

Oakland University Senate Minutes

March 20, 2014

Members present: Anderson, Andrews, Awbrey, Berven, D., Berven, K., Binkley, Cheng, Corso, Debnath, Doman, Dulo, Dvir, Estes, Folberg, Grimm, Grossman, Howell, Landolt, Latcha, Lee, Lentini, Lim, Maxfield, Mazzeo, McEneaney, Meehan, Miller, Mitchell, Pfeiffer, Ragheb, Reger, Rigstad, Schartman, Schuiling, Shablin, Switzer, Thompson, Tiegs, Wells, Wharton, Williams, Wood, Wren

Members absent: Barber, Chamra, Corcoran, Dereski, Goldberg, Groomes, Hankin, Hightower, Johnson, Knox, Licker, Long, Pelfrey, Singhal, Tracy, Penprase, Polis

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

Summary of Actions

Information Item

Arts@OU Council

Old Business

Motion from UCUI and Graduate Council to approve a revised credit hour policy

Motion from the Steering Committee to approve a document intended to provide guidance to the community on items requiring Senate Actions

INFORMATION ITEM

Arts@OU: Ms. Lim was present to explain that the Arts@OU Council is a new group formed late in 2013, originally gathered by Phil Snyder as an ad hoc committee. Ms. Lim said that data had shown that the public thinks of the arts at OU as being one of its strengths. With that in mind, the Ad hoc committee met to do an inventory of arts-related projects and events on the campus. The committee decided that it would be good to form an Arts Council, which they have done, and they now have a charge which can be read online. Arts@OU will be a way to market arts-related projects and events. Ms. Lim indicated that this group would like to be inclusive, and so for those interested in participating, they should contact Snyer@oakalnd.edu.

Provost's Updates

- Provost Lentini offered his congratulations to OU's Mark Simon, Professor of Management who was one of three educators honored with the 2014 Distinguished Professor of the Year Award from the President's Council of the State of Michigan.
- Mr. Lentini informed Senate members that after numerous meetings throughout the year, a consensus has been arrived at concerning what to do with Graduate Education and there will be further information about the relationship between Graduate Research and Graduate Education in the near future.

- Concerning the Presidential Search, Mr. Lentini announced that the committee has set April 2 at 12:00 and April 3 at 3:00 in the Gold Room of the OC as meeting times for input from the community.
- Mr. Lentini informed the Senate that the President's office has set the date for the kick-off meeting for the Strategic Planning Committee for March 26.
- The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Conference will be coming up on April 1. This conference is a follow-up resulting from the climate survey from last year.
- Mr. Lentini encouraged Senate members to attend several upcoming events, including the Varner Vitality Lecture featuring Daniel Levitin who will present his talk "This is Your Brain On Music", on April 7 at 7:00 P.M. in the Meadowbrook Theatre; the Founder's Day Event on April 9; and also, the Oakland University and University of Windsor Teaching and Learning Conference which will take place at OU on May 14-15.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of February 20, 2014

The February 20, 2014 minutes were approved with two corrections. Mr. Young's first name is John. Senate member Kathy Pfeiffer was present at the February meeting and her name should be added to the list of members present at that meeting. (Motion by Latcha)

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Motion from UCUI and Graduate council to approve a revised credit hour policy

MOVED that the Senate adopt the revised credit hour policy recommended by UCUI and Graduate Council

The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Motion from the Steering Committee to approve a document intended to provide guidance to the community on items requiring Senate action

MOVED that the Senate adopt the Guidelines for Senate Action Items recommended by the Steering Committee

Mr. Shablin observed that at the February meeting of the Senate, Scott Crabill had raised some concerns that were also of concern to Mr. Shablin. Mr. Shablin had met with his staff and he said that his office is interested in clarification about the second bullet point of the Guidelines document involving external agreements that have university-wide implications because of the great number of students affected by transfer students to whom the agreements apply, and he was concerned about the administrative angle. He proposed a friendly amendment to the motion, to eliminate the phrase "have university-wide implications, e.g., agreements relating to the transfer of credits" in the second bullet point of the

Guidelines, and to change the language so that it would say “Matters involving external agreements that do not adhere to University academic policy” instead of “Matters involving external agreements that have university-wide implications, e.g., agreements relating to the transfer of credits.” He also proposed that in the second half of the document, the third bullet point should be changed to read “New credit certificates from already approved graduate and undergraduate programs”. Mr. Dulio seconded the amendment.

Ms. Miller then asked Mr. Shablin how often the university changes transfer agreements. Mr. Shablin replied that thousands of transfers are reviewed every year. Ms. Miller also inquired about the bullet point involving certificates, and said it is important to distinguish that it refers to credit certificates and not to continuing education certificates. Mr. Andrews said that the sentence that Mr. Shablin was concerned about was formulated in the context of what OU participated in last December with the Michigan Transfer Agreement, and clarified that having done so, the Registrar will go ahead and participate in that agreement. Mr. Andrews added that the sentence was intended for the policy level, not the implementation level, and he was concerned about the phrasing of the proposed amendment which was using a negative context. He said that the Guidelines are not designed to be part of the procedures for deciding transfer credits but rather are intended to be at the policy level. Mr. Lentini asked how Mr. Shablin’s proposed language could be phrased in a positive manner, and Mr. Andrews added that wording should be found that is positive because the Guidelines are designed to be flexible and a positive language would be helpful. Mr. Lentini clarified that the Steering Committee and the Provost have to decide which are Information Items and which are Action Items on the Senate agenda, and the Guidelines document is intended not to bog down operations but rather make sure that those matters that will eventually go to the Board of Trustees down the road should be known by the Senate, and he expressed his desire to route these items appropriately. Mr. Meehan suggested getting rid of the example in the second bullet point, which would then make the statement go right to the heart of the matter, and by doing this, it makes it possible for the Steering Committee to decide if something should be an information item—that is, take out everything after the ‘e.g.’ in the second bullet point of the Guidelines. Mr. Andrews asked for unanimous consent that the certificate part of the Guidelines would refer to credit certificates. There was unanimous consent.

The friendly amendment motion was then voted on, and it failed. Subsequently Mr. Meehan moved that that under the second bullet point of the Guidelines, everything after the ‘e.g.’ would be struck, so that the second bullet point would read “Matters involving external agreements that have university-wide implications.” (seconded by Mr. Andrews) The amendment passed.

Then the amended motion was voted on, and it passed unanimously.

C. GOOD AND WELFARE

- Ms. Wren said that work is being done on GRASP Awareness and Suicide Prevention, and she encouraged everyone to take the second part of the survey and to talk about the topic among colleagues and students.
- Mr. Shablin reminded Senate members that registration for the upcoming semesters begins on March 24.

- Ms. Piskulich said that the call for Senate Committees has gone out, and there is a link on the Senate home page to assist faculty members to volunteer for a Senate committee.
- Mark Rigstad encouraged Senate members to attend the upcoming Burke Lecture which would be taking place on April 10 at 7:00 P.M. at Temple Israel. The guest speaker will be Michael Walzer, and the title of the talk is “Ideas of Peace in the Hebrew Bible”. Mr. Rigstad said that next year’s guest speaker for the Burke Lecture will be Amartya Sen, Professor of Economics and Philosophy at Harvard University.
- Ms. Reger encouraged the Provost to provide another update about the IRS tax fraud situation. Mr. Lentini said that he would find out from President Youngblood where things stand at this point.
- Mr. Lentini reminded Senate members that there will be a Senate meeting in April on the 17th.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (secretary)