

Oakland University Senate Minutes

March 16, 2017

Members present: Aloï, Andrews, Arnold, Ball, Barry, Battistuzzi, Battles, Baxa, Berven, D., Berven, K., Cheng, Clark, Corcoran, Corso, Daniel, Didion, Dulio, Edrisinha, Eis, Epstein, Folberg, Giblin, Goldberg, Golinski, Grimm, Groomes, Guessous, Hranchook, Keller, Knox, Kubicek, Latcha, Lee, Leibert, Lentini, Long, Margerum-Leys, Miller, Miree-Coppin, Parsons, Polis, Reger, Roth, Roumani, Schartman, Thomas, Thompson, Weiter

Members absent: Awbrey, Baxa, Chamra, Dallo, Debnath, Dereski, Edwards, Estes, Gooren, Hansen, Howell, Mathieson, Mazzeo, Megee, Rigstad, Townsend, Tracy, Wells, Williams

Provost Lentini called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M.

Summary of Information and Action Items

INFORMATION ITEMS

Bullying Policy

Student Misconduct Policy

Qualified Faculty and Higher Learning Commission Update

New Certificate Program: Business Analytics in SBA Master of Information

Technology Management

Provost's Updates

OLD BUSINESS

Motion approved to recommend a BA in Public Relations and Strategic Communication in the CAS

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to recommend approval for the Bachelor of Music in Piano Pedagogy and Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy in the CAS

Motion to recommend approval for the BA in Dance Education and the BFA in Dance Education and Performance in the CAS

Motion approved to endorse the proposal to create a School of Music, Theatre and Dance within the CAS

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

Provost Lentini introduced Joi Cunningham (Assistant Vice President for Academic Human Resources) who was present to talk about three of the information items.

1) **Bullying Policy:** Ms. Cunningham explained that the new Bullying Policy went into effect in December. To provide background, she said that sessions on bullying at the Diversity Conference had led to conversations on the topic of bullying. She said that the policy has been years in the making and was prepared by a cross-functional team of people. She summarized the policy, and indicated that early intervention is the best approach to addressing the problem of bullying.

2) **Student Sexual Misconduct Policy:** Ms. Cunningham said that the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy is guided by the Title IX 1972 protecting civil rights. She quoted statistics on sexual misconduct on college

campuses, and emphasized the need for the updated policy. She noted that in tandem with the update on the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy, the Student Code of Conduct was updated as well. She explained the key components and the definitions—for example, with respect to sexual misconduct, what is consent, what is not consent, have to be clarified in a policy. She said that every responsible employee must report sexual misconduct to the Title IX coordinator as soon as they know about it. And to leave no doubt what the phrase ‘every responsible employee’ means, she clarified that this means every employee of the university must report information related to student sexual misconduct to the coordinator. Presently, that person is Nancy Schmitz (Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students) who is the Interim coordinator of Title IX until the Diversity and Inclusion position is filled. John Corso asked whether this policy will apply to a person because of LGBT status, and Ms. Cunningham replied that it would do so.

3) Qualified Faculty and Higher Learning Commission Update: Ms. Cunningham declared that her office is looking for guidance on the HLC policy which basically needs to show that Oakland University has policies to prove that students are being taught by experts on the topics that they study. She explained that this means that faculty members must be credentialed for the courses they teach. In general, faculty members teaching classes are supposed to have a level higher of education than their students, and credentials in the area in which they teach. However, if they do not specifically have a degree in the field they are teaching, there will be the tested experience program in which faculty members can prove in other ways besides their degrees that they have the expertise to teach in their field. Mr. Grimm expressed concern about how this would affect adjunct faculty and whether they would have to worry about having to leave their jobs, and he urged Ms. Cunningham to get good answers from the HLC so adjunct faculty would be assured that the goal is not to get rid of faculty. Mr. Corso said that in AAH, MTD and Cinema, they have different terminal degrees such as the MFA, and he said this needs to be addressed. Mr. Berven asked about the problem of TAs who do not have Master’s degrees teaching undergraduate courses. Ms. Cunningham replied that these were good questions that needed to be answered and she would be looking into the matters. She added that she would be going to a conference on the subject of qualified faculty and the HLC, and so she would learn more. Provost Lentini underscored that there will be flexibility in the evolving policy.

New Certificate Program: Mr. Lentini informed the Senate that there is a new certificate program that has been approved by the Graduate Council which is Business Analytics in the Master of Information Technology Program Management program in the School of Business Administration.

Provost’s Updates:

- Mr. Lentini encouraged Senate members to attend the upcoming Varner Vitality Lecture on April 13 at which the invited speaker will be Doris Kearns Goodwin, a Pulitzer Prize winning historian who has written numerous books on former presidents, including Theodore Roosevelt, William Taft and Abraham Lincoln, and whose talk will be “How Did We Get Here: The First Hundred Days of an Unprecedented Presidency”. The lecture will be held at 7:00 in the Athletic Center O’Rena.
- Mr. Lentini expressed appreciation for the Authors at Oakland event, for which there were 300 submissions.
- He reminded Senators about the Academic Affairs Update which would be taking place soon.
- He also congratulated the basketball team for a great year.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of February 16, 2017

The minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2017, were approved.

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. Motion from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction to recommend approval for a Bachelor of Arts Major in Public Relations and Strategic Communication in the College of Arts and Sciences

***MOVED** that the Senate recommend to the President and Board of Trustees approval of the Bachelor of Arts Major in Public Relations and Strategic Communication in the College of Arts and Sciences.*

The motion was approved unanimously.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction to recommend approval for a Bachelor of Music in Piano Pedagogy and the Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy in the College of Arts and Sciences

***MOVED** that the Senate recommend to the President and Board of Trustees approval of the Bachelor of Music in Piano Pedagogy and the Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance in the CAS (Mr. Andrews, Ms. Daniel)*

Jackie Wiggins (Chair, MTD) was present to explain that both of these degrees have the goal for students to have a career with their music degrees, and not just performance. She said it is hoped that these options will attract new students and serve present students better for their future lives. She noted that there would be no additional faculty or space needed, and no significant funding except for part-time faculty and minimal library expenses. She summarized the courses that students would take in piano pedagogy, and predicted that the degree in Performance and Pedagogy will be the most popular of the two programs. She remarked that Oakland University will be the first school in Michigan to offer this degree at the undergraduate level.

2. Motion from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction to recommend approval for a Bachelor of Arts in Dance Education and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Education and Performance in the College of Arts and Sciences

***MOVED** that the Senate recommend to the President and the Board of Trustees approval of the Bachelor of Arts in Dance Education and the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Education and Performance in the CAS (Ms. Hranchook, Mr. Andrews)*

Ms. Wiggins said that the rationale for these degrees was similar to the preceding ones, and she noted that until now, MTD has offered a teaching minor endorsement for dancers. The present program will make it possible for these students to get jobs teaching in the schools, and she noted that it is amazing how many schools contact MTD because of their need for dance teachers for which the dance students would not presently be qualified but for which they can now pursue a degree so as to be qualified. She explained that the difference between the BA and the BFA is the level of dance. She said that no additional space, faculty or funding would be needed. She summarized the courses the students would take, and noted that students would get trained to teach dance. She said that with one of these degrees, students will be able to get a job, open a studio, and have a dance career outside of performance.

3. Motion from the Assembly of the College of Arts and Sciences to change the name of the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance to the School of Music, Theatre and Dance

***MOVED** that the Senate endorse the proposal to create a School of Music, Theatre and Dance within the College of Arts and Sciences (Ms. Daniel, Ms. Eis)*

Dean Corcoran came forward to address the Senate about the move to change the name of the Department of MTD to the School of MTD. He thanked everyone involved, including the CAS Executive Committee, the CAS Assembly, the Senate Steering Committee and others, for their input that went into making the present proposal which was greatly improved by all of the conversations. He provided a history of the idea of the name change, which goes all the way back to 1989. He expressed his gratitude to the commitment and energy of Jackie Wiggins to make it happen, observing that she had been talking to everyone on campus about it for a very long time. He extended his great appreciation to her for her tireless work, and observed that it was all done for the benefit to the students and the ability to recruit in ways that will allow MTD to be more like Athletics as far as their recruitment procedures are concerned. Being a School will heighten outside awareness of the unit and increase their capacity to enroll the best and brightest students in performing arts. He said that the new structure of the unit will provide a more appropriate governance process and enable each of the three disciplines of Music, Theatre and Dance to operate as separate departments. He showed how it would work, with a Director/Associate Dean at the head of the School, aided by an Associate Director, and three Department chairs for Music, Theatre and Dance. He noted that in 2011, the CAS Assembly had voted for the name change, but it is not until now that it is going forward. He explained that the term 'Department' does not make sense for this unit any longer. He said that there is no other unit at OU that has the scale of production that MTD has, where they do an average of 150 shows per year. He said that prospective students hear the word 'department' and that is a turn-off which makes recruiting difficult. He said the name change will bring in better faculty, better students and improve the standing of MTD in OU's peer group. He said the name change will be a way to achieve visibility and prominence. He added that the budget will be minimal, basically less than one salary of an Assistant Professor. Dean Folberg came forward to express great enthusiasm and unqualified support by the School of Medicine for this name change, and he said that he was certain that this move would enhance the stature of the College of Arts and Sciences overall.

Dean Folberg moved to move ahead without a second reading (Folberg, Margerum-Leys). This motion was approved, with one abstention (Mr. Grimm).

Mr. Latcha pointed out that his son had graduated from the MTD program and so he was well aware of the difficulties the Department of MTD has faced by being a department instead of a School. He said he thinks the name change is a clever way to move towards incorporating into a new structure and he expressed his whole-hearted approval for the motion. Mr. Margerum-Leys also expressed his strong approval, saying that it will add to the gravitas of their Music Education program as well.

The motion passed unanimously. Senators expressed their congratulations to Jackie Wiggins with a hearty round of applause.

E. ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing for Good and Welfare, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (secretary)