

**Northeastern State University**  
**University Assembly**  
**March 31, 2009**  
**Notes**

Opening – Don Betz

The President welcomed everyone from the new BA auditorium via ITV. This is the first program in the new auditorium. He offered some updates. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Inauguration marks the start of our Charting the Second Century. Some values that will help us chart the next century are serving our customers, collaboration, and competition. BA has thanked the community for partnering with us. The completion of the auditorium and food court marks the completion of Phase I 80 acre plan.

Kim Cherry

**Conflict of Interest Policy.** The policy has been written and revised with the help of Faculty Council. It applies to all employees. It has been given to the President's Council.

**Capital Project Update.** BA – The food court should be finished by the end of the semester. Enrollment Management has had to wait, but may have a May move in date. Business & Technology has run into several problems including more asbestos and a basement with a running spring. This has been an overrun of costs. Fine Arts is waiting to see how much of the 2005 Capital Bond money is available for the last project. Centennial Plaza, phase 2 parking area should finish in May. Phase 3 will add a sign and create an entry to campus. There could possibly be a water feature.

**Budget Update.** Oklahoma will have shortfalls for next year. There is a budget meeting Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> with forms and details for account sponsors. There will be a 1 ½% reduction for all budgets.

**Copier/Print Management Program.** Every PC and printer on campus will be linked to a monitoring program that will make suggestions about where to print documents. Installation of the monitoring program will be done building by building and start with the highest usage area – Business & Technology. Copiers, PCs, desktop printers and networked printers will all be added to the network so everyone could print to the best printer for their project.

**Retiree Health Insurance.** For many years, a benefit to retired employees has been that the University pays employee health insurance until age 65. After July 1, new hires will not receive this benefit.

**Making Work Pay.** Next month employees should see an increase in their take home pay due to the “making work pay” tax credit. It should be \$47 for single and

\$67 for married according to the selection made on each W2. There will be an email to explain the tax credit.

Mark Kinders

**Legislative Update.** He has had over 60 meetings in Oklahoma City. He has presented projects concerning initiatives in the health sciences, STEM teaching and a graduate health care program. Legislators understand that there will be a health care crisis by 2012 and our programs can help with staffing. We are moving forward with an Allied Health Care program in Muskogee.

**Building Renovations.** Residence Halls are in the works. He and the Deans have been evaluating what ARRA will mean to Oklahoma. Don't believe anything you read about the issue. The act requires the state to fund higher education at 2006 levels with state funds in order to receive stimulus money.

ASCUE (?) meeting in DC. Most funds for education will come from the Dept. of Education. Deans have listed projects totaling 29 million dollars with 49 projects. We will also have projects that collaborate with other campuses and six allied health projects.

**Branding.** The team hired by NSU, Dan Wyocheck, etc. are in their discovery phase. There will be surveys by the end of April. There will also be qualitative surveys and they will go through the web site. They will deliver a communications plan and a way to tell our story.

Laura Boren

There will be a dialog on becoming a tobacco free campus. They will be gathering information. Coming up will be the 1,000 mile heart walk. The Big Event this year saw 500 students in Tahlequah volunteer. Half the jobs were completed on Saturday and the other jobs will be completed soon as weather permits. The event was planned by our two Herb Rozell students. There will be a Diversity Week coming up. Also, student government elections and family week are coming soon. Several staff have presented at national conferences.

Jeff Konya

**Game Plan for Success.** This was an extensive presentation of a new mission statement and plans for Athletics.

Some goals/areas covered are:

Academic graduation rate will be 75%

Performance is measured by who you play, we will add NCAA division I teams to our schedule.

Facilities will be upgraded.

Fundraising – emphasis will partner with University Relations

Personnel – will be evaluated

Public Relations and Marketing – Athletics will change the name to Northeastern State or Northeastern State (OK)

Game Day Atmosphere – Attract a 50 mile radius, charge for all events and charge those who aren't paying now

Service learning for student athletes

Dalton Bigbee

### **Higher Learning Commission**

NCA regional accreditation is being planned. The leadership team is in place. The visit will be spring of 2012 or fall 2011. Eight subcommittees will explore the five criteria.

**Inauguration Update.** Plans are in place for May 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm. Classes will be canceled at noon and faculty should attend in full regalia.

Paul Westbrook

Reported on activities for the Inaugural. There will be three panel discussions, one at each campus. April 27 BA on the Global Economy. April 28 on Health Care in Eastern Oklahoma. April 29, 7pm in Tahlequah on Sustainability in Eastern Oklahoma.

Don Betz

### **Comments and Closing**

The University Planning Group is at work. There will be updates to the mission and values. The Symposium on the American Indian starts April 15. He notes three points of success:

1. Dr. Ed Huckaby is President elect of the National Association of Branch Campuses and will host their meeting in 2010.
2. The DaVinci Institute has honored two of our scholars, Dr. Amy Aldridge Sanford and Shelly Lemmons.
3. In the April issue of OK Magazine, Dr. Alyson Watson was honored as one of the top 40 under 40 in Oklahoma.

Dr. Betz is working with John Gyllin on new awards the will recognize those who "Model the Way". Two faculty and two staff will be honored every fall.