many health options on campus and the campus restaurants have limited hours. Nelson stated that students are going to restaurants off campus and these purchases are not covered by their meal plans, resulting in them using their limited resources. From these discussions the committee has a few questions:

1. Can OSU extend its partnership with grubhub, doordash, etc. and link it to the meal plans for additional on campus dining? Can these delivery options be added to student’s meal plans for off campus dining options? Hallenbeck stated the short answer is no. Hallenbeck is a bit confused about the limited number of options the students are referring to. There are 26 venues open which is down from 30 last year. Some of this is due to smaller college cafes not getting the foot traffic. Hallenbeck stated the hours of operation for some of the venues are 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. Hallenbeck is more than happy for our dining team to get with your committee to discuss specific issues. Hallenbeck stated we are mostly a retail operation. He has heard complaints from students regarding nutritious options which they can determine. Hallenbeck stated that part of the problem is people vote with their feet and Chick-fil-a always has a long line. Hallenbeck stated that taking university money and paying off-campus restaurants is not something that is possible. Peek relayed a chat comment. Chick-fil-a is fast; speed could be more of a factor than health choice. Hallenbeck stated always. Peek asked if there were vegan options and Hallenbeck stated yes there are vegan and vegetarian options. Hallenbeck stated that people will wait in a long line at Chick-fil-a with empty venues in the union so it may not be all about speed. They get student feedback on venue options.
2. The next question is related to the meal plan rollover. Can we increase the rollover amount to lower the amount required for the spring semester? Hallenbeck stated that he has answered several emails about this issue. Hallenbeck stated that our current average balance numbers are somewhere around $700 (at the end of October). Typically, it is around $750 at the end of October. If you look at the numbers comparatively speaking, there is not a lot of difference between last year and this year overall. Hallenbeck stated that venues are kept open and will be open after Thanksgiving since we will have about 1,600 people in the residence halls who have identified that they will stay in Stillwater when things go online for dead and finals weeks. Hallenbeck stated that they are encouraging all students to get tested before they leave for Thanksgiving. Hopefully we will not have a spike in students that need to be served here in Stillwater. Hallenbeck stated that even though the meal plan is part of an overall declining balance system, it’s part of an overall plan that allows us to keep the rates as low as we can. Hallenbeck stated that we are the lowest in the Big 12. If we did more rollover it hurts our bottom line which would result in an increase in meal plans in the future. Hallenbeck stated that if there are individual student needs, they will work with the students on a case by case basis. Have them contact his office and they will see what they can do to help.

Nelson asked if there was a way to communicate this information to students? Hallenbeck stated that working with SGA would be a good idea to get the information to students. All meal plan holders were sent an email informing them of their balance about two weeks ago. The email included language on how to contact his office with questions and/or concerns about their balances. Hallenbeck clarified that the case by case basis needs to be extenuating circumstances and they can work with these students.

1. Nelson asked if there is a way for students with an excess meal plan balance to contribute to the food needs of other students who may be in need? Is there a food donation drop-off area where students can drop off items they purchased with their excess funds? Hallenbeck stated they have worked with student government and have a food insecurity committee that have worked on this. They are working on mechanisms that other institutions have that allows students to donate dollars. Hallenbeck stated there are some legal issues they need to make sure and follow. Hallenbeck stated that any student who wants to go to Twenty Something or anywhere else and buy food and drop it off they are welcome to. Hallenbeck stated that the SGA has worked with some of this. Hallenbeck stated that they we have done some food drives in and around Twenty Something. Hallenbeck stated another thing we do is after 2:00 on weekdays, some of the excess meals from the venues are packaged and taken to campus life area desk. There is an email system that students can sign up for letting them know that we have however many meals, here’s what’s available and students can come get them. Hallenbeck stated this has been very successful. Smith stated that his son goes to school here and has a large balance. He’s been asking where he can donate funds. He’s worked with the Catholic Church. Smith asked if students can drop off food items directly at the campus life office. Hallenbeck will check with them to make sure this is ok. Hallenbeck stated that the SGA has a small food pantry. He needs to check on distribution. Hallenbeck did state that Our Daily Bread does take donations. Smith asked if it would be possible to have areas in individual colleges to decentralize it or would it be better to have a central location in the Student Union? At the OKC campus, they created a food drawer for students to access, no questions asked. Hallenbeck said having locations in the colleges would help. Hallenbeck stated that we are space and staff limited in terms of having a large food pantry on campus. Hallenbeck stated that the food insecurity committee is looking at all these issues and options. Nelson asked Hallenbeck to communicate with him when some of these decisions are made. He will pass the information to the committee members.

Nelson stated that anything we can do to help will be appreciated by the students. Nelson stated that Hallenbeck is always welcome to address the committee. They really appreciate everything that he is doing. Peek received a chat message – is there a list of the food closets on campus? Peek gave a shout out to Dr. DeSilva who keeps a food closet and has done so for a few years. DeSilva stated that there was an excellent study done at OSU a couple of years ago that found that 43% of our students are either severe or significantly food insecure. This is close to half our students. DeSilva stated that the last two weeks of the semester you cannot get into The Ranchers Club or Taylor’s Dining because students are taking all their friends to dinner to use up their meal plan balances. DeSilva asked if there was an easy way to donate this money to someone who needs it? This would be an excellent idea and a lot of students want to do this. Hallenbeck stated he’d keep everyone posted on his office’s progress on this issue.

Old Business – None

New Business – Fall General Faculty Meeting

The Fall General Faculty meeting has been set. We will meet via Zoom on Thursday, November 19th from 3-4. Regent Rick Davis will join us to talk about the search for a new President.

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Faculty Council is Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom**.**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Neurohr, Secretary