

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Minutes
November 24, 2014

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order by Senate President Carlos Chale' at 11:00 a.m. in GC 4112. Senate President Carlos Chale' shared a devotional from the book of Job and also shared some thoughts related to the challenges and the peace he has experienced in the recent passing of his mother.

The minutes of the October 27, 2014, Senate meeting were accepted without change by consent of the Senate.

ORU President Dr. William Wilson shared about the Task Force on the Role of Faculty in Shared Governance. Dr. Wilson had announced the creation of the Task Force at a recent Faculty Fellowship luncheon. The goals of the Task Force are (1) to develop a system with maximum faculty participation, (2) to have an organization congruent with ORU bylaws, and (3) to have an organization which is adaptable and able to make decisions in a timely manner. Members of the Task Force are:

Dr. Kathaleen Reid-Martinez, Provost – chair of the Task Force
Dr. Russ Spittler – ORU Trustee
Dr. Mike Rakes – ORU Trustee
Dr. Don Argue – ORU Trustee
Dr. Kenda Jezek – Dean, College of Nursing (representing dean's council)
Dr. Stephanie Coker – faculty member, College of Arts and Cultural Studies
Mr. Terry Unruh – faculty member, College of Business, faculty senate president elect
Dr. Timothy Norton – faculty member, College of Education, chair of tenured faculty
Dr. Audrey Thompson – faculty member, College of Nursing
Dr. Andrew Lang – faculty member, College of Science and Engineering
Dr. Edward Watson – faculty member, College of Theology and Ministry
Dr. Robert Cooley – consultant

Dr. Wilson explained that the Task Force will be reviewing various governance models with the goal of making a recommendation to the President in time for consideration by the Board of Trustees at their meeting on March 24-26, 2015. If approved by the board, recommendations of the Task Force would possibly be implemented for fall 2015. Dr. Wilson then fielded a few questions from the Senate.

Dr. Winston Frost, chair of the ad hoc committee which was appointed earlier this semester, presented formal proposals to amend the Faculty Senate by-laws as summarized below. These proposals had been presented at the October Senate meeting and were being presented for a vote

at the current meeting. It was agreed to consider the bylaw changes based upon the article of the bylaws affected. Dr. Marcia Livingston moved that the Senate consider the proposed changes to Article IV listed below. Carlos Chale' seconded the motion.

Article IV, section 1 add "the Dean of Online and Lifelong Learning" as a voting Senator.

Article IV, section 2 clarify which faculty can be considered a candidate for Senate Vice President and define the academic year as August 1 – July 31.

Article IV, section 3 each Senator should have an individual alternate who can participate in Senate activities if the elected Senator is unable to do so, and change the term of every Senator to two years (instead of "one or two years").

Considerable discussion followed the reading of the proposal centered around the term of service for individual Senators and the potential for Senate business being conducted during the summer which is outside the stated period for faculty contracts. A friendly suggestion was made to add the word "emergency" to the proposed change in Article VII which reads "Should there be a need for emergency meetings to be conducted during the summer, participation by the Senators and the faculty at large shall be done on a voluntary basis." No formal action was taken on this suggestion. A friendly editorial comment was suggested and accepted to add a hyphen in the word "full-time" in the Article IV proposal.

As the meeting extended beyond the 12:00 normal closing time for the Senate meeting, a motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to extend the discussion to the January Senate meeting on Senate bylaw changes of Article IV, VI, VII, and IX.

Senate President Chale accepted a motion to adjourn at 12:10 p.m.