

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
ACADEMIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
March 21, 2016 – 11:00 a.m., GC 3112

1. **TOPIC:** Opening

Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez, Chair of the Academic Council, opened the meeting by asking members to share highlights from spring break. Things shared included participation in a “by invitation only” Google professional development event in New Zealand, a trip to Jerusalem, and a mission trip to the Philippine Islands. Prayers were offered for requests mentioned.

2. **TOPIC:** Approval of Minutes of meeting on February 15, 2016

Minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Dr. Reid-Martinez asked for corrections to the minutes. Dr. Lori Kanitz pointed out that the General Education Curriculum report should reflect that (1) COMP 099 is not just *for ELL students* and asked to remove that phrase from the minutes and (2) Students will be placed into this course based upon TOEFL scores “*or having completed or be concurrently enrolled in READ 099.*” (italics to be inserted into the minutes). Dr. Timothy Norton moved for acceptance of the minutes as amended. Motion was seconded by Dr. Kenda Jezek. Approved unanimously.

3. **TOPIC:** Whole Person Christian Worldview Committee report

Dr. Patrick Otto, Chair of the Whole Person Christian Worldview Committee, provided a written report which was presented by Mr. Terry Unruh. In the past, this committee has sponsored a campus-wide whole person event. This year the committee has distributed a survey to faculty designed to promote and strengthen a commonly shared Christian Worldview anchored in the founding mission and vision of the University. This survey was e-mailed to the faculty during spring break. Members of the Council were asked to encourage faculty in their respective colleges to complete the survey prior to the March 28 deadline. Survey results will be used to plan future faculty development activities.

Mr. Terry Unruh moved for acceptance of the report. Dr. Edward Watson seconded the motion. The report was accepted unanimously.

ACTION: None.

CLOSED

4. **TOPIC:** Awards Committee report

Mr. Bob Canada on behalf of the Chair Dr. William McDonald presented the report from the Awards Committee. The committee has selected the Scholar of the Year, and the winner will be announced at the Honors Reception in April, as has been done in the past. Alumni Award recipients have been selected for Faith and Learning, Mentoring through Service Learning, Mentoring through Research, and Alumni Relations. Winners will be announced at the University Faculty meeting on April 18. The committee recommended that the student response speaker for graduation be selected by deans and chairs who are much more aware of excellent candidates. Final selection should be made by the Provost and the Faculty Life Committee.

The Awards Committee will meet one more time this spring and plans to make a recommendation to the Academic Council that the criteria for the Scholar of the Year be based on recent research rather than a lifetime of projects. They also will make recommendations on the rotation of members on the Awards Committee and for procedures to be followed by the committee in the future.

Dr. Kenda Jezek moved for acceptance of the report. Mr. Terry Unruh seconded the motion. The report was accepted unanimously.

ACTION: None.

CLOSED

5. **TOPIC:** General Education Curriculum Committee report – no items were presented

6. **TOPIC:** Faculty Emeritus Candidates

Dr. Reid Martinez asked each dean who had a candidate for Professor Emeritus status to share highlights of the accomplishments and merits of their respective candidates. Dr. Mark Hall announced that candidates from the College of Arts and Cultural Studies had been approved by their respective departments and then by the entire college. He recommended Dr. Randy Guthrie and Mr. Rich Sutliff. Dr. Tom Mathew from the College of Theology and Ministry recommended Dr. Lillian Breckenridge. Dr. Julie Huntley from the College of Business recommended Dr. George Gillen and Dr. Rinne Martin. A vote was taken by secret ballot by the 18 voting members of the Council who were present. All five of the nominated faculty members were affirmed by a majority vote of the Council.

ACTION: Dr. Reid-Martinez will forward the results of the vote to President Wilson for consideration. President Wilson will then forward candidates which he approves to the Board of Trustees for the final decision. A recommendation was made for Dr. Reid-Martinez to request that the board consider suspending any limit on the number of Faculty Emeritus awards this year due to the generous separation package that led to an unusually high number of faculty applying for emeritus status.

OPEN

7. **TOPIC:** Dates for future faculty meetings

A calendar of proposed dates for faculty meetings for the remainder of this spring plus academic years 2016-17 and 2017-18 were distributed at the Council meeting. The calendar had been prepared based upon the recommendations of the Task Group on the Role of Faculty in Shared Governance. The Task Group made efforts to accommodate the recommendation from the Chairs' Council to maintain as many of the department meetings and college meetings on their normal Monday schedule as possible. Dr. Reid-Martinez asked the Council to review the proposed calendar and make comments. Mr. Terry Unruh from the Task Group mentioned that efforts had been made to use fifth Mondays rather than move a faculty meeting to the middle of the week.

A recommendation was made to change the wording on the first Mondays in January from "January no class" to "departments set their own meeting date." A recommendation was made to change the September 2017 schedule to show Labor Day on the first Monday, department meeting on the second Monday, college meeting on the third Monday, and University Faculty meeting on the fourth Monday. This will require the Academic Council to meet on an alternate day during the third week of September as was listed in March 2017 and March 2018.

Terry Unruh mentioned that no consideration had been given in the calendar for Group Advisement, which also occurs on a Monday at 11:00 in the fall and in the spring. Mr. David Fulmer, University registrar, said that Group Advisement could possibly be moved from a Monday at 11:00 to a Monday at noon so that further juggling of the faculty meeting schedule could be avoided. The Council generally agreed that was a good idea.

ACTION: Terry Unruh will make the recommended changes and distribute the calendars to the deans for additional input from the faculty. The revised schedule will be presented for approval by the Council at the April meeting.

OPEN

8. **TOPIC:** Council and Committee selections for 2016-2017

Dr. Reid-Martinez reminded the deans that selections for committee next year's Academic Council and academic committees would be needed prior to the April Council meeting. Appointments to the Academic Council and to the academic committees are for two years. The deans requested a list of the Council membership and committee membership so they knew who was to be replaced.

A comment was made that no provision had been made for the rotation of faculty on the three academic committees which report to the Council (Whole Person Christian Worldview Committee, Awards Committee, and General Education Curriculum Committee). Because of the on-going general education review, a special exception has been granted to keep the General Education Curriculum Committee intact until the review process has been completed. After discussion, it was decided to allow the academic committees to make their own decision concerning which three faculty members would rotate off of their committee. Once this rotation has been established, the future rotations will follow the same pattern of replacing the other half of the committee each year. A rotation of the General Education Curriculum Committee will need to be established because membership on that committee includes multiple representatives from some colleges and single representatives from other colleges.

ACTION: Terry Unruh will send a list of the faculty on the Academic Council and the three academic committees to the deans. This list will show the Council members who need to be replaced each year. Terry Unruh will also contact the chairs of the academic committees and ask their committees to decide which members will rotate off their committee next year. Committee chairs should forward their decisions to the Provost who can then notify the deans which faculty members will need to be replaced next year.

OPEN

9. **TOPIC:** Old Business – Transfer of last 30 hours at ORU

Dr. Reid-Martinez shared that the Council's recommendation to change the transfer policy from the last 30 hours to any 30 hours had been included in her report which was accepted at the February meeting of the University Faculty. Council members noted that it seemed unclear at the February University Faculty meeting whether the report was being presented in its entirety for a vote.

ACTION: The Academic Council requested that the Provost continue to bring any recommendations for special University Faculty consideration through the reports to the University Faculty, including items for possible inclusion on the University Faculty agenda.

CLOSED

10. **TOPIC:** Other Committee Reports – no items were presented

11. **TOPIC:** New Business – no items were presented

12. **TOPIC:** Future meetings

Dr. Reid-Martinez noted the Council meeting listed on the agenda for April 11 was a second Monday rather than the normal third Monday. A meeting in May might be required if there is pressing business to be conducted following the spring meeting of the Board of Trustees. At this time, no Council meeting is planned for May or any of the summer months.

13. **TOPIC:** Announcements

Dr. Reid-Martinez reminded the Council of the spring revival scheduled for next week. A question arose concerning classes on Wednesday and Thursday evenings during the revival times. Faculty with questions should discuss their concerns with their deans.

14. **TOPIC:** Adjournment

The Council meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Unruh

Terry Unruh
Vice Chair, Academic Council