

Faculty Association Minutes

August 26, 2025

Library 407 and Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM

1. Welcome from Faculty Association Chair, Professor Donald Ross (BIT)
2. Staff Award
 - a. Presented to Brittney Meeks, SEM Division Assistant, for her outstanding contributions to the Division.
3. Approval of April 2025 meeting Minutes
 - a. Passed with the following votes:
 - i. Yay – 8 (in room) + 11 (Zoom)
 - ii. Nay – 0
 - iii. Abstain – 1 (Zoom)
4. Treasurer Report (Paul Buckelew)
 - a. Membership – 34 paid members currently
 - b. Balances
 - i. MidFirst Operating Fund
 1. \$9364.54 as of 8/25/25
 - ii. Current Endowed Fund: \$14,896.08 (9/30/24)
 1. Updated Expendable Fund: \$7,225.97 (as of March 8, 2024)
 - a. Previous amounts
 - i. \$7,876.69 (as of Sept 30, 2023)
 - ii. \$8,766.19 from Sept 30, 2022
 - c. Approval of Treasurer Report
 - i. Passed with the following votes:
 1. Yay - 9 (in room) + 12 (zoom)
 2. Nay - 0
 3. Abstain - 3 (zoom)
5. Scholarship Committee (Sarah Baker)
 - a. Save the date: October 29, 2025 - Chili Cook-Off/Fall fundraiser
 - b. Any members that would like to join the committee are welcome
6. Chair Report
 - a. VPAA Meeting (05/01/25)
 - i. There will be fewer Academic Affairs committees (maintaining 5-7) effective immediately. Temporary task forces to address specific time-

sensitive issues will be formed as needed, under the direction of the Assistant VPAA.

- ii. The process for collecting Gen Ed Artifacts is changing to be more beneficial for both professors and students. A pilot is expected in Spring or Fall 2026
- iii. Academic Affairs is currently working to define parameters of OCCC concurrent course offerings, so that high schools will have a suite of OCCC class offerings/times from which to choose. This is still a work in progress, and no final decisions have been made.
- b. Board of Regents (05/18, 06/16, 06/23)
 - i. Working on an agreement with Amazon - *Amazon Machine Learning Education Consortium*. Through this consortium, a group of selected professors will be trained by Amazon on how to effectively integrate AI into the classroom.
 - ii. Tuition increased from \$135.29 to \$146.06 per credit hour
 - 1. \$3.02 increase in tuition
 - 2. \$7.75 increase in tech fees
 - iii. OKC Promise/OKCGO will be updated/repackaged to drive higher enrollment from OKC students. This is a work in progress.
- c. President Meeting (07/22)
 - i. Discussed calendar issues with losing seat time with additional holidays (President's Day, Veteran's Day, Fall Break)
 - ii. A community event is scheduled on our campus Saturday, October 25, 2025. While still awaiting final confirmation from VPAA, it was previously stated that campus will not be closed on this date. However, entrances and certain parking lots will be limited that day.

7. Open Issues

- a. Yearly Calendar (Seat Time)
 - i. Under the direction of Assistant VPAA, a task force of staff, leadership, and faculty will be formed to discuss the yearly calendar, holidays/closures, and seat time.
 - 1. Any faculty that are interested in being part of this task force are encouraged to contact Chair Don Ross.
- b. Friday/Saturday closures
 - i. To request an exception from VPAA:
 - 1. Must be a Fall/Spring semester
 - 2. Must be a one-off (i.e. not multiple Fridays or Saturdays)
 - 3. Must provide names of students that will be on campus

4. Must give the specific start and end times for the requested date (e.g. 9:30 am – 11:30 am)
 - ii. To address Summer Friday closures affecting access to lab materials for student studying, VPAA stated that there is a limited budget in Academic Affairs for a potential mobile lab to be housed in the Library (open on Summer Fridays).
 1. The reason given for not allowing exceptions to Summer Friday closures is the cost effectiveness of keeping campus closed.
 - c. OnBase – DOB Removal
 - i. OCCC is expected to move away from OnBase in Fall 2026. In the meantime, VPAA Largent has agreed to work on removing Date of Birth as a requirement for faculty identity authentication in OnBase, stating that employee ID number should be sufficient. This change is the result of faculty request regarding privacy concerns.
 - d. Faculty Association Sign Up – October Giveaways
 - i. Faculty are reminded to pay \$10 annual dues before the October meeting to be eligible for giveaways and to be able to vote in Faculty Association meetings.
8. New Business
- a. Professor Leslie Jones is facilitating a book club that is open to faculty, staff, and students, in which Rebecca Nagle’s book *By the Fire We Carry: The Generations-Long Fight for Justice on Native Land* will be examined and discussed.
 - i. The book club will be hosted online in Moodle
 - ii. Dates: October 6 through November 14.
 - iii. Those who sign up by September 14 will receive a free copy of the book.
 - iv. The final deadline to sign up is September 29.
 - v. All participants who complete the book club activities are invited to have lunch with the author on November 10 from 11:30 – 12:15.
 - vi. If interested, please sign up here:
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qpjpERF8RkSztGedO-epqLO-O1B3UBhJj4YwU9aCwCRUMENSQUprNFkzTlcyNlIXR1hDSUQ4WkFCVy4u>
 - b. The Mental Health First Aid Team has been approved to host trainings this Fall in both in-person and virtual formats. (13 faculty have previously completed training to be instructors.) Completion of this training will result in a certificate from the National Council on Wellbeing. Additional information will be sent out to faculty via Academic Affairs soon.
 - c. Study Abroad

- i. A trip to Iceland is scheduled for May 2026.
 - ii. Professor Julie Rice-Rollins is surveying students to learn about locations they are interested in/concerns/etc. If any faculty would like to give this survey to their students (or are interested in leading a study abroad experience), please reach out to Professor Rice-Rollins.
 - d. Due to audio issues in Library 407, the next Faculty Association meeting may be held in a different room. More information will be shared later.
 - e. Faculty are reminded to contact any of the Faculty Association representatives if they have any concerns that they would like addressed by the Faculty Association.
 - f. Next meeting in September
9. Meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM