

**College of Arts and Sciences
Assembly Meeting
January 18, 2011, 3:30 P.M.
Oakland Center, Gold Room C**

Members present: *Berven, D., Berven, K., Dvir, Eis, Giberson, Graves, Grossman, Hay, Jumel, LaRock, Lombardo, Martin, Nielsen, Ogunyemi, Sanders, Seymour, Sheridan, Trumbore, Whitehead, Williams, Wood, Wright*

Members absent: *Elder, Hawkins, Howell, Kerrigan, Meehan, Nugent, Schweitzer, Spencer-Wood*

Ex-officio present: *Stewart, Sudol*

Ex-officio absent: *Moore*

Guests present: *Claude Baillargeon, Art Bull, Anne Hitt*

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Dean Sudol.

2. Approval of Minutes, Meeting of November 16, 2010

Mr. Grossman requested a change to the minutes of November 16, 2010. In the discussion of the resolution involving the name change of the department of Music, Theatre and Dance, the minutes should have said “the resolution as presented could be passed now by a two-thirds majority. If passed with only a simple majority, then it would come back for a second reading at a subsequent Assembly meeting.” With this change, the minutes were approved (motion by Eis, second by Giberson).

**3. Election to the Executive Committee for Social Sciences for the Winter 2011 term
(to replace Richard Stamps)**

Claude Baillargeon (Elections Committee) conducted the election to replace Richard Stamps on the Executive Committee. Suzanne Spencer-Wood was elected.

4. Proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science, *first reading*

Arik Dvir (Chair, Biology) introduced his colleagues, Keith Berven (Biology) and Anne Hitt (Biology), and opened the discussion by inviting questions from Assembly members concerning the proposal for a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science.

Ms. Eis asked if there had been a response from Art Bull (Chemistry) to the responses provided by the proposal committee to the letter by Mr. Bull. Mr. Bull said that he stands by what he wrote. He said there would be a zero sum gain for faculty resources. He finds it unreasonable for the Biology department to get four faculty members in these times from the point of view of resources.

Ms. Eis asked about the projected number of students (page 8 of the proposal). Mr. Dvir responded that he does not have a crystal ball, and it is hard to predict exactly how many students will be interested in this program. He said that there had been considerable

growth in his department during the last four years—it had gone from 300 to 800 majors, and the growth is continuing. He said that it is time to acknowledge a transition in the world, and so the Biology Department has been asking what they can do better for their students. For the students who are in pre-med, the most popular major is Biology. There has been a lot of discussion about raising the bar. The Biomedical Science major aims high and is not for the average student. It is designed to attract very good students who might not come to Oakland University otherwise. Mr. Dvir indicated that he understood the concerns that Mr. Bull has as chair of the Chemistry Department and coordinator of the Biochemistry major, but Mr. Dvir said that it is time to offer something new. The Bio-Engineering program that started up three years ago could have taken majors away from Biology, but that was no reason not to start it. This new program will be good for Oakland University, just as the Bio-Engineering program is. As for faculty resources, he said that everyone is under pressure these days to do more for less. Four faculty lines are needed over four years for this proposal, but they are positions that are needed anyway.

Mr. Sudol addressed the issue of the faculty lines. He said that positions are filled by putting forward a good argument which goes to the Provost. He said that every department in the CAS is understaffed, but Biology is more understaffed than others. The positions they are asking for in their proposal are positions they need anyway—one each year for four years—and they need a start-up package. The scientists are expected to get grants, which go into cost recovery, and those loosen up the amount of money that they need. All new programs come from base fund allocations from the Provost. But with new programs, there is a “halo” effect, and it is easier for the dean to argue for the positions associated with new programs. It is a way of pushing the programs ahead. He hoped that this helped to address some of Mr. Bull’s concerns.

Mr. Bull said that it only reinforced his concerns. He pointed out that Chemistry has had growth, but loss of faculty positions (18 to 15). There is a pool of positions, and the Biology proposal may interfere with other positions.

Mr. Trumbore observed that hires are driven not just by numbers of students, but by expertise. So how do we make that call, not knowing how many students there will be in the program? Will this program cannibalize other programs? What happens if the Biology department does not get the positions?

Mr. Dvir said that then there is a problem. If the BOT approves the proposal, then he expects to get the positions. There is a level of commitment that is needed. It is difficult these days, but in the last five years, there has been a concentration of students that stacks up to the other universities in Michigan, and he needs to keep the momentum going.

Mr. Berven commented on the concern about the new courses and the faculty who will teach them. He said that the new courses specifically address human biology and disease in the context of the traditional biological discipline, such as genetics or biochemistry. He said that the faculty members teaching these courses can teach other core courses as well.

Mr. Dvir made a motion to waive the second reading of the proposal. Mr. Berven seconded the motion.

Ms. Jumel asked why the proposal suggested on the sample four-year course schedule for students in the program that the students should take Spanish. She said that she thought French is just as important as Spanish. Ms. Hitt said that the reason they said Spanish was the number of people who speak Spanish in the United States is significant,

and so it is a useful language for doctors. Ms. Jumel pointed out that French is also useful, and would prepare doctors who donate their services to programs such as the Doctors Without Borders in which they often go to French-speaking countries around the world. Ms. Eis agreed that when you recommend certain courses to students, it has an impact on all curriculums in the General Education program. The Department of Art and Art History has also been affected by similar course recommendations.

The members of the Assembly voted unanimously to waive the second reading. Following further discussion, members voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

5. College update

- ***Oakland Symphony:*** Dean Sudol provided an update on the Oakland Symphony. They performed a concert and will have another one soon. The official inauguration of the orchestra will be on Wednesday, March 16, at the Ford Performing Arts Center in Dearborn—a beautiful venue with free parking that is 36 minutes from campus. He asked Assembly members to save the date.
- ***Governor Snyder/State of the State address:*** Dean Sudol brought news from the Executive Council and the update by President Russi. Mr. Sudol said that the new Governor of Michigan, Rick Snyder, was expected to say in his State of the State address that allocations for universities may be governed by graduation and retention rates. Mr. Snyder will be in favor of need-based aid for students. Education must be efficient, and the state is going to move from “old unbelievable to new achievable.” Mr. Snyder distinguishes between community colleges and universities, and considers community colleges to be like extensions of the K-12 schools. He talks of “K-14,” but considers the university to be something else. Funding for community colleges will be extension of the funding of K-12. Mr. Snyder would like to move education from teaching entrepreneurship to practicing it. Mr. Snyder believes that the deficit of the state of Michigan is \$2.8 billion, which is more than had been previously stated.
- ***Teaching Tips for Winter 2011 Session:*** Mr. Stewart distributed a draft of a handout about university policies that he would eventually like to give to all faculty members in the CAS to inform them about important deadlines and basic rules. “I” grades, for example, have procedures, but some faculty members do not follow them. That can get us into trouble. Mr. Stewart requested Assembly members to look at the handout and to provide him with feedback.
- ***Update on resolution for name change of Department of Music, Theatre and Dance:*** Dean Sudol expressed his disappointment that the resolution as altered and subsequently approved by the Assembly at the last meeting had not been interpreted by higher-ups as supportive of the name change from “Department” to “School” of MTD. He reviewed the reason for the request to change from “Department” to “School”: MTD is bigger than Nursing; in the last six years Ms. Wiggins has made significant structural changes and MTD is now unified; MTD has done everything they were asked to do; they have 100 practice rooms without sound proofing; Engineering has been approved for a new building with a 25% enrollment drop whereas MTD gives 100 public performances per year; they want a name change to get the kind of philanthropy that is available to a “school.” Mr.

Grossman said that his concern had been that there had not been enough discussion with the other interested parties to warrant approval of the original resolution as presented. He thought that the AAUP and the other Schools should be asked for their input concerning the name change, and then the resolution should be brought back to the Assembly for endorsement after that. He did not think there was enough information and asked if Mr. Sudol had talked to the AAUP yet. Mr. Sudol said that he did not think it was appropriate for him to discuss this matter with the AAUP. He said that this is about administrative structure. MTD would remain a department in terms of faculty appointments and review procedures. There would be chairs, but it would be a school with a director. Mr. Grossman said that the matter of the working conditions of the faculty is a union issue. Ms. Hay asked what the structure would be that would follow the name change. Mr. Sudol said that the name change would come first, and then incremental changes to the structure would come after that. Nothing that affects the contract would change. With the name change it would be possible to move forward. As an example, he pointed to the Meadow Brook Theatre and the recent play, "The 39 Steps." The previous Sunday, the theatre was 95% full. The theatre has done a complete turnaround from a year and a half ago when the situation was very grim. They put out an appeal to supporters, and supporters of the theatre responded. This shows that there are untapped resources available, but fund-raising has not been focused on the arts. Now in MTD, there has been a breakthrough with the Oakland Symphony. That is the first step in the restructuring. There will be a systematic move to solve all of the "barnacles" or problems that have developed over the years. Mr. Berven asked who it was who had interpreted the minutes, and how they got the impression that the Assembly did not support the name change because he thought the resolution implied support, and that the Assembly did not mean to show a lack of support. Mr. Grossman asked about the use of the word "School" and wanted to know whether the other Schools at OU care about the name change. Mr. Sudol said that at the meetings with other deans, other topics get priority. Ms. Sheridan said that after the last meeting, we need to take the mystery away about the union's reaction and how the other Schools feel. Knowing these things would take the mystery away. Mr. Sudol said that he would not be talking to the union about this. As to the other point, he questioned why pursue the name change if the faculty is not on board? Ms. Eis said that she was not at the previous Assembly meeting when this was discussed, but there are questions concerning the structural changes that would come later. If all of a sudden the department becomes a "School," does that mean they would have a Dean, Associate Deans, etc., and if so, that will affect the CAS. Mr. Sudol said that the School of MTD will have a Director. Mr. Trumbore said that there will be a School within an existing College, and it is not possible to move forward until they get recognized. All the change will take place over time. Mr. Whitehead said that a department has never changed to a School at Oakland University, and so we cannot assume what the structure will be. Mr. Stewart said that OU is 50 years old so we are young. Mr. Sudol said that it is not right to think that if it has not happened before, then we cannot do it. Mr. Berven said that the reason the resolution was changed was that the Assembly wanted to avoid

- conflicts with the union and other Schools, and so there was not enough information to move ahead yet. Ms. Hay said that this kind of change had occurred in the Communications department at another university, and it had had an impact on the review process. Mr. Sudol said that the solution here is that it would continue to be a department. Mr. Giberson said that we are not here to support the other Schools. We are here for the College. If we support the name change, then the union will speak up, and the other Schools as well. Mr. Grossman said that the alteration to the resolution used the word “pursue” the name change, which to him was supportive. The word was not “investigate.” Mr. Sudol asked if he can say that the Assembly is in favor of the name change. That is where the subject started, but then the resolution wording was changed. Mr. Dvir said that he thought there should be a document like departments submit for major proposals so that the Assembly members have something to look at. Mr. Sudol said that they could do that, but it would be filled with details that are at a different level. Ms. Sheridan said that there is paperwork for this, and MTD could share it with the Assembly. Mr. Sudol said that this could lead to arguments. Ms. Eis said that there are two issues involved—one is changing the name, and the other is financial support. Mr. Sudol said that he was looking for a conceptual name change first, and then to move forward later with the structural changes. Mr. Trumbore said we could say that we support it, and it would still not go forward. Mr. Sudol said that he will bring this back next month.
- ***US News and World Report:*** Mr. Sudol passed out a handout entitled “U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges Ranking Detail.” He said that Oakland University is not doing well in terms of its score, and we need to get out there and make ourselves more well-known.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven