

**ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY SENATE**  
**Minutes**  
**August 25, 2014**

The Senate meeting was called to order by Senate President Carlos Chale at 11:00 a.m. in GC4112. A brief devotional was presented by Eric Newburg.

The minutes of the Senate meetings on April 18, 2014 and during May were accepted without correction. The May Senate meeting was conducted electronically and included (a) an e-mail agenda on May 16, 2014, (b) e-mail discussion through May 21, and (c) an electronic vote on May 22.

Carlos Chale introduced concerns which had been expressed related to the Faculty Senate Bylaws. A meeting was held in early August in which a small group of Senators met with the Provost and the Director of Human Resources to discuss the ramifications of Senate meetings over the summer outside the typical nine-month faculty contracts. Dr. Ken Weed then summarized other concerns as follows:

1. Should all Senators be elected to two year terms (to eliminate the confusion over who is continuing on Senate from year to year).
2. Add the phrase “the vice president will serve in the absence of the president” to the by-laws.
3. Emergency meetings shall be convened by the Senate President.
4. Allow all Senate meetings to be conducted through in-person or electronic format.
5. Clarify the language in the bylaws to clearly state whether or not newly elected Senators can be elected to serve as Vice-President.
6. Clarify the language in the bylaws related to electronic voting and electronic meetings.
7. Should a parliamentary committee be appointed for the Senate.
8. Clarify the process for new curriculum proposals in order to minimize infringement on curriculum of other departments/colleges. Hopefully any recommendations will include a “survey of the current programs” to determine any possible complications before the proposals are submitted.
9. Clarify whether or not the Senate President represents the entire faculty or just the Senate.

Carlos Chale reported that Board Chairman Rob Hoskins has been invited to address the faculty in the fall Faculty Assembly in September, but a conflict prevented him from attending. Carlos Chale continues to seek avenues to bring members of the Board of Trustees to the Senate on an annual basis.

ORU Provost Dr.Reid-Martinez was introduced and briefly addressed the Senate. She hoped that electronic meetings and electronic discussions would soon become a natural part of all ORU organizations and departments. She understands the issues surrounding extending faculty contracts into the summer in order to conduct business in a timely fashion. This past summer her major concern was the potential for changes which might be mandated in our programs because of our efforts to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The intent will never be to plan for major decisions to be made over the summer, but the changing landscape of higher education may require ORU to become more flexible. She re-emphasized that it should be a faculty decision related both to electronic meetings and extending responsibilities into the summer.

Dr. Reid-Martinez also expressed concern about the lack of visibility of many of our academic support services. As we see declining skills in many of our new students, we need to make sure we have appropriate in-person and on-line services available outside the normal classroom experience. This could be a major issue with our on-line learners.

A suggestion was made to appoint an ad-hoc committee to study the possible changes in Senate bylaws and prepare formal proposals to be discussed. Senate President Carlos Chale asked the Senators to watch their e-mails for a proposal related to appointing members to such a committee. The meeting was then adjourned at approximately 12:02 p.m.

Shortly after the Senate meeting the Faculty Senate President requested electronically “Do you authorize the Faculty Senate President to appoint a committee to review and bring back proposals for Senate Bylaw revisions?”

The vote was 23 yay and 0 nay.