

March 24, 2021, Faculty Affairs Meeting

Enid Agenda Items

-None reported prior to March meeting

Stillwater Agenda Items, emailed 3/24/2021

- 1) Not really a question, but there is frustration with the new J1 system. It is either having issues that prevent students from having access to enroll, or faculty feel as if they don't have enough training in how to correctly make the system operate. A faculty member stopped by my office this morning and told me they were embarrassed while trying to enroll a student because the system wasn't operating the way it was supposed to. (I personally was happy to see, and will be attending, the Thursday professional development with the Gings, so hopefully we can learn more about how to more easily operate the system there)

Response: Many of us share the frustration at the parts of the system that aren't working well. We are reporting the issues to Jenzabar and following up to ensure they are working to correct. A new Student Information System is a major change that takes a long time to fully integrate but please let faculty know that we are constantly submitting the issues that need to be fixed so we won't be experiencing these problems in the long run. Also, please remind faculty of the requests sent via email to identify questions they have about the registration processes so that we can get additional screen shots or other info they may need to provide to students. When the division chairs and some liaisons went through the train-the-trainer session, they responded that division-level training would be more effective than an institution-wide training day, but all of us have learned a great deal about the system since that time and we can share this in follow-up training to get everyone up to speed.

- 2) Is there an update on wearing masks for summer, but especially the fall? From my admittedly informal polling of faculty, it seems most are ready to ditch the mask at the earliest opportunity. Especially having had most staff take advantage of the Ponca tribe's generous vaccination program, and the state of Oklahoma opening up the vaccination push to stage 4 on Monday, surely by fall we can get back to teaching without a mask or face shield. We are ready for a return to normalcy and very curious when that decision might be made.

Dr. Evans' Response: The goal for everyone is a return to normalcy. Decisions about masks for summer and fall semesters will occur after the spring semester concludes based on the environment at that time. Obviously, all decisions are tentative based on how the environment changes in the months moving forward. Everyone is tired of wearing masks so we are all hopeful that they aren't necessary in the near future.

- 3) Will there be in-person OSU enrollment this semester such as has been the norm at Stillwater in the past? Of course, with social distancing, we can't have the long, crowded

lines that we used to have in past springs. However, some faculty are concerned that without an in-person push, and just relying on OSU students to enroll themselves online via an email, we may not see the increase in OSU students coming to us for a class or two in the summer or fall.

Response from VP Watkins: The email instructions I send out to OSU students for enrollment tell them to contact me if they have issues. Also, each academic advisor at OSU received instructions yesterday about the process for OSU students. Yes, students prefer the electronic option. Of course, we're not turning folks away who come in for help, but we're still making them follow the process, so someone doesn't get priority because they walk in, but we will help them fill out the necessary paperwork and guide them through the online registration process if necessary.

Tonkawa Agenda Items, emailed 3/19/2021

Couple of items regarding FA issues for next week.

- 1) I sent a separate e-mail concerning the schedule format. Is there an excel form of the summer and fall schedules?

Response: An Excel sheet can be pulled. We should have the format cleaned up more for the next enrollment cycle.

- 2) How much did J1 cost the institution? What is the time frame for their continued software support and how much does it cost?

Dr. Evans' Response: As you are aware, the POISE system which we were using had been in use since mid 90s, This product was at end of life and would no longer be supported by the vendor. NOC conducted an extensive review of products and invited faculty and staff to review product options throughout the process. The system proposal went out to bid so that we did not end up paying as much as many Oklahoma peer institutions did in their recent upgrades. The first year of cost was \$736,929. The total cost of the ERP for over a 10-year period will be \$3,966,276. Ongoing support costs are determined if additional support hours are needed other than those in the contract. The next closest bid was for \$5,565,396 and the first year of cost for that option would have been \$1,996,288. In anticipation of this required upgrade, NOC had been setting aside funds for several years for the initial charges for the new ERP.

- 3) Young sent out a lengthy set of observations concerning the NOC response to the "bomb threat," which seemed germane, and was very informative. It's been several weeks and there hasn't been a response to him (per communication with him), nor to the faculty/staff or the NOC community...why not? I took his observations as a mechanism to make us safer, and I'd sure like to know what steps are being done. Young's footnote: I concur with the premise, the silence is deafening; and the intent by me was to help protect...in case that wasn't made clear by me.

Dr. Evans' Response: This is an ongoing investigation so it cannot be discussed in full detail. We are still waiting on the OSBI and FBI reports as these threats were made at other institutions too. All feedback has been and will continue to be reviewed in response to the threat. The incident command officer reviewed Gene Young's feedback and others at the request of the Emergency Response Team. As priority steps after the incident, NOC's Emergency Response Team met to review processes and also received feedback from law enforcement agencies both one on one and in formal response meetings from March 1-22. At one time on the day of March 1, there were 22 law enforcement officers (representing Tonkawa police, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, and OSBI) on site. NOC followed their guidance during the threat and has incorporated their suggestions after the threat for future planning. Since there were two threats, with law enforcements' guidance the campuses were evacuated. This is the same guidance that was given to Eastern State College.

Some of the takeaways:

--Per law enforcement recommendations, information provided to the media needs to be controlled so that information being shared does not increase a potential threat. The threat referenced both a bomb and subsequent active shooting. The officers followed their protocol in responding to the primary threat first after they ensured campus buildings were cleared. The all-clear that was provided to employees was sent as soon as it could be safely determined that there was no actual bomb threat. NOC has in the past identified individuals who can assist with ensuring buildings are cleared; with turnover, this protocol needs to be reviewed for regular updates.

--With I.T.'s help, we are instituting a new security measure in having alerts display on classroom computers and announcement boards so that should an evacuation notice need to be given it won't be missed by having cell phones off. The product is called Alertus. The new alert feature will be tested in early April fuller installation following. The emergency response plan is being updated with lessons learned from this event. Local law enforcement is going to schedule additional training.

Further discussion included having a designated building person and the need to send an all clear per building. A text group was also created for emergency response team for more immediate communication.

- 4) The amount of time baseball is missing is beyond comprehension. First the quarantine, followed by changes in scheduling... why do they need to be at the field at 9:30 AM for a game 1:00 PM? This is crazy. Two hrs prior to game is all that is needed, especially home games. Young's footnote to this: 1) lights at the stadium would eliminate this problem all together. 2) Having had two kids who played college ball, I know that coaches often depend on players to prep the field, especially after inclement weather. However, this can be accomplished a) by requiring student-athletes who don't have class to take care of this, and also have assistant coaches do more of the work.

Response: Sent concern to Athletic Director Alan Foster and Coach Bay to see if they could offer solutions, but certainly this year is different than most with the forced compressed schedules due to season delays, quarantine periods, and weather outages.

Coach Bay's response noted one additional challenge this year has been the time needed for COVID straining before players can participate. This involves getting about 40 players tested, and then other standard pre-game protocol, including stretching, practicing hitting, and time for a meal. The team tries not to miss classes on MWF for games and should be past the games that would involve those days now. Traditionally players have been advised not to enroll in TR classes. Lights on the field have been investigated about the low-end of that cost was around \$250,000 and a lot of competing teams would not play in the evening.

- 5) Faculty have asked how they can have input on the Presidential Search? Some have asked if a survey could be produced, and my suggestion has been that a survey should come from the Search Committee. This is really an NOC Community issue, not just a faculty issue. Perhaps, dialog can occur between FA and the Search Committee Chair?

Response: The Board of Regents has legal and financial responsibility for the institution and thus the Board is responsible for the hire of the President while leaving daily operations to the President's oversight. The Search Committee was created with membership from faculty, staff, community members, and Board members. The committee chair shared that when the search has narrowed and finalists are selected all employees and students will be given opportunities to hear presentations and to provide input through surveys.

- 6) Much thanks needs to go to the NOC Admin for procuring a mechanism to have COVID vaccines administered to Faculty/Staff, and students. And on behalf of the FA, I think it's imperative that we draft a letter of thanks to the White Eagle health network and all that made this possible. Can you get the appropriate contact info so we can make this happen?

Response: NOC is very fortunate to have good community partners and the generous offer from Ponca Tribe in providing these vaccines. NOC sent a thank you note from the institution and also thanked the tribe on social media. If individuals would also like to send a thank you note, it can be sent to the following:

Ponca Tribe
20 White Eagle Drive
Ponca City, OK 74601