**Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025

**Time:** 4:00 pm

**Location:** Virtual Teams Meeting & Brooks Conference Room ICW 219P

**Facilitator:** Ms. Tracie Liska – President of Faculty Senate

**In Attendance:**

***Officers Present:*** Mr. Gabriel McLaughlin (Vice President), Ms. Jean Ann Rushing (Secretary), Mr. Daniel Janssen (Communications).

***Senators Present:*** Dr. Kristall Fears, Dr. Morgan Presley, Ms. Kimberly Kosmicke, Ms. Eva Patterson, Mr. Stephen Schroeppel, and Ms. Dawn Wright.

***Faculty and Special Guest Speakers:*** N/A

***Call to Order:***

* Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm.
* Roll call – *Ms. Jean Ann Rushing*

***Reading and Approval of the Minutes:***

* March 2025 Faculty Senate meeting minutes were approved by Eva Patterson; seconded by Gabe McLaughlin.

***Reports and Announcements:***

* Committee Report
  + Academic Council – *Gabe McLaughlin*
    - Discussed the new administrative withdrawal policy, emphasizing the importance of following Gavin's emails for guidance on breaks like Thanksgiving and spring break. The policy changes mean students will no longer be exempt from the count during these breaks.
  + Advancement Council – *Eva Patterson*
    - $8 million in grant awards for the current year, primarily from the federal level. The 10-year report from 2014 to 2024 shows assets at $10 million in the foundation, serving an average of 500 students per year. Also, received an update on Eagle Summit, highlighting professional development sessions and a future October event.
* Treasurer’s Report – *Ms. Tracie Liska*
  + No Faculty Senate funds have been utilized this academic year.

***Business/Program:***

* Faculty Senate Election – *Tracie Liska*
  + New Faculty Senators:
    - Tech: Keith Dinwiddie and David Hamilton
    - Arts, Science, and Business: Dawn Wright and Stephanie Davenport
    - Health Sciences: Nikki Wallen and Sarah Huff
    - Remote Senator: Daniel Anderson
  + Executive council:
    - Gabe McLaughlin taking over as president next year
    - Nominations for vice president, communications, treasurer, and secretary are open until May 2, with elections scheduled for May 5-9.
* Trail Blazer Awards – *Tracie Liska*
  + Concerns were brought forward about the Trailblazer awards, noting that some divisions have never received an award despite multiple nominations.
  + Dr. Coltharp plans to revamp the Trailblazer award process and requests input to help define holistic and general criteria for Trailblazers, involving faculty and staff associations.
  + Members suggested including OTC core values and the mission in the criteria for Trailblazer awards.
  + Another suggestion was having the Dean from each division provide a definition of how faculty meets the criteria.
  + Emphasis was placed on the importance of faculty/staff input in defining what constitutes a Trailblazer.
  + Dr. Coltharp would like suggestions by the end of the semester, please submit ideas and criteria to Tracie Liska in the next few weeks. Tracie will reach out to the Dean from each division.
* Adjunct Appreciation Gifts – *Tracie Liska*
  + Tracie discussed the availability of adjunct appreciation gifts from the human resources office and asked for volunteers to help deliver them.
  + Plans were made to divide the gifts into boxes and leave them in offices for the volunteers or mail them to online instructors.

***New Business for the 2024-2025 Academic Year:***

* No new business
* Next meeting May 13th, 2025.
* Reminder to email meeting agenda ideas to Faculty Senate Officers.

***Adjournment:***

* Motion to adjourn from Gabe McLaughlin; seconded by Eva Patterson.
* Meeting adjourned at 4:37 pm.