

University Assembly
December 9, 2008
Notes

Opening and Introductions (Don Betz)

Dr. Betz introduced new members of the University community:

Director of International Programs – Richard Carhart. He comes to us via Southeast Asia and Chicago. He was previously on a Fulbright Program. He will help us globalize our campus activities.

Vice President of University Relations – Mark Kinders. He comes to us from University of Wisconsin-River Falls where he worked for 23+ years. He knows politics and people and helped Western Wisconsin institutions get together on important issues.

Booklets were handed out to the audience: *Guide to a Strong & Healthy Oklahoma*. In 2009, the campus will be looking at ways to sustain and develop campus and community.

The River Hawks Daily – Will be coming out a few times a week in December and daily in January. It will attempt to communicate information. It will share pictures, ideas and practical information. Please give Nancy any information you want to share.

OU Urban Design-Campus Master Plan

Kim Cherry introduced Shawn Shaefer from the OU Urban Design Studio. He presented a plan that provides a 20-25 year vision for changes to our campus. This design plan took two semesters by six grad students from the Design Studio. They made several visits to Tahlequah and worked with a committee here. They made a 1 to 50 scale model as well as poster sized plans and a 3D presentation. All the documents can be found online at: <http://tulsagrad.ou.edu/studio/nsu/nsu.htm> or a copy of the plan is in the JVL Library.

Some features of the detailed plan were shared. The plan looked at traffic, drainage, historic buildings, demolition, new buildings, better flow, and open space. Some specific ideas presented included a Cherokee Parkway that would add green space from the West side of campus around to Goingsnake. The whole plan includes a route that would run from Trimble to Bluff. There is also a plan to add an East/West street from Crafton to York north of the Library. There were ideas to slow traffic on Grand, including a turn around and a light on the North end. Plans also include shuttle routes and a bicycle presence.

Other plans include more interior open space on campus, eliminating internal parking areas. Most parking would be on the west side of campus. Buildings were indicated for historic preservation, demolition, renovation and addition.

Demolition: Rec Center, 3 dormitories, warehouse and physical plant

Renovation: Fine Arts, Haskell, Administration, etc.

Bath House – Could become the campus hub, with café space.

New buildings: Classroom south of Science, add to Net Building.

New ideas: A hospitality/management building with a hotel at the south end of campus., New student housing around Leoser. Convocation Center for large events (3 possible locations); A new Rec center, Move NCAA sports to the north near the stadium. There are many more details available in the plan. The OU group was commended for such an excellent study and proposal.

Update on Capital Projects

Kim Cherry provided an update. Enrollment management is in its final stages. It should be finished by March. There have been contractor issues, steel issues and a spring in the parking lot. Education building is ready for classes in the Spring. Business & Technology faculty are packing to move to Haskell. This should be a one year project including the roof, windows, HVAC, ADA and masonry. It will cost \$3 million and no interior changes will be seen. Fine Arts is the next building. In January, they should have decisions about what will be done to the building. In Broken arrow, the food court should finish by February. There has been a delay with the auditorium. In Muskogee, two rooms with water problems are being renovated. There was a question about Haskell Hall. They now have signed a contract to finish the inside of the windows and put in a fire escape.

403(b) Annuity Issues

Kim Cherry addressed the 403(b) issue. There are changes to the voluntary annuities due to IRS rule changes. The University will be responsible for employee accounts starting January 1, 2009. The RUSO schools with a few others contracted with Gallagher Benefit Services to initiate a bidding process to select a provider for the new annuity services. A large committee worked on this issue. From our institution, Martha Albin, Sue Catron, John Yeutter, Kirby Cundiff, Rick Manes and Christi Landsaw participated. Lincoln Financial Services was selected. They offer a broad spectrum of vehicles. Beside the basic offerings, there is an investment window to some vendors for additional fund choices. Thursday, Dec. 11th, Eric Dyson from Gallagher Benefit Services will be here to explain the process that was used to choose the vendor. The last week of January, Lincoln will be here to sign up for funds for deposits. The second week in February, Lincoln will again be here to talk with employees about older accounts.

For older investment accounts (prior to 1/1/2009), there may be charges or fees for moving money. No one has to move funds. The new plan will be open to part-time employees and contains many 4 and 5 star funds. There will be an annual evaluation of performance and Lincoln will provide advisement to employees. The December check is the last deposit to current companies.

Comments and Closing

Dr. Betz encouraged everyone to go to the Athletic Director open forums. This person will be a spokesperson for the University and will be a friend and fund raiser for us.

December 23rd stipends will be available.

There will be many photos around campus for the Centennial. Vickie Sheffler in University Archives has helped to provide this historic look at campus. The Administration Building will have 20 photos and other buildings will have related photos.

Dr. Betz reminded us that “We create a new legacy every day” He recently met with the first year Optometry students. We have a legacy in former students, but current students will be that legacy some day. He compared our mission to Disney University where everyone is part of the motivation and we are all “the cast of the NSU experience.” We will need to raise a lot of money and everyone has a part.

Linda West
Faculty Council
Secretary/Treasurer