

**College of Arts and Sciences
Assembly
December 4, 2007
Oakland Room, Oakland Center
Minutes (draft)**

Members present: *Getnet Bekele, Dikka Berven, Keith Berven, Mary Eberly Lewis, Henri Gooren, Kevin Grimm, Lisa Levinson, Fritz McDonald, Lynn Neely, Jude Nixon, Lori Ostergaard, Darrell Schmidt, Mark Severson, Anna Spagnuolo, Richard Stamps, George Stoffan, Vagner Whitehead, Shuishan Yu*

Ex Officio present: *Ron Sudol, Kathy Moore, Michelle Piskulich*

Guest: *Jan Elvekrog*

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 P.M.

1. Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the October 16, 2007 meeting were amended to include the addition of Anna Spagnuolo and Getnet Bekele to the list of members present, and subsequently approved.

2. College Updates

Dean Ron Sudol opened the meeting with the following news items:

- The Marion P. Wilson Award guidelines and committee membership has been approved by the CAS.
- Secondary Social Studies RX endorsement for history majors has been approved by the CAS.
- The Chinese Minor has been approved by the CAS Committee on Instruction.
- Steven Weitzman, professor of religion at Indiana University visited Oakland University, and submitted a report on how to proceed with the Judaic Studies program.
- Breakthrough on space: Dean Sudol said that we should take heart, because progress is being made on solving the campus space problems. The CAS is especially pressed, and so there is a move to move some departments and regroup others. Varner will have to be closed for one year for renovations in the near future, and so there will be significant shuffling that may occur for awhile during the construction period.

3. New Business: Proposal for a Liberal Arts Major in Japanese, Bachelor of Arts Degree Program, first reading

A brief history of Asian studies at Oakland University was provided, going back to the early days of the institution. Presently, there is already an East Asian Studies major, but the proposed Japanese major is an exciting development in the Department

of Modern Languages and Literatures, and will constitute the fourth major in that department.

The Liberal Arts Major in Japanese, Bachelor of Arts Degree Program was approved for first reading (moved by Mark Severson, seconded by Richard Stamps).

The second reading will be in January. Questions should be forwarded to Seigo Nakao in the DMLL.

4. National Survey of Student Engagement: Laura Schartman

Laura Schartman, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment, provided a report on “What First-Year and Senior Students are Telling Us About Their Experience.” This report was based upon a National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) in which Oakland University has participated for the last five years. 1200 institutions participated, first and senior students were randomly selected. The results provide insights into whether or not the institution is doing what we say we do. 1692 (35%) of 4871 students participated in the survey at OU. The National Survey provides benchmark data on institutional practices in the general areas of academic challenge, active learning, student-faculty interaction enriching educational experiences and supportive environment. The results of this survey will be discussed with faculty, the deans, administrators and committees. The results will be available on the OU website for both internal and external use.

Ms. Schartman indicated that her office is interested in using the data to find new ways to improve the level of engagement of OU students. The survey provides a unique opportunity to learn from peer institutions, and a way of knowing which peer institutions are doing better in terms of student engagement. Areas for improvement can be isolated using the data. OU compares favorably in some areas (for instance, Modern Languages fared well in terms of engagement), but needs improvement in a significant number of other areas. There is concern about the 25% attrition rate of first year students. The 4-year graduation rate is 44%.

Ms. Schartman advised the Assembly that there will be two conferences of note on learning issues coming up soon: the 2nd Annual forum on Higher Education Learning Issues “Universal Learning Issues: Individual Learning Solutions” will take place at the University of South Florida, Tampa FL, January 24-26, 2008. This conference will focus on First Year Experience Initiatives, Academic and Career Advising, Centers for Excellence in Teaching, Teaching and Learning, Residence Hall Programming, Learning Communities, Developmental education, Tutoring and Academic Support, Student Success Initiatives and Faculty Development. For more information, visit: www.letmelearn.org/HE2008/.

The National Center for Academic Transformation program, sponsored by the Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) will begin in January

2008. For a full description of the program and the application guidelines, please see <http://www.thencat.org/RedesignAlliance/DissemProgram.htm>.

5. **Good and Welfare**

Dikka Berven (DMLL) suggested considering that the dates for the group finals during final exam week be moved to the first part of the week instead of the last day of finals because faculty members using this time slot usually have an unusually high number of exams to correct and the least amount of time in which to do it.

6. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven