

## Faculty Association Minutes

October 23, 2025

MB2R7 and Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 11:03 AM

1. Welcome from Faculty Association Chair, Professor Donald Ross (BIT)
2. Staff Award
  - a. Presented to Sarah Price, Health Professions Student Success Advisor
3. Approval of September 2025 meeting Minutes
  - a. Passed with the following votes:
    - i. Yay – 16 (in room) + 4 (Zoom)
    - ii. Nay – 0
    - iii. Abstain– 2 (Zoom)
4. Treasurer Report (Paul Buckelew)
  - a. Membership – 59 paid members currently
  - b. Balances
    - i. MidFirst Operating Fund
      1. \$9714.54
    - ii. Endowed Fund: \$14,896.08 (9/30/24)
      1. Updated Expendable (Scholarship) Fund: \$11,317.11
  - c. Approval of Treasurer Report
    - i. Passed with the following votes:
      1. Yay – 16 (in room) + 3 (Zoom)
      2. Nay - 0
      3. Abstain – 2 (Zoom)
5. Scholarship Committee (Sarah Baker)
  - a. Chili Cook-Off/Fall fundraiser: Wed. October 29, 2025 @ 11 am – 2 pm near the coffee shop
  - b. So far, 10 people have signed up to donate chili. The goal is closer to 15. We are encouraged to sign up via link previously emailed out to donate chili (can choose whether to participate in competition) and/or cornbread.
  - c. For those bringing chili, please bring it already warmed around 10:30 am on 10/29 to the area near the coffee shop.
6. Fabulous Prize Giveaway
  - a. 11 prizes were given to randomly drawn paid members present (in room or via Zoom)
7. Chair Report

- a. President Meeting (09/29/25)
  - i. Met with both President Jones & VPAA Largent
  - ii. ICE Agent Process
    - 1. Will be sent to Deans to be shared during Division meetings
    - 2. ICE Agents should be accompanied by OCCC Police Department. If not, please direct them to OCCC PD.
  - iii. Travel Policy
    - 1. Faculty are encouraged to share any issues regarding the Travel Policy (particularly regarding timing of submission, approval, and travel dates) with a member of FA Executive Committee as soon as possible. Chair Ross will share pain points with Dr. Largent, as the goal is a more streamlined approval process in the future.
  - iv. Evening with Regents
    - 1. Dr. Jones is interested in this idea and would like more details. FA Executive Committee will review how this worked previously and how to best implement an updated version of this.
  - v. Pay Increases
    - 1. It was acknowledged that this is a priority moving forward, but not at the point of details or guarantees.
  - vi. Department Brags
    - 1. Seeking input on the best way to gather this information – via email with link to click OR a standing open portal?
      - a. A question was asked about whether the email link is meant for individual instructors or per department/program. Chair Ross will address this question to VPAA Largent at their next meeting.
  - vii. HR Employee Advocate
    - 1. General process is to follow the chain of command.
    - 2. “Director of Employee Relation” position title was changed to “Talent Management Director”, with the same responsibilities (and some additional ones). However, that position is currently open.
      - a. A question was asked to increase awareness among faculty when the position is filled and to invite them to speak at a FA meeting.
    - 3. VP Courtney Enos is temporarily filling the role.
    - 4. If faculty would like help, Bob Davis (HR’s Head of People & Culture Office) is a point of contact.

viii. Convocation

1. Originally scheduled FA October meeting had to be shifted due to Convocation rescheduling. Chair Ross will ask for more awareness of FA meeting dates in the future.

ix. December closure clarification

1. Due to discrepancies among different calendars, there was some confusion as to when campus would close in December.
2. Campus will close beginning Dec. 18, 2025.

- x. Academic Calendar Committee Meeting occurred 2 days ago. A proposed 2026-2027 academic calendar will be presented at the November FA meeting.

b. VPAA Meeting – Scheduled for week of 10/27/2025

8. Meeting with VP for Information Technology, Innovation and Workforce, Michael Widell

- a. Mr. Widell shared his perspective of people first, processes second.
- b. Inability to utilize USB/thumb drives will be examined.
- c. Mr. Widell offered to come and speak briefly at the November 2025 FA meeting.

9. New Business

- a. A concern was raised about undocumented students being required to pay out of state tuition and whether that was retroactive to current Fall semester. Is there anything that could be done to help mitigate sudden unexpected increased costs? Who should students be directed to if they have a concern regarding this topic? Chair Ross will share these questions at his upcoming meeting with VPAA.

10. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM