OS Speaker, Kathy Peverly, opened the meeting at 11:00 a.m. and asked Pat Bahr to request approval of the last meeting’s minutes. Pat asked for a motion to approve the April 20th OS meeting minutes that had been posted on the OS blog. A motion to approve the April meeting minutes was made by Nikki Nunes, seconded by Roberta Thompson and unanimously approved.

Kathy Peverly asked for the Treasurer’s report. Treasurer Debbie Cole stated that there was $2,074.86 in the general fund.

Kathy asked for department updates, and shout outs. She congratulated Ellen Braley on having received the Distinguished Operating Staff Service Award, just prior to the meeting. Congratulations to nominees Kara Barker, Mark Evans, and Kathy Peverly as well!

**Committee reports**

Kathy Peverly mentioned that the reports for committees would be posted on the blog, with the minutes. Roberta Thompson stated that the Parking Committee had been disbanded. This led to the planned discussion and suggestion to delay the vote for OS committee members due to ongoing changes resulting from the restructuring of PSU. Karen Shaffner said that about 80% of the OS staff responded to the survey requesting nominees for OS committees. Kathy said we could wait until July to vote. At that time we can add/remove nominees and create a new ballot. PATs have suspended their vote. One OS member mentioned that their department will be blended, job duties will have to change and the amount of time one may have thought they had to serve on a committee may be non-existent. There was concern that with RIFs, remaining staff may be too busy to serve on a committee. There have been conversations about PATs and OS joining into one group as the committees are the same for the most part. PATs, Terri Potter and Frank Cocchiarella, have been reviewing PAT governance. With faculty unionization and about 75-88 staff leaving due to SIPs or RIFs, along with the upcoming federal law changing exempt employee status, it may be well that the constituencies combine to have a larger voice. One member voiced concern about combining OS and PAT scholarship committees and possibly losing distinction between the various scholarships. Kit Otto clarified that there would be a process where scholarships would not be ‘merged’ though some could be terminated, MOUs for existing scholarships could be revised and new scholarships could be initiated. Another member mentioned that a merged PAT-OS group could just be considered as exempt and non-exempt employees. A suggestion was made to partially combine the groups and/or committees or just reduce the number of meetings. Kathy asked that OS members send suggestions to her kkpeverly@plymouth.edu and Speaker-Elect Chris Chiocca ckchiocca@plymouth.edu.

Kathy stated that the next OS Senate meeting will be held on **June 8th from 12:30-1:30 p.m.** to include Ice Cream and Fruit Bar.

It was decided to hold a vote on whether to suspend voting for OS Committee members. All present were in favor of suspending the vote to a future date, to be announced, pending details from the Nominating Committee. Karen Schaffner said that nominations would still be collected through May 13th.

Kathy mentioned an email from Gary McCool indicating that Keene State has multiple unions. Roberta Thompson said that we can certainly entertain that idea and that though she won’t be here, she thought OS should consider union dues, possibility of strikes and not being paid during that time. She also reminded OS of President Birx’s comment during the last Town Hall where we don’t want to be divided and that it would make it difficult to move forward. Chris Chiocca stated that
he has never been in a union and that he thinks the benefits at PSU are the best, exceeding union jobs. He said he would prefer PATs and OS join together to serve the same end goals.

Kathy said that the Department of Labor will be revising the laws regarding exempt status. This could impact some OS and PATs where some PATs might become OS or need to have a salary increase to remain a PAT (exempt employee). There was a concern that by joining the OS and PATs, the OS could be ‘swallowed up’/not represented. A response was that the By-laws could be rewritten for equal representation. Kit Otto spoke about the history of PSU where 50 years ago there were faculty members who performed all the work (no PATs or OS), ran the institution, started the committees and wrote the original bylaws which added one PAT and one OS member as representatives. A member stated that the committees are ‘faculty heavy’. Linda O’Donnell asked for someone to find out who disbanded the parking committee.

PBLG Observer – Lu Ann Humphries submitted her report and stated that PBLG will be disbanded as it currently stands. There will be a half day retreat to re-imagine and rename PBLG, and others will be given the opportunity to join.

Faculty Observer – Kit Otto reported that the faculty meeting was shortened due to the Distinguished Teaching Awards Ceremony. There were no questions despite the fact that the President’s Monthly report outlined a revised SIP. Kit mentioned that Burrett McBee quoted King Lear as a reminder to all that the relevance of the Humanities is always questioned when there is change. Congratulations to Burrett McBee, English, Distinguished Teaching Lecturer, Michael Morgan, Educational Leadership, Learning and Curriculum, Distinguished Graduate Teacher, and Sam Brickley, College of Business Administration, Distinguished Undergraduate Teacher.

50:50 Winner was Kara Barker $8.50.

Speaker Kathy Peverly thanked all and the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Pat Bahr

ATTACHMENT

ByLaws Committee – Linda O’Donnell and Sharon Zec both submitted that there was nothing to report.

President’s Commission on Diversity - Laurie Reed submitted that there was nothing to report.

Honorary Degrees and Awards – Laurie Reed submitted that there was nothing to report.

Welcoming Committee – Babs LaJeunesse submitted that there was one new hire: Joseph Laurendeau, BSW 2nd shift who started April 25.

PBLG – OS Representative Lu Ann Humphries submitted the following report on their May 5, 2016 meeting:

Joyce Larsen

The meeting began at 8:05, with Joyce Larsen serving as Chair. She announced that the purpose of the meeting was to determine the future of the PBLG, which, for various reasons, has not been operating as it was intended (Planning, Budgeting and Leadership). She then turned it over to President Birx for his comments.

President Birx

President Birx spoke about the new reality of the University, which will likely include a student discount rate between 28-30%, but also a three year pledge of monetary support from the Systems Office, as we develop a plan to work
smarter and more efficiently. He suggested the possibility of re-inventing the PBLG to form a larger group (with smaller sub-groups) to generate a plan to consolidate capabilities and to work with the administration in design and implementation of our new cluster structure. The desired result would be to eliminate future SIPS and RIFS, and create an environment of positive growth for the University.

The meeting was then turned over to the group for discussion.

Comments from the group

- “Re-imagining” the group would give it a new, much-needed purpose.
- Would serve as a catalyst for groups to get together to start conversations and share ideas.
- Would transform to more of a “thinking” group that would work on structural reorganization, consolidation, and managing resources.
- The group should be larger, but not too big to work effectively.
- Would need to establish a new mission for the group.

Conclusion

The conclusion was that the PBLG, as it now stands, should be disbanded. Plans will be made for a final half-day group retreat to discuss preparations for re-imagining and re-naming the PBLG. Representatives who have been recently nominated to PBLG (i.e., PAT, OS, Faculty, etc.) will be given the opportunity to review the reorganization plan prior to making the decision to serve as a representative, and other members of those groups should be given the opportunity to join.

Faculty Meeting Observer, Kit Otto submitted the following notes on their May 4, 2016 meeting:

The meeting agenda consisted of four reports and no business requiring a vote. The only report that drew comments and questions was the executive summary of the General Education Review Task Force (GERTF). This group had been charged with reviewing the content and structure of PSU’s current General Education program and recommending changes. One faculty member took issue with language in the document that suggested that PSU had voted to move unilaterally to a four-credit curriculum. (The vote that passed last month would allow some departments or programs to move toward the four-credit model--without requiring every program to do so.)

The meeting adjourned shortly after 4 PM and was followed by the announcements of this year’s Distinguished Teachers. Congratulations are due to Burrett McBee, English, Distinguished Teaching Lecturer, Michael Morgan, Educational Leadership, Learning and Curriculum, Distinguished Graduate Teacher, and Sam Brickley, College of Business Administration, Distinguished Undergraduate Teacher.