

## Oakland University Senate Minutes

### March 19, 2015 Minutes

**Members present:** Andrews, Awbrey, Baxa, Berven, D., Berven, K., Chamra, Cheng, Corcoran, Corso, Dereski, Dulio, Dvir, Eis, Estes, Folberg, Goldberg, Grimm, Guessous, Howell, Johnson, Knox, Latcha, Lee, Leibert, Lentini, Lucarelli, Maxfield, Mazzeo, McEneaney, Meinberg, Mitchell, Navin, Pelfrey, Polis, Ragheb, Rozek, Schartman, Roth, Sifonis, Switzer, Thompson, Westergaard

Members absent: Aloï, Andersen, Bulgarelli, Clark, Doman, Giblin, Grooms, Iwanski, Landolt, Licker, Miller, Moore, Penprase, Rawashdeh, Singhal, Spagnuolo, Tracy, Wells, Wharton, Williams

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

#### Summary of Information and Action Items

##### Information Items

Program modification to the Doctor of Philosophy in Education: Counseling  
Program modification to the Master of Science in Computer Science  
Master of Science in Software Engineering and Information Technology

##### Action Items

###### NEW BUSINESS

Motion from UCUI and the Academic Standing and Honors Committee to approve the revised Early Alert Mid-Semester Evaluation Policies

###### OLD BUSINESS

Motion approved from the School of Business Administration for revised Constitution of the School of Business

#### INFORMATION ITEMS

Provost Lentini updated the Senate on the following informational items:

- Credit reductions for the Doctor of Philosophy in Education: Counseling program were approved by the Graduate Council.
- Credit reductions for the Master of Science in Computer Science program were approved by the Graduate Council.
- Credit reductions for the Master of Science in Software Engineering and Information Technology program were approved by the Graduate Council.

#### Provost's Updates

- The search for a Dean of Graduate Education is going on. There have been two candidates who have interviewed on campus and two more coming soon.
- The search for Dean of the School of Education and Human Services is over, and Mr. Lentini thanked Bob Maxfield for his efforts throughout the process.
- The search for Associate Vice President of Research will begin. Mr. Lentini thanked Dorothy Nelson for her accomplishments.
- The search for Dean of the Library is ongoing and the plan is to deepen the pool.
- Mr. Chamra is chairing the search for the Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management.
- The Varner Vitality Series lecture with composer Morten Lauridsen will take place on March 30 at 2:00 P.M. in Meadowbrook Theatre.
- The Founders Day event will take place on April 15 at 11:30 A.M. in the Banquet Rooms.
- The call for volunteers for the Senate Committees has gone out.
- Mr. Lentini introduced Betty Youngblood to update the Senate on the Strategic Plan. Ms. Youngblood informed the Senate that the Board of Trustees approved the plan at their meeting on March 6. Since then, the committees and task forces have been finalized, with 100 people on these committees. Next week there will be a kick-off event to discuss how the university will move forward with the next steps. The expectation is that the committees will all meet in April, and the hope is that each group can identify some of the data they will need to proceed. If anyone has questions or comments, they should send their comments via email to Ms. Youngblood. She then thanked everyone for their participation and efforts.

#### **A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of February 19, 2015**

The minutes of the meeting of February 19, 2015, were approved (Ms. Howell, Ms. Thompson).

#### **B. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **MOTION** from UCUI and the Academic Standing and Honors Committee to approve the revised Early Alert Mid-Semester Evaluation Policies (Ms. Johnson, Ms. Eis)

**MOVED** that the Senate approve the revised Early Alert/Mid-Semester Evaluation Policy. (first reading)

Ms. Awbrey explained to Senate members that there have been concerns about the effectiveness of the present mid-semester evaluation (MSE) process, so the new process will replace the old

one. She introduced UCUI members Darrin Hanna and Bill Johnson to present the new program. Mr. Hanna explained that with the former system, faculty members could only add a “U” to the student’s record. The evaluation date was too early for some, but too late for others. The new system will be found under the Faculty Feedback Feature on the SAIL page. A click will show the faculty member’s roster. For students at risk, faculty members will then have choices for behaviors that have been identified. The system has been tested in EGR 141 and WRT 160 and was found to be successful. Unlike the old system, the proposed plan will be active most of the semester. There will be no grade of “U”, just a meaningful message indicating the risk behaviors. The evaluation will be required for 000-, 100-, and 200-level courses, and will be effective as of Fall 2015.

Ms. Guessous said she likes the idea because she was not comfortable putting a “U” on a student’s record, but she asked if there will be a customizable field, since currently there is not an option to add your own sentence. Mr. Hanna said that presently this option does not exist. Mr. Andrews said that the issues mostly have to do with concerns in the current course, but there should also be a way to flag students who are repeating the class. Mr. Berven questioned whether faculty members teaching large classes would be able to know what the risk behaviors among their students. Mr. Latcha asked if the professor will get the email message that students receive, but Mr. Hanna said the system will not permit this. Mr. Latcha said he thought the faculty member should get the message. Ms. Schartman asked what kind of feedback there had been from the students. Mr. Hanna replied that 5 emails had been received, and they were positive about this process. Ms. Berven said that she was not comfortable having her name appear at the bottom of an email message that she did not write and that did not sound like something she would write, and she wondered if it were possible to modify the wording of the proposed email message to students. Mr. Andrews suggested that there could be more than one style of message to choose from.

### **C. OLD BUSINESS**

1. **MOTION** from the School of Business Administration to approve the revised Constitution of the School of Business (Mr. Andrews, Mr. McEneaney)

**MOVED** that the Senate approve the revised Constitution of the School of Business.

The motion was approved.

### **D. GOOD AND WELFARE**

Mr. Grimm presented the Faculty Representative Proposal. He distributed copies of the resolution to Senate members.

[See Attached]

Mr. Grimm made the motion to adopt the resolution. Mr. Latcha seconded the motion. Mr. Grimm explained that this idea is not out of the blue because the request has been made before in past years. Ms. Thompson asked if the responsibilities of the faculty liaison would be similar to those of the student liaisons. Mr. Grimm said the important thing is that faculty members would

be able to talk directly to Board members. Mr. Andrews suggested that the faculty liaison(s) should attend Senate meetings. Mr. Shablin suggested that this proposal was a bit premature since the Strategic Planning involves shared governance. Mr. Grimm replied that he thinks the timing is perfect because the atmosphere has changed at the university and the situation is different than it was in the past. Ms. Eis said that the Mission statement is now approved, and so she made a friendly amendment to strike 'proposed' from the resolution.

Mr. Dulio said he supports the resolution but also supports what Mr. Shablin said about the timing. Mr. Grimm replied that work on the resolution has been going on for 2 years and the timing seems right now. Ms. Eis said that this resolution is not stepping on the toes of the Strategic Plan committees because the business of the university is always ongoing, and should keep going. Mr. Mazzeo asked for a context for the resolution, as for example, what were the problems with the present system, and how does this resolution resolve them. Mr. Grimm said there used to be poor communication from the president to the Board of Trustees, and the idea of communication to the Board of Trustees is still important even though there are big improvements in the present context. The resolution puts faculty members who have been elected by faculty in a position to speak directly to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Corso said that he does not think the resolution steps on toes, but rather is a clear articulation of needs. Ms. Berven said that she believes that if there are student liaisons on the Board of Trustees, there should also be faculty liaisons. Ms. Thompson asked if we will vote now or at the next Senate meeting, since she would like to think about it. There was general agreement that the vote on the resolution would take place at the next meeting.

## **E. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Dikka Berven (secretary)

Attachment: [Faculty Rep Proposal 2015 \(1\)-2.docx](#)