

Oakland University Senate Minutes

September 17, 2015

Members present: Andrews, Awbrey, Baxa, Beres, Berven, D., Berven, K., Cheng, Clason, Corcoran, Daniel, Debnath, Edwards, Eis, Epstein, Folberg, Giblin, Goldberg, Gooren, Grimm, Guessous, Hansen, Hay, Knox, Kubinski, Latcha, Lee, Leibert, Lentini, Long, Mathieson, Miller, Moore, Parkash, Petchauer, Reger, Roth, Roumani, Rozek, Sifonis, Stiller, Thompson, Tracy, Walter, Westergaard, Williams

Members absent: Aloï, Bulgarelli, Chamra, Chopin, Clark, Corso, Dereski, Dimitrova, Dulio, Estes, Golinski, Margerum-Leys, Mazzeo, Polis, Ragheb, Schartman, Wells

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

Summary of Information and Action Items

Information Items

- Appointment of Senate Parliamentarian
- Appointment of Senate Secretary
- Appointment of Senate Elections Committee Members
- Approval of Final Summer 1 Undergraduate Graduation List July 1, 2015

Action Items

NEW BUSINESS

- Election of the Senate Steering Committee for 2015-2017
- Motion from the General Education Committee to change the Foreign Language and Culture requirement for international students whose native language is not English
- Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees

Provost Lentini greeted Senate members, and introduced President George Hynd who was present to update the Senate on university affairs. Mr. Hynd welcomed everyone back to campus, noted that it had been a busy summer, and offered the following updates, observations and reflections on the past year and the upcoming one:

- The campus is bursting at the seams, with the largest student population so far.
- A Strategic Plan has been proposed and approved by the Board of Trustees. The focus will be on the student experience, research and engagement, and will emphasize the fact that OU is a metropolitan university with stewardship commitments to the community. Also, OU is a doctoral research institution, and there will be announcements forthcoming regarding multi-disciplinary interactions to involve students and faculty with a focus on learning to collaborate.
- We have a global perspective and need to focus on what that means. Students need to live and work in worlds that have different cultural perspectives than their own so that they can have a transformative experience.

- Tuition increased by 8.48% this year, and a move has been made towards differential tuition which will allow the university to meet the needs of the students. This move grows from the Strategic Plan with its goal to attract students as a first-choice institution.
- We are presently involved in the creation of a new Campus Master Plan which is an extraordinary opportunity to participate and share ideas on the vision for the university. The process will go on over the next seven months and will be completed at the end of that time.
- Concurrently, the need for a new residence hall with 750 beds has been recommended to the BOT. A new residence hall is needed so that we are seen more as a residential institution.
- Sports are part of the attraction to the university and should be a focus.
- There is a commitment to renovate the Oakland Center to meet the needs of the students.
- Improvements will be sought to the campus teaching facilities.
- Of the 15 institutions in the state of Michigan, we should be seen as in the top ten in terms of how we serve the students.

Mr. Hynd concluded his remarks by calling for participation by the entire campus community in the process of the new Master Plan.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Provost Lentini appointed Kevin Andrews to the role of Senate Parliamentarian and Dikka Berven to the role of Senate Secretary. He also appointed Lynn Williams, Kyle Edwards Jan Beres and Mohinder Parkash to the Elections Committee. He announced that the final Summer 1 Undergraduate Graduation List for July 1, 2015 had been approved by the Steering Committee.

Mr. Lentini then provided the following observations and updates to the Senate:

- The completion of the following searches mark a transition in leadership positions occurring over the last two years since Mr. Lentini's arrival at OU: Claudia Petrescu is the new Dean of Graduate Studies; Paul Schroder has been appointed associate vice-president for Enrollment Management; the new Dean of the School of Education and Human Services is John Margerum-Leys; Steven Weiter is the new Dean of University Libraries.
- The upcoming year will again be busy with searches, including among others Deans of Nursing and School of Health Sciences.
- Retention and graduate rates are important for Oakland University's performance standards, and will be a focus of attention.
- This year's Student Success Conference will take place on our campus and so everyone should look out for that event.
- There will be a Higher Learning Academy for Persistence and Completion.
- A letter to faculty will be forthcoming on the subject of the number of 'centers' on campus, of which there is quite a long list, and so the question of whether we can provide seed money to sustain centers for five years will be addressed.
- IT infrastructure upgrades will be made. Some fixes are hard to fund but OU needs to come up to current standards.
- The Master Plan process is extremely important. He noted that what goes onto a Master Plan does eventually get completed one way or another. It is a transformational time for the institution and the creation of a new Master Plan is part of this process.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of April 16, 2015

The minutes for the meeting of April 16, 2015 were approved unanimously. (Mr. Tracy, Mr. Latcha)

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of the Senate Steering Committee for 2015-2017

Kyle Edwards conducted the process for the election for the Steering Committee for 2015-2017. After nominations were received from the floor, there being exactly the right number, the process concluded without the need for a vote. The following Senate members will form the new Steering Committee: Kevin Andrews (CAS), Ron Tracy (SOB), Andrea Eis (CAS), Dominique Daniel (Library), Laila Guessous (Engineering), Lynne Williams (SHS).

2. Motion from the General Education Committee to change the Foreign Language and Culture requirements for international students whose native language is not English (Ms. Thompson, Ms. Eis)

MOVED that international students meeting the criteria set forth below be waived from completing the Foreign Language and Culture requirement in the General Education Program. (first reading)

Comment: New copy will be added to the general education section of the catalog stating the following:

The Foreign Language & Culture General Education area is waived for International Students whose native language is not English and who have completed the equivalent of a high school diploma at a school that used a language other than English for instruction. Appropriate documentation attesting to the language of instruction and graduation from high school programs is necessary. Students will be required to meet the 40 credit General Education requirement.

3. Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees (Mr. Andrews, Ms. Johnson)

MOVED that the persons listed be appointed to the committees or positions designated:

Academic Computing Committee

Larrabee, Tim (CAS) 2015-2016 (replacing Ellen Gajewski 2015-2017)

Academic Conduct Committee

Battles, Kathy (CAS) 2015-2016 (replacing Kevin Lamm 2015-2016)

Academic Standing and Honors Committee

Arena, Sara (SHS) 2015-2017 (replacing Walli Andersen, 2015-2017)

Assessment Committee

McCann, Shawn (KL) 2015-2018

Budget Review Committee

El-Sayed, Suzan (SOM 2015-2018 (replacing Ellen Gajewski (SON) 2015-2018)

Murphy, Austin (SBA) 2014-2016), **CHAIR**

General Education Committee

Hess, Amanda (KL) 2015-2018 (replacing Dominique Daniel (KL) 2015-2018)

Library Committee

McCann, Shawn (KL) 2015-2017

Kashiwagi-Wood, Akiko (CAS-Languages and Literatures) Fall 2015 (replacing Mary Hartson for her sabbatical)

Doherty, Deborah (SHS) Fall 2015 (replacing Flora Dallo for her sabbatical)

Raghet, Samia (SOM) Fall 2015 **CHAIR** (replacing Flora Dallo for her sabbatical)

Planning Review Committee

Mitchell, Ann (SON) Winter 2016 (replacing Meghan Harris for her sabbatical)

University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction

Cheng, Eddie (CAS-Natural Sciences) Winter 2016 (replacing Chabi Govind for his sabbatical)

Tardella, Sally (CAS-Humanities) Fall 2015 (replacing Adina Schneeweis for her sabbatical)

Serota, Kim (SBA) 2015-2016 (replacing Seong Cho)

The motion passed unanimously.

C. GOOD AND WELFARE

Provost Lentini encouraged everyone to attend events for the upcoming Homecoming celebrations.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (Senate secretary)