

Oakland University Senate Minutes

October 15, 2015

Members present: Andrews, Baxa, Beres, Berven, K., Berven, D., Bowe, Cheng, Corcoran, Daniel, Debnath, Diomitrova, Dulio, Edwards, Eis, Epstein, Goldberg, Golinski, Gooren, Guessous, Hay, Knox, Latcha, Lee, Leibert, Lentini, Long, Mazzeo, McDonald, Miller, Moore, Parkash, Petchauer, Ragheb, Roth, Roumani, Rozek, Schartman, Sifonis, Stiller, Tracy, Walter, Westergaard, Williams

Members absent: Awbrey, Chamra, Chopin, Clason, Corso, Dereski, Estes, Folberg, Giblin, Grimm, Hansen, Kubinski, Ludwig, Margerum-Leys, Mathieson, Polis, Reger, Thompson, Weiter

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

Summary of Information and Action Items

Information Items

Visit from the new manager of the Barnes and Nobles Bookstore

Action Items

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of motion from the GEC to waive the Foreign Language and Culture requirement for international students whose native language is not English.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of procedural motion to staff Senate Research Committee

INFORMATION ITEMS

Provost Lentini introduced the new manager of the Barnes and Noble Bookstore on campus, Jessica Wojcik, who distributed a handy information booklet to Senate members about the bookstore's operations, and who was present to provide information and answer questions about the bookstore. Mr. Shablin asked if anything is being done to address the sometimes horrendous rising cost of textbooks. Ms. Wojcik said that Barnes and Noble is increasing the options for rentals of textbooks because renting used books is the best way for students to save money. She added that it is very helpful when faculty members adopt their textbooks early, and that the digital app UZU is also a help. Mr. Dulio expressed concern about what is on the shelf on the first day of classes, and asked whether it was correct information that he had received from a book representative that the bookstore only orders 50-55% of the number of books that are requested. Ms. Wojcik replied that this is not true. However, she observed that there are other options for students these days, not just the bookstore on campus. Ms. Berven asked whether it was necessary for each faculty member who teaches a class that has multiple sections to file a separate book order, adding that the number of textbooks available on the shelf on the first day of classes for the French 114/115 classes was over a hundred short. Ms. Wojcik answered that this should not be necessary, and that one person should be able to place the book order on behalf of all the sections. Mr. Edwards asked if there is anything faculty members can do, such as ordering more books than the anticipated need, to make sure there are enough books on the shelf. Ms. Wojcik replied that when ordering, it is helpful if faculty members use the space available for notes and comments

because the people working in the bookstore do read them and pay attention to them. Mr. Tracy pointed out that his students buy materials electronically, with ancillaries, but the mark-up is more than it costs at the publisher, and he asked whether this should be the case. Ms. Wojcik noted that students on financial aid have to buy their textbooks at the university bookstore, but she agreed that they should not be penalized for not being able to buy them from the publisher.

Provost's Updates

- Mr. Lentini provided a brief update on the Strategic Plan, and thanked the Strategic Plan Task Force for all of their work. He asked Senate members to look for the update message coming soon via email.
- He then addressed the topic of this year's tuition increase and the new differential tuition plan. He indicated that the goal is to use the resources gained for students, as well as to hire additional faculty, staff and advisors. He noted that Oakland University has grown tremendously in terms of enrollment and is trying to catch up on faculty-to-student ratio as well as the amount of space per student. He said that quality is important and will be recognized, and as an example, he pointed out that the SBA was recently recognized in the Princeton Review as one of the best Business School, and he congratulated them for this accomplishment. He acknowledged that even though rankings are not the main thing we seek, they are nevertheless important in terms of public perception of the institution.
- He updated the Senate on the searches in Nursing, SHS and Research, and said that the committees and consultants are in place and there will be meetings soon.
- He also informed Senate members about the process that has begun on the campus Master Plan for which there should be a completed report by June. He observed that the Master Plan involves everything from academic space to housing, roads, parking, and all space needs, and in addition, the consultant will be looking at scheduling to see where and when there is the most stress on space. He expressed his interest in updating computer programs that will help analyze space needs and usage so that we can know if we are scheduling well. He added that we need to make sure we are using the existing space as well as possible, as well as plan for new space. He asked Senate members to look for information on the upcoming open forum for all faculty members, for which the dates and times will be announced later.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF September 17, 2015

The minutes of the meeting of September 17, 2015, were approved unanimously (Latcha, Walter)

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Motion from the General Education Committee to change the Foreign Language and Culture requirement for international students whose native language is not English.

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.

The Foreign Language and 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.

The motion was approved with one negative vote.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committee (Andrews, Johnson)

MOVED that the person listed below be appointed to the committee designated:

Research Committee

Mourelatos, Zissimos, SECS 2015-2017

The motion was approved unanimously.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (secretary)