**Date:** Thursday, August 28, 2025
**Time:** 4:00 pm
**Location:** Virtual Teams Meeting & Brooks Conference Room ICW 219P

**Facilitator:** Mr. Gabe McLaughlin – President of Faculty Senate

**In Attendance:**
**Officers Present:** Mr. Gabe McLaughlin, Dr. Morgan Presley, Mr. Ross Lowrance, Ms. Eva Patterson, Ms. Jean Ann Rushing
**Senators Present:** Ms. Chelsea Cozort, Ms. Stephanie Davenport, Mr. Stephen Schroeppel, Ms. Dawn Wright, Dr. Danyel Anderson, Dr. Kristall Fears, Ms. Sarah Hough, Ms. Nikki Wallen, Mr. Keith Dinwiddie, Mr. David Hamilton, Mr. Landon Vinson
**Senators Absent:** None
**Faculty and Special Guest Speakers:** N/A

**Call to Order**

* Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm.
* Roll call conducted by Mr. Ross Lowrance.

**Approval of Minutes**

* May 2025 minutes approved.

**Reports and Announcements**

* **Treasurer’s Report – Ms. Jean Ann Rushing**
	+ Nothing to report.
* **Council Reports**
	+ **Strategic Planning Council - Mr. Gabe McLaughlin**
		- Key Trends Report: Ozarks Tech is looking to become an “institution of first choice.”

**Old Business**

* None.

**New Business**

* **Mission and Purpose Statement Review**
	+ Current statement reviewed.
	+ Discussion: Faculty Senate advocates for faculty, but sometimes advocacy crosses over to student issues.
* **Preventing Repeated Efforts / Mission Creep**
	+ Faculty Senate Year in Review.
	+ Faculty Senate Canvas Site (Resource Hub).
	+ Update on syllabus issues.
* **Faculty Senate Appreciation Initiative**
	+ Purpose: Refocus Faculty Senate’s image to avoid being perceived as only critical of administration.
	+ Plan: Recognize individuals who have been outstanding supporters of faculty.
	+ Recognition to be named and awarded at each Faculty Senate meeting.
	+ Suggested names for the award: Faculty Senate Shout-Outs, Faculty Senate Salutes.
	+ Voting email will be sent for both award name and nominations.
* **ESL Students**
	+ Discussion: Lack of institutional support for ESL students and the faculty serving them.
	+ Action: Invite Provost, DSS representative (e.g., Pan Porter), and a Navigator to a future meeting.
	+ Note: TRC reported difficulties due to lack of advance information about ESL students.
* **Obtaining Advanced Degrees**
	+ Current issue: Faculty who earn advanced degrees receive a pay raise only at the start of the new year.
	+ Action: Invite Ms. Staci Burton from HR to discuss potential changes.
* **New Task Force: Administrative Withdraw**
	+ Goal: Improve efficiency, transparency, and clarity in the AW process.

**Adjournment**

* Meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 25, 2025