



# FACULTY SENATE

*The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA*

## AGENDA OF THE FACULTY SENATE – NORMAN CAMPUS

April 14, 2025 | 3:30 p.m. in the Thurman J White Forum Building | Conference Room

**1. Determination of a quorum**

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

*Long before the University of Oklahoma was established, the land on which the University now resides was the traditional home of the “Hasinai” Caddo Nation and “Kiriikiꞑi:s” Wichita & Affiliated Tribes.*

*We acknowledge this territory once also served as a hunting ground, trade exchange point, and migration route for the Apache, Comanche, Kiowa and Osage nations.*

*Today, 39 tribal nations dwell in the state of Oklahoma as a result of settler and colonial policies that were designed to assimilate Native people.*

*The University of Oklahoma recognizes the historical connection our university has with its Indigenous community. We acknowledge, honor and respect the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land. We fully recognize, support and advocate for the sovereign rights of all of Oklahoma’s 39 tribal nations. This acknowledgement is aligned with our university’s core value of creating a diverse and inclusive community. It is an institutional responsibility to recognize and acknowledge the people, culture and history that make up our entire OU Community”*

**3. Call to order**

**4. Approval of the Senate Journal for the regular session of March 10, 2025.**

**5. Announcements:**

- a. Sympathies are extended to the families and colleagues of Dr. Roger Mellgren, former OU Professor of Psychology, who passed away March 13, 2025.
- b. Fred Jones Jones Art Museum Memberships: additional information is available on your table.

**6. Questions regarding the Chair’s Report**

**7. Speakers**

- a. **Carol Silva, Interim Vice President for Research and Partnerships, Edith Kinney Gaylord Presidential Professor of Political Science**
- b. **Sanum Raza, OU Education Service**
- c. **J.E.B. Sheriff, Assistant Director, IT Services, Customer Experience, Identity and Access Management**
- d. **Mashhad Fahes, Associate Professor, Petroleum & Geological Engineering, Gallogly College of Engineering**

**8. Nominations:**

- a. **At Large Members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for 2025 to 2026 term. Voting will take place at the May Faculty Senate Meeting.**
- b. **Committee Members for the 2025-2026 Academic Year. Voting will take place at the May Faculty Senate Meeting.**

**9. Vote on candidates for Chair-Elect and Secretary for the 2025-2026**

**10. New Business** (any matter not known about or that could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time the agenda was prepared).

**11. Adjournment**

## JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The University of Oklahoma (Norman Campus)

Regular session – March 10, 2025 – 3:30 p.m.

Thurman J White Forum Building – Conference Room A

Office: Chemistry Building, Room 207 | Phone: 405-325-6789

Email: [FacSen@ou.edu](mailto:FacSen@ou.edu) | Website <https://www.ou.edu/facultysenate>

*Note: The remarks of the Senators and others are summarized and not verbatim*

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The meeting was called to order at 3:31 pm by Chair Jervis. Senators were asked to read the [Land Acknowledgement](#).

PRESENT: Beaulieu, Beutel, Bhattarai, Brice, Burns, Busselle, Cavazos, Cuccia, Deacon, Demir, Edgerton, Fithian, Grigo, Grinnell-Davis, Jill, Hougen, Jablonski, Jones, Kang, Kathuria, Kibbey, Lamothe, M., Leseney, Liu, Lungmus, Mansky, McLeod, Muraleetharan, Nicholson, Nollert, Pixley, Rai, Scrivener, Sharma, Tracy, Warnken, Woods

FS Chair: Lori Jervis

FS Chair-elect: Sarah Robbins

FS Secretary: Stephanie Burge

FS Executive Committee Members (Non-senators): Darren Purcell

FS Administrative Manager: Ann Seely

Guests: Shrey Kathuria – Student Government Association  
Kathy Agnew, Deputy Chief HR Officer, Human Resources - Engagement Survey  
Jessica Davila, Associate Dean for Digital Strategies & Innovation – Open Access  
Jeffrey Harp, Ombudsperson - Updates

ABSENT:

*Note: During the period from June 2024 to May 2025, the Senate holds eight regular sessions. The figures in parentheses above indicate the number of absences.*

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## **DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM.**

Quorum was achieved.

## **APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL**

The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of February 10, 2025 was approved with the revision that Jim Morrison, Chief Strategy Officer and Jeff Miller, CISO were incorrectly listed as guests at the February 10 meeting and thus removed from the February journal. Senator Tracy moved to approve and the motion was seconded by Senator Demir. The vote passed and the journal was approved.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sympathies are extended to the families and colleagues of the following:

- i. OU Musical Theatre founder and retired director, Dr. Gregory Kunes, who died February 10, 2025
- ii. Former OU Law Professor Fred H. Miller passed away on February 13, 2025, in Edina, Minnesota.
- iii. Former OU President, Senator, and Governor David L. Boren who died on February 20, 2025,
- iv. Retired Professor & Associate Dean of Engineering John Francies who passed away on February 22, 2025

Their commitment to the OU community will be deeply missed.

## **SENATE CHAIR'S REPORT, BY CHAIR JERVIS**

The report was distributed via email. Chair Jervis opened the floor to questions. There were no questions.

## **VOTE ON REVISION TO BYLAWS – COMMITTEE ON FACULTY RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND DEVELOPMENT**

One Senator noted that while he appreciated why we were changing the committee name, that we were not required to do so. He also noted that we should ask ourselves whether DEI are values of our community and noted that he planned to vote against the proposal.

Another Senator stated that we all value Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and noted that in this political climate holding to these values is sometimes seen as bringing in unqualified people rather than ensuring that qualified people actually get brought to the table. However, he noted that putting certain labels on particular committees puts a target on these committees, which makes it harder to get the work done, which is counter-intuitive to getting the work done and thus, he noted his support for the resolution.

Another Senator noted that Bourdieu talked about the tyranny of symbols, and that once we name something we tend to put it in that certain category. He also noted his support for the resolution.

Another Senator noted that once you hear a name, you automatically think about things associated with that name, and if we do not want the committee, we should not have it. He further noted that he would vote against the resolution.

Another Senator asked whether we are voting on what we were sent, and Chair Jervis noted that we are voting on what was sent.

Senator Fifthian moved that we vote on the revision to bylaws to rename the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to the Committee on Faculty Recruitment, Retention, and Development, and Senator Hougen seconded. The vote passed. (30 yes, 5 against, and 1 abstain).

### **SHREY KATHURIA, STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

Shrey Kathuria came to speak to Faculty Senate to discuss the universal use of TopHat. Kathuria noted that students have spoken about the cost of materials being expensive, and classes need to be affordable, accessible, and approachable. TopHat is a clicker system used by professors to create a more active experience for students, and may be used for exams, embedding textbooks, and other learning activities. TopHat is free for all students. Students who are residents, spend about \$800 a year on course materials on top of \$28,800 – \$30,800 tuitions fees, materials, food and housing. Kathuria further noted that only 25% of student respondents in Student Voice survey say that institution's costs are affordable.

According to Kathuria, iClicker is another clicker system that is being used, which is not as versatile as TopHat and is not free for students, and Kathuria noted that taking away unneeded costs is of value in an era of rising costs. Kathuria noted that because iClicker and TopHat are substitutes for each other, he would hope that faculty would be willing to transition to a universal TopHat system since it is free of cost. Kathuria also noted that OU IT could facilitate the transition to TopHat for those faculty who currently use other clicker systems. Kathuria asked Faculty Senate to consider writing a resolution to encourage universal adoption of TopHat, as well as requested Senators encourage their colleagues to consider using TopHat.

Senator Burns noted that he was an early adopter of TopHat, and asked how robust the software it was, and how much support you get in real time. He also noted that there is sometimes there is an issue with bandwidth in large classes and asked that we insist TopHat makes a good faith warranty on tech-support in real time because if it does not work as designed, then we should consider not using of TopHat.

Senator Cavazos noted that she has used TopHat since 2015 and that she has worked with them extensively. She noted that she teaches 2 classes in Dale Hall with 500 person classes and there is sufficient bandwidth to effectively teach those classes for exams, in-class homework, textbook readings, etc. She also noted that she serves on an IT committee that vetted and recruited bids for clicker services and selected TopHat. In so doing, it is already part of the official, accepted, learning software of OU. As part of this, TopHat has had on-campus events to assist faculty with learning and using TopHat.

### **KATHY AGNEW, DEPUTY CHIEF HR OFFICER, HUMAN RESOURCES – ENGAGEMENT SURVEY**

Kathy Agnew came to discuss the OU employee Engagement survey, which takes place in October.

Agnew noted that this spring, a 5 item check-in survey will determine if anyone has talked with faculty about OU engagement results and plans. Agnew emphasized that viewing results and working on one item, rather than targeting everything at once, is a good strategy for improving engagement. Agnew asked that all participate in the OU Spring engagement check-in event.

### **JESSICA DAVILA, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR DIGITAL STRATEGIES & INOVATION – OPEN ACCESS**

Jessica Davila came to talk about updates to the open access policy. As background, in 2023, Faculty Senate passed the open access policy. The policy is being implemented through the pilot phase between January and August 2025. Full implementation will happen September 2025 through May 2026.

This policy is being implemented to ensure faculty can share their scholarly works through ShareOK. The policy is not meant to share work without consent or to transfer copyright. There is an opt-out option. Davila is asking faculty to deposit articles into ShareOK and FAS. Faculty may deposit through FAS during evaluation period, through ShareOK at any time, or via ORCID (the committee is working on this and expects it to be implemented by the summer).

A series of workshops will be offered this spring and summer, as well consultations which are available on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10AM-12PM. Faculty may also access a digital passport, which offers informative activities and resources about open access. The more activities you do on the digital passport, the more likely you will become an 'impact champion,' which aims to help faculty increase the reach of their research. They will highlight faculty members monthly, have podcast series, and feature articles to be posted through social media to increase scholarly impact.

One Senator asked whether the team would track the metrics for ShareOK to highlight downloads, etc. The team responded that they will be tracking those metrics, both collectively for the OU scholarly community, as well as for individuals. Davila noted that with ShareOK it was possible to track article downloads, views, as well as the geographic locations of those views. The team noted that the metrics looked better as more articles are entered into ShareOK.

## **JEFFREY HARP, OMBUDSPERSON – UPDATES**

Jeffrey Harp presented to Faculty Senate on the role of ombudsperson, who serves to assist individuals and/or groups in resolution of conflicts or concerns in an informal way. Harp works out of the President's office to be an independent entity and work on behalf of faculty and staff. Harp noted the role that confidentiality plays in being an effective ombudsperson and reported that he has visited with approximately 500 people in the past 30 months, across every college on OU's campus. An ombudsperson can serve as a safe place to come in and talk with someone outside of the situation without concern that the conflict will go outside of that conversation. The ombudsperson listens and helps try to guide the conversation to solutions moving forward, including diplomacy and mediation. The ombudsperson may also elevate certain systemic issues to their relevant office. Harp noted that the ombudsperson is not an advocate for a particular party, does not conduct formal investigations, does not accept formal complaints, and is not a mandatory reporter for Title IX/Clery Act. In 2024, Harp visited with 233 visitors, approximately 37 percent of which were faculty, 43 percent were staff, and 19 percent were students. Some other universities have better ratios of students, faculty, and staff to ombudspersons.

Categories of issues shared by all visitors include the following: evaluative relationships, peer relationships, service and administrative issues, career progression and development, organization strategies and mission related, legal regulatory, financial and compliance, and values, ethics and standards. Top issues for Norman campus faculty include peer relationships, evaluative relationships, career progression and development, and equity and fairness.

*Some statistics on visits with the ombudsperson:*

Approximate number of visits on average = 3

Average hours engaged with each visitor = 4

The first visit usually takes at least 90 minutes. Harp reported 1/3 of visitors need only one contact. Faculty visitors tend to have more complex situations that require additional time. Faculty represent only 37 percent of number of visitors, but take approximately 50 percent of engagement time.

**Options that might be helpful in positive working relationships:**

- Reflect before you react- pause first
- Engage respectfully, and if engaged, respond respectfully, especially if your relationship is evaluative
- Begin at the lowest level possible, then elevate as may be necessary
- Have patience and think about the problem from the other's perspective if possible
- Reconsider sending a "mad" email
- Stop and talk to others- get to know them
- Always be honest but be careful with transparency

Go to <https://www.ou.edu/ombuds> to schedule appointment and/or fill out an experience survey.

**NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR-ELECT AND SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY SENATE FOR 2025 TO 2026 TERM (VOTING TO TAKE PLACE AT APRIL FACULTY SENATE MEETING)****Chair-Elect**

Rebeca Loraamm, Associate Professor, Geography & Environmental Sustainability.  
Matt Wood, Professor, Entrepreneurship

**Secretary**

Stephanie Burge, Associate Professor, Sociology

**CHARTER REVISION UPDATE**

38 Senators voted (33 for, 2 against, and 2 abstained).

Officer presentation to Charis and Directors (March 10), and that presentation is available on our site.

Scheduled emails to all faculty for March and April.

Flyers created by MarComm for Senators to distribute.

Town Halls (schedule on the website, in emails).

Door Prizes to incentivize voting.

**Available on website:**

Sample ballot

Video presentation of changes

**Vote:**

April 28-May 2 – email encouraging faculty to vote.

Faculty may vote for all changes or change by change.

Approved changes must be approved by Board of Regents to be official

**Senators are strongly encouraged to get the word out about the vote so that all voices may be represented!** In order for this to be a valid vote, 20 percent is needed (around 212 regular faculty). If repeated questions keep coming up in conversations with constituents, please communicate those to Faculty Senate Officers

Senator Muraleetharan suggested a FAQ addition to the website and asked whether chairs seemed receptive. Chair-elect Robbins noted that both the chairs, as well as Vice Provost Sarah Ellis seemed supportive.

Senator Grinnell-Davis asked about the week was chosen and why it was chosen. Chair-Elect Robbins noted that we needed sufficient time to host the town halls and get the word out, as well as enough time to get in front of Board of Regents.

Senator Hougen noted that publicity would be very important and encouraged both the Senators and the Officer to remind faculty of the importance of voting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Jervis asked if there was any new business and no new business was introduced.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm. The next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate Meeting of this academic year will be held on April 14, 2025 at pm.

Stephanie Burge, Faculty Senate Secretary, 2024-25

## **Chair's Report, 4-11-25**

Unfortunately, confusion, uncertainty, and fear related to federal level disruptions to higher education and federal grant funding cancellations continue unabated. In addition, concerns abound about international students and faculty being illegally or unfairly deported from the US. At a senator's suggestion, we are in the midst of trying to ascertain how many students and faculty have been affected. I will begin sitting in on the Office of Legal Counsel's Executive Order Task Force on Federal Financial Assistance in order to better ascertain how OU is dealing with these disruptions.

A reminder that FS is documenting negative impacts related to grant funding cancellations. Please send your cancellation letters or a summary of what has happened to [facsen@ou.edu](mailto:facsen@ou.edu).

Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) has been involved in this spring's dean searches. We thus far have interviewed candidates for the deans of Price College, CAGS, DFCAS, and Honors. The initial search for the Price College dean was unsuccessful so we will be involved in round two, as well as the VPR interviews, both slated to occur before the end of the semester.

The Testing Center has made several changes recently, including discontinuing the receipt of exams by email, restricting hours for testing, and serving only ADRC students. This has put increased burden on faculty members who now must schlep paper exams back and forth to the center or find time and space to proctor the exams themselves. The Budget Council has advocated for increased funding for staffing, including a dedicated staff member to manage exams that are sent via email. Members of FSEC support this recommendation, and plan to meet with the directors of both the testing center and the ADRC to advocate for better service to faculty and students.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Research Council's Mission and Procedures recently provided FSEC with recommendations for improving the functioning of the Research Council. While there is much to consider with respect to revamping the Research Council, whose many duties are explicitly spelled out in the Faculty Handbook, both the Ad Hoc Committee and the Budget Council have recommended increased funding for the Faculty Investment Program (FIP) and Junior Faculty Fellowship (JFF) awards, which have not seen increases to their budgets for at least 12 years. FSEC is highly supportive of this recommendation and plans to advocate for the increase.

Regular Faculty will have the opportunity to vote on the revision of the FS charter beginning on April 28. Two more town halls focused on the revision are planned for April 16, and April 22. As we need 20% of regular faculty to vote, it is imperative that everyone vote.

Plans are in the works for a Faculty Senate-sponsored "getting to know you" town hall with Nishanth Rodrigues, OU's new Chief Information Officer, on May 7 from 2 – 3 pm. This is a good opportunity to learn what's new on the IT horizon; come and bring your questions!

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ONE UNIVERSITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA**

**WHEREAS**, the University of Oklahoma, through the Lead On Strategic plan, is committing to “Ascend as One OU – unified by our purpose, values, and strategic plan”, including the values of boldness, freedom of expression and civility, and civic commitment

**WHEREAS**, the University of Oklahoma has reaffirmed its commitment to “promote and defend the ideals of bold inquiry and freedom of thought and expression,” including a “commitment to academic freedom, freedom of speech, unfettered exploration, and intellectual independence, as affirmed in the Chicago Principles”

**WHEREAS**, the University of Oklahoma seeks to “build a culture of robust civil conversation, affirming that the University can serve as a vital forum for dialogue”

**WHEREAS**, the University of Oklahoma aspires to “confront the polarization of American society by fostering both intellectual diversity and academic independence” towards building “trust and affinity with stakeholders on campus and beyond”

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago Principles adopted by the University of Oklahoma and the OU Board of Regents affirm that “the University’s fundamental commitment is to the principles that debate or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed” and that “It is for the individual members of the University community, and not for the University as an institution, to make those judgments for themselves and act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress speech but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas that they oppose”

**WHEREAS**, it is essential for the health of the institution and its various stakeholders to stay true not just to the literal words of the Chicago Principles, but also stay true to the spirit of those principles

**WHEREAS**, the university cannot truly achieve its mission and fulfill its role without the critical and firm support for, and nurturing of, academic freedom and freedom of speech and expression, which necessitates protecting members of the university community from suppression of free speech due to undue external or internal influence, intimidation, retaliation, silencing, repercussions, or disciplinary measures

**WHEREAS**, Pillar 3 of OU’s LeadON strategic plan, calls on OU in the second strategy to “Promote and defend the ideals of *bold inquiry and freedom of thought and expression*”

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Faculty Senate at the University of Oklahoma calls upon the OU administration to create a **One OU Task Force** *for bold inquiry and freedom of thought and expression*, with the following charge, representation, and timeline:

1. Charge:

- a. Outline, and oversee the implementation of, recommendations that proactively promote, nurture, and support building community and unity towards One University that combats divisiveness and encourages deep and meaningful engagement
- b. Consult with relevant stakeholders, representing the full scope of relevant viewpoints and vested interests, on the measures and structures needed to promote campus as a safe space for all members of the university community, where they are protected and empowered to participate in authentic engagement
- c. Develop resources and guidelines for the OU Community on matters related to free speech, freedom of expression, and academic freedom
- d. Outline oversight and actionable accountability measures and checks and balances on the upholding of the Chicago Principles for all members of the OU community and the OU administration, and work with relevant OU bodies (offices, committees, and boards) on integrating the necessary implementation steps into the charge and responsibilities of these bodies

2. Representation:

- a. The task force is chaired by a faculty member appointed by the OU Faculty Senate Executive Committee
- b. Membership includes a representative of OU Legal Counsel, a representative of OU's Office of Government Affairs, a representative of Student Affairs, and a representative of the Staff Senate
- c. Membership includes a faculty member appointed by the Office of the President and a faculty member appointed by the Office of the Provost
- d. The task force is provided with a 12-month 0.5 FTE graduate research assistant to assist with the work of the taskforce

3. Timeline:

- a. Upon the adoption of the resolution by the Faculty Senate on May 12th, the Task Force would commence its work on May 15th, 2025 for a duration of one-year, to be assessed for renewal/extension by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in March 2026, based on input from the Task Force.
- b. The Task Force would present its initial recommendations to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the President, and the Provost by Aug 15th, 2025, with the recommendations finalized by Sep 15th, 2025
- c. The Task Force would coordinate and oversee the implementation of the finalized recommendations throughout the 2025-2026 academic year

## **At Large - Arts and Humanities**

**Julia L. Abramson**

**Associate Professor, French**

**Ph.D. Princeton University, at OU since 1999**

**jabramson@ou.edu**

Thank you for considering my candidacy for the at-large position representing the Arts and Humanities on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. As a faculty member in French studies based in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, I research and teach about eighteenth-century France and contemporary society and culture. Professional service in my field has included a four-year term on the executive committee for 18th-century French studies within the Modern Language Association, terms on journal editorial boards, and consultancies such as for the NEH and PBS. At OU, my varied service assignments have resulted in a broad understanding of the university's architecture and complexity, and its ability to support faculty and, by extension, students. Roles within my home department have included leadership of the French programs for nearly a decade and committee A service. In the College of Arts and Sciences, I have chaired the Tenure and Promotion Committee, and peer reviewed for multiple fellowship and award committees. During two years' service as the faculty fellow for the arts and humanities in the Office of the Vice President for Research and Partnerships, I worked to support faculty research across the disciplines and advocated for expanded infrastructure specifically to support arts and humanities research and creative activity, resulting in the university's largest seed grant program to date targeting arts and humanities PIs. At the university level, I have served on the Research Council, as a faculty senator, and as chair of the Budget Council. If elected to the at-large position, it would be my honor to draw upon these and other service experiences to continue -- from the new vantage -- the collaborative work of institution-building and advocacy for faculty.

**Victoria Sturtevant**  
**Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies**  
**PhD Emory University, at OU since 2002**

It would be an honor to serve as Arts & Humanities member-at-large for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. I joined the OU faculty in 2002, and in my time here have served as Director of Film and Media Studies (2009-2014) and Associate Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Arts and Sciences (2014-2020). My service in these roles has given me a working knowledge of university operations, strategic communications, faculty recruitment and development, interdisciplinary initiatives, course and curriculum management, research infrastructure, and budgeting. I led the steering committee tasked with developing the College of Arts and Sciences' first Strategic Plan in 2015, a process anchored by faculty, staff, students, and alumni input. In my administrative work, I operated on the principle that the best and most durable path to institutional change comes from collaborative processes that respect faculty governance and faculty expertise. As universities are adapting to a new and volatile national environment, I believe that a healthy internal governance structure is an essential safeguard of academic freedom. If elected, I would seek to work collaboratively with administration to articulate, protect, and advance the university's core mission and values.

## **Social Sciences Member At Large – Executive Committee**

**Jenel T. Cavazos**

**Associate Professor of Psychology and Introductory Psychology Coordinator**

**Ph.D. Social Psychology, University of Oklahoma, at OU since 2015**

**[jcavazos@ou.edu](mailto:jcavazos@ou.edu)**

Thank you for considering me for an at-large member position on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. I have been at OU since 1999, first as a student and now as a faculty member.

During my time at OU, I have served the university in numerous capacities. As a member of the DFCAS Executive Committee and Faculty Senate, I've directly participated in shared governance and university policy development. At the university level, I have served on the Provost's Advisory Committee on General Education Assessment (5 years as Chair), the Provost's Advisory Committee on Classroom Scheduling, the Teaching and Learning Technology Advisory Committee, the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Provost's Advisory Council, and several other committees. I have also contributed to student success initiatives as a member of the University Retention Team and previously as part of the Elite Retention Task Force.

At the departmental level, I have served as Chair of the Department of Psychology Undergraduate Studies Committee for the past 10 years; I also served as Coordinator for Departmental Undergraduate Assessment for 9 years. In my role as Introductory Psychology Coordinator, I oversee the PSY 1113 curriculum, which reaches nearly 2,000 students annually. If elected, I will use my extensive experience in university service to strengthen faculty voice in shared governance and advocate for policies that support both teaching excellence and student success.

David Axlyn McLeod  
Professor, Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work  
Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University, at OU since 2013  
damcleod@ou.edu

I am honored to be considered for the position of Social Sciences Member at Large on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. As a faculty member at OU for over a decade and currently serving as the Interim Director of the Anne & Henry Zarrow School of Social Work, my career has been centered on the power of data-driven decision-making, interdisciplinary collaboration, and collective faculty advocacy.

With nearly 30 years of experience in behavioral measurement, program evaluation, and organizational strategy, I have worked across multiple sectors—including criminal justice, mental health, education, and community development—helping organizations and institutions leverage data to drive meaningful change. My leadership in large-scale, outcome-based research has been associated with over \$75 million in external funding from federal agencies, philanthropic organizations, and private partnerships. Through this work, I have witnessed firsthand how data can be a unifying force, guiding institutions toward more effective policies, transparent decision-making, and sustainable impact. At OU, I have consistently advocated for faculty governance, research support, and institutional transparency. As President of the National Organization of Forensic Social Work, Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Forensic Social Work*, and Chair of the Oklahoma Children of Incarcerated Parents Legislative Advisory Committee, I have championed evidence-based policies that balance innovation with accountability. My commitment to shared governance is rooted in the belief that when faculty stand together—armed with data, strategic vision, and a collective voice—we can shape an institution that prioritizes academic freedom, equity, and long-term sustainability. As a university, we are at our best when we move beyond isolated efforts and embrace collaborative, interdisciplinary solutions. If elected, I will work to strengthen faculty representation, ensure transparency in university decision-making, and advocate for policies that enhance research, teaching, and service across the social sciences. I look forward to bringing a data-informed, faculty-centered perspective to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

## Committee Council Appointments (Terms beginning Fall 2025)

Committee/Council	Term	Nominee	Department
Academic Programs	2025 to 2028	Kelly Feille	Education
Academic Programs	2025 to 2028	Doyle Phillips	Construction Science
Academic Regulations	2025 to 2028	Loretta Bass	Sociology
Academic Regulations	2025 to 2026*	Casey Haskins	Engineering Pathways
Arts & Humanities Forum	2025 to 2028	Alan Levenson	History
Arts & Humanities Forum	2025 to 2028	Rebecca Huskey	Classics and Letters
Budget	2025 to 2028	Deborah Moore-Russo	Mathematics
Budget	2025 to 2027*	Stephanie Pilat	Architecture
Campus Tenure	2025 to 2028	Norman Wong	Communication
Campus Tenure	2025 to 2027*	Venera Bekteshi	Social Work
Campus Tenure	2025 to 2028	Sanna Pederson	Music
Cmte on Cmtes	2025 to 2028	Liorah Golomb	University Libraries
Cmte on Cmtes	2025 to 2027*	Richard Sprecker	Drama
Cmte on Cmtes	2025 to 2028	Anthony Natale	Social Work
Cmte on Cmtes	2025 to 2027*	Vassilios Sikavitsas	Biomedical Engineering
Commencement	2025 to 2027	Thomas Chavira	Drama
Continuing Education	2025 to 2028	Neelam Dwivedi	Engineering
Ed Cline	2025 to 2027	Srikanth Bashetty	Engineering
Ed Cline	2025 to 2027	Tyler Johnson	Political Science
Employee Benefits	2025 to 2029	Susan Hahn	University Libraries
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Ben Bigelow	Construction Science
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Meeyong Lamothe	Political sScience
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Courtney Dewhirst	ILAC
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Doyle Phillips	Architecture
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Kendra Williams-Diehm	Education
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Boris Apanasov	Mathematics
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Phil Gibson	Biology
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Christina Bourne	Chem Biochem
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Pejman Kazempoor	Engineering
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Susan Hahn	University Libraries
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Tom Steele	University Libraries
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2029	Andreana Prichard	Honors
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2027*	Indrajeet Sharma	Chem Biochem
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2027*	Doyle Yoon	Journalism/ Advertising
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2027*	Ying Wang	Mathematics
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2026*	Asa Randall	Anthropology
Faculty Appeals	2025 to 2026*	Linda Passamaneck	Fine Arts
FS Compensation & Benefits	2025 to 2028	Joan Hamory	Economics
FS Compensation & Benefits	2025 to 2028	Tammy McCuen	Architecture
Faculty Honors & Awards	2025 to 2028	Noel Brady	Mathematics
Faculty Honors & Awards	2025 to 2028	Emily Burns	Fine Arts
Faculty Scholars Steering	2025 to 2028	Nick Brown	Engineering Pathways
Faculty Scholars Steering	2025 to 2028	Christopher Hill	Sociology
Faculty Welfare	2025 to 2028	Lee Fithian	Architecture
Fit + Rec	2025 to 2027	James Bierman	University Libraries
Goddard	2025 to 2028	Huang LiangLiang	Engineering
Information Technology	2025 to 2028	John (Ed) Frick	Education

## Committee Council Appointments (Terms beginning Fall 2025)

Committee/Council	Term	Nominee	Department
Information Technology	2025 to 2028	Jason Furtado	CAGS
Legal Panel	2025 to 2028	Megan Shaner	Law
Publications Board	2025 to 2028	Tom Steele	University Libraries
Research Council	2025 to 2028	Andreea Marculescu	MLLL
Research Council	2025 to 2028	Claudette Grinnell-Davis	Social Work
Research Council	2025 to 2028	Jonathan Hils	Visula Arts
Rita Lottinville	2025 to 2028	Renee Brode	Drama
ROTC	2025 to 2028	Reza Saeed Kandezy	Electrical & Computer
Shared Leave	2025 to 2028	Heather Ketchum	Biological Sciences
Student Conduct	2025 to 2027	Hamid Karami	MPGE
Student Conduct	2025 to 2027	Arunava Roy	PACS
Student Conduct	2025 to 2027	Zachary Schmook	Law
Student Conduct	2025 to 2027	Daniel Springer	ELPS
Student Conduct	2025 to 2027	Deborah Trytten	Computer Science
University Libraries	2025 to 2027	Manika Lamba	SLIS
University Libraries	2025 to 2027	Jackie Reese	University Libraries
University Libraries	2025 to 2027	Sarah Tracy	Honors
University Libraries	2025 to 2027	Robert Kerr	Journalism
VPRP Advisory	2025 to 2027	Kim Marshall	Anthropology

\* Term Completion

## **CHAIR-ELECT**

**Rebecca Loraamm**

**Associate Professor, Geography and Environmental Sustainability**

**Ph.D. University of South Florida, at OU since 2015**

**rloraamm@ou.edu**

First, I extend my thanks to the members of the OU Faculty Senate and the Faculty at-large for their consideration of my candidacy to serve as Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate in 2025. Should I be selected for this, I offer my undivided attention as demanded by the role. I would seek to meet the position with a freshness of perspective and a willingness to listen. I would endeavor to bring forward the measured consideration in judgement the position deserves.

I have grown as a faculty member at OU for 10 rewarding years. My research program thus far has centered on Geographic Information Science (GIS). GIS often materializes as a nexus in interdisciplinary work. Its core tenets have a propensity to align researchers from varied backgrounds, as maps provide a common space to arrange our thoughts and to represent the phenomena we examine. Through my work in GIS at OU, I have actively engaged with faculty across campus from the humanities, social sciences, business, and STEM fields. I believe this spirit for collaboration is both contagious, and key to solving complex challenges in research and administrative questions alike. I submit here that my positioning and research identity allows me to serve as a bridge in connecting ideas and people across the campus.

Outside of research the experience of a faculty member requires administrative service locally through department, college, and at the professional scale. I have actively chaired and served on several department-level curriculum and faculty search committees, university-level program reviews and discipline-level committees outside of OU (for example, I serve as chair of the Applied Geography Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers). 2025 marks the beginning of my 6<sup>th</sup> year in the OU Faculty Senate. For the past two years I have served on both the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC), and as chair of the Faculty Compensation and Benefits Committee. I am working with the current FSEC officers and staff on strategies for the documentation of policy and for the streamlining of our internal procedures as well. With this effort we are ensuring we have an historical record tracking policy decisions regarding faculty pay and benefits. I believe such records are essential to faculty interests at OU and note the effort integrates readily with the shared governance model and transparency concerns at the OU Administration. If elected, I will continue in this work by scaling up this documentation effort for essential policies and procedures while simultaneously advocating for the protection of academic freedoms at OU.

Embarking as the Chair-Elect would undoubtedly demand the scope of these skills be expanded, and that I engage with both the easy and the hard questions in these uncertain times. If I should prevail in this Char-Elect selection process for the OU Faculty Senate, then I look forward to hearing from you as your representative.

## **CHAIR-ELECT**

**Matthew S. Wood**

**Professor of Entrepreneurship**

**Ph.D. Southern Illinois University, at OU since 2022**

**[Ms\\_wood@ou.edu](mailto:Ms_wood@ou.edu)**

I am honored to be considered for Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate. As a Professor of Entrepreneurship and the Michael F. Price Chair in Entrepreneurship, I bring a wealth of experience to this role. I joined OU in 2022 after a decade at Baylor University, where I served in various leadership roles, including Department Chair. Prior to becoming an academic, I spent fifteen years as an entrepreneur in the commercial printing industry. I currently serve as Associate Director of the Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Division in the Price College of Business and as a member of the Price College Faculty Standards Committee.

My research draws insights from a range of social science disciplines to examine how entrepreneurs ideate and evaluate new venture concepts. My research record underpins my professional service. Nationally, I serve as Representative-at-Large for our professional organization, the Academy of Management, and I served as Co-Director of the leading conference in our field, the 2022 Babson College Entrepreneurship Conference.

In terms of Faculty Senate involvement, I was elected to the FSEC for the 2024-2026 cycle. Although I am relatively new to OU and FSEC, I view this as an advantage, complemented by my extensive prior experience. I am enthusiastic about serving, committed to applying an entrepreneurial approach to problem-solving, and dedicated to upholding the principles of shared governance. I believe that shared governance is a vital university asset, though it can be easily undervalued. I will advocate for its strengthening, striving to ensure that faculty are recognized as essential contributors to shaping and achieving university objectives.

## **Secretary**

**Stephanie Burge**

**Associate Professor, of Sociology**

**Ph.D. Florida State University, at OU since 2006**

**Sburge@ou.edu**

I would be happy to serve as Secretary for the Faculty Senate if my faculty colleagues elect me to this position. I have been a faculty member at OU since 2006. During my time at OU, I have served in a variety of university and departmental service roles including Faculty Senate Secretary, Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Faculty Welfare Committee, Faculty Senate, Coordinator for FYE Gateway to Social Sciences, various university scholarship and awards committees, Committee A, Graduate Recruitment, and Graduate Committee. Most recently, I have been involved in Faculty Senate Executive Committee as Faculty Senate Secretary and past Chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee. During my tenure in these roles, we focused on increasing representation of non-regular faculty members and offered recommendations to the Provost's office for better integration of these faculty into shared governance. We also sought policy changes to the Board of Regents Handbook to facilitate non-regular faculty members' ability to run for Faculty Senate. Lastly, we advocated for faculty extended sick leave for FMLA qualifying events through partnership with OU Human Resources and Benefits, and that policy change took place in January 2024. During my service on the Faculty Executive Committee, I have participated in discussions concerning faculty recruitment and retention, university resources for faculty and students, evaluations and merit-pay proposals, university budget, and faculty shared governance. Through my involvement in university service roles, I have witnessed the importance of listening to a wide array of faculty voices, balancing sometimes competing interests and priorities, and working together to build consensus. I have also seen the value of having a solid working relationship between faculty and administration, as I believe faculty interests are best served when the lines of communication are open. If elected, this mindset will be beneficial as I continue to serve the faculty at large.