

## Oakland University Senate Minutes

January 21, 2016

**Members present:** Aloi, Andrews, Awbrey, Baxa, Beres, Berven, K., Berven, D., Chamra, Cheng, Clark, Clason, Corcoran, Corso, Daniel, Debnath, Dereski, Edwards, Eis, Epstein, Estes, Folberg, Giblin, Goldberg, Grimm, Groomes, Guessous, Hansen, Harbin, Knox, Kubinski, Latcha, Lee, Leibert, Lentini, Long, Margerum-Leys, Mathieson, Mazzeo, Miller, Moore, Parkash, Petchauer, Polis, Ragheb, Reger, Roth, Roumani, Rozek, Schartman, Sifonis, Thompson, Westergaard, Williams, Weiter

**Members absent:** Chopin, Dallo, Dulio, Golinski, Gooren, Hay, Townsend, Tracy, Walter, Wells

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

### Summary of Information and Action Items

#### Information Items

- Master Plan Presentation and Discussion
- Faculty Feedback
- Emergency Preparedness
- Program Modification to Master of Music, CAS

#### Action Items

##### **NEW BUSINESS**

- First Reading of Motion from the Library to Approve a Revised Constitution
- Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees

### INFORMATION ITEMS

**Master Plan:** Provost Lentini introduced Scott Miller from Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas & Co., who was present to update the Senate on the progress of the campus Master Plan. Mr. Miller reminded the Senate that this was his 3<sup>rd</sup> scheduled visit to the campus for discussion of the Master Plan, and that there were a total of 6 workshops scheduled so this was the midpoint of a process which is anticipated to be wrapped up by May. He summarized his team's activities, which have involved touring the campus, spending a lot of time on both the east and the west sides of the campus, and especially getting to know the history and assets of the west side. He said they want to extend the open space framework of the campus as new growth occurs which will emphasize assets such as the lake and the area around the lake. They are looking at the P-1 parking area and how it affects the university's identity to the outside community along Squirrel Road. He observed that their survey of the places members of the OU community show to friends and family revealed that the OC, Elliott Tower, the Library, Meadowbrook Hall, and Bear Lake are the most popular ones. He noted that more outdoor seating is needed because although students have some nice places to be, both residential students and commuters need more inviting places to study and also just to be, inside and outside, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. He said his team will always make sure that the resources on campus are considered before changes are recommended. He indicated that although OU is still primarily a commuter campus, they are looking to make it more residential, in order to align the student experience and student success with the Strategic Plan which would be at the basis of every recommendation made.

Highlights of his presentation included a discussion about space needs, and whether we are using the space to the best of our ability. He said that data has indicated that growth by the year 2027 will be at 23,000 students. His team has studied classroom use and they know that in the middle of the day, space

is 99% utilized. He congratulated the Registrar, Steve Shablin, for his accomplishments in this area. However, Mr. Miller pointed out that future space needs will be greater than what we have, and in fact, we have more than a million feet of space deficit. He presented a summary of the campus space inventory of classrooms, services, open labs, research, office, recreation, athletics, social use, and so on. Mr. Polis asked, given these numbers, whether it really makes sense for us to grow. Provost Lentini pointed out that the analysis shows that whether we grow or not, we do not have enough space, and that since the prediction is 11% growth over the next 10 years and although that is not a huge growth, it is nevertheless a measured growth which explains why it is important to realize that we are starting at a space deficit.

Ms. Karen Miller expressed concern that as the percentage difference is going up, we are getting worse, and she is concerned with issues of quality of product and whether the facilities will be adequate to provide the services the university wants to provide. Mr. Miller said that these concerns are bound together with what they are proposing, and that they will try to fill that gap.

Mr. Corso asked whether Macomb and other off-side locations figured into the study, and Mr. Miller replied that they did, and that they had also looked at the local context of the university with neighbors such as Fiat Chrysler, Oakland Tech Park, Auburn Hills civic Center, and they met with representatives from Auburn Hills, Rochester and the local area. He said they had discussed the possibility of partnerships with these entities and explored whether there is opportunity to generate revenue through partnering.

Regarding the physical campus, Mr. Miller said that it is set up nicely from the residential to the academic areas, but they would like to make it a pedestrian campus, not an auto-dominated campus. He observed that the natural terrain is a big asset for OU, and the plan includes to utilize the natural space with trails, but to respect the conservation areas. He noted that parking is at capacity, and that new buildings may be built in existing parking areas and so for this reason, there is a traffic consultant on the team to try to reduce demand for parking, create a more robust pedestrian environment, perhaps by leveraging regional transit, perhaps by creating a more effective park and ride system. He stated that they want to deal with all the needs of the campus by creating a truly extraordinary environment for an excellent experience and place to live and work for everyone on campus.

With respect to the present and the new Land Use Plan, Mr. Miller said that the Squirrel Road interface with the community is an important place to showcase the campus. He said that the academic section of the campus will be at the core, and this needs to be reinforced. He discussed the open space framework which would preserve the natural spaces and create more open spaces to connect the parts of campus, but to reduce the psychological distance between buildings. He suggested the possibility of a Welcome Center on the Squirrel Road corridor, and mentioned the potential for a new loop road with a new entry road to campus with more opportunity of regress and ingress to reduce traffic congestion. He talked about the development of the northeast corner of the campus and the opportunity that may exist for partnerships from the local community for the creation of hotel or cultural amenities to bring more community members and alumni to campus.

Mr. Miller admitted that they are creating a menu of more projects than can be funded in 10 years but stressed that the plan is a road map for the next 10 years, that the plan is flexible, and that build out would extend into the next 30 to 50 years.

Mr. Polis asked whether in trying to catch up with space deficits, can they figure out how much revenue is needed? Mr. Miller said yes, they want to bring outside revenue, but not build on the backs of the students.

Mr. Petchauer pointed out that we are a community-engaged campus, and asked whether Pontiac was invited to the sessions. Mr. Miller said yes and that they had talked about transit and connections that could be made between the city of Pontiac and the campus.

Mr. Baxa said he was pleased to hear that the Medical School was being considered, and he asked a question about connectivity from one part of campus to the other, saying that they have 250 students with facilities on the opposite ends of the campus. He asked whether study space and lab space would consolidate the medical school into one location, and how they will get everyone where they need to go in the limited time between when one class ends and the next one begins. Mr. Miller replied that the Medical Library is in Kresge Library, and questions of connectivity and consolidation are being discussed because they are trying to tie the campus together as tightly as possible. Provost Lentini added that this is a continuing iterative dialogue that will go on for the rest of the year, and he suggested that Senate members should talk to their Deans about the Master Plan. He reminded Senate members that the Master Plan is to be finalized by the end of May or early June. Mr. Miller noted that there will be an open forum in the Fireside Lounge of the OC in February, and so people should stop by to talk to them there.

**Faculty Feedback:** Provost Lentini introduced Bill Johnson who provided the Senate with an update on the Faculty Feedback initiative which has had 5777 submissions. He said the number one recommendation used was to seek assistant at the tutoring center, and in fact, the number of students visiting the tutoring center has picked up and so there seems to be a positive result in this recommendation.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Provost Lentini introduced Police Chief Mark Gordon who updated Senate members on campus safety. He emphasized that safety on campus is a community responsibility, and if you see something that seems amiss, say something, because it is not just the responsibility of the police. He showed Senate members a sample syllabus that contains language for emergency preparedness, and expressed his interest in engaging faculty to include this in their syllabi. He showed the Senate the Police Home Page with its 10 areas of interest, such as the reporting of behavioral concerns. He said that the most important part is the part about the emergency procedures and how notifications are made. Ms. Guessous asked about the laws in the state of Michigan regarding open carry of weapons, and Mr. Gordon assured the Senate that the university has total control over that at this point in time, although this could change in the future.

**Program Modification:** Provost Lentini introduced Mark Stone who was present to answer questions about the program modification to the Master of Music in the College of Arts and Sciences that was approved by the Graduate Council, which adds a concentration in World Percussion Performance.

**Provost's Updates:**

- Provost Lentini introduced President George Hynd and the new COO Scott Kunselman who were invited to the Senate to clarify the duties of Mr. Kunselman as COO. President Hynd referred to a recent email sent to the campus community that articulated the responsibilities of the new position through an organizational flow chart. He noted that they are trying to meet the needs of the university as we grow, and that the new position is a change that created opportunities, and that patience is a virtue. He encouraged everyone to continue to work with MR. Kunselman as they move forward in new and creative ways.

Mr. Kunselman then addressed the Senate, and pointed out that the organizational chart outlines his duties and shows who is on his team. He said the functions in his care are services, and to refine processes to put them in a position of true service. He said he wants his team to take a fresh look at what they do. He wants to make sure that what they do is efficient and providing a service. He said there is a need to clarify roles because if there is overlap, that can cause frustration. He said he will try to optimize the functions. Mr. Andrews raised the issue involving the interaction with the Senate governance, and he said that he hoped Mr. Kunselman would look at the interaction between areas he is in charge of to make sure that the interaction with Senate governance is meaningful. Mr. Kunselman said he thought that was an excellent suggestion and that those interfaces need clarification.

- Mr. Lentini reminded Senate members about the call for Interdisciplinary Centers.
- Mr. Lentini encouraged Senate members to attend the Student Success Conference to take place on February 10-11, and which is free for faculty and staff of Oakland University.
- Mr. Lentini updated the Senate on searches, and said that there is a search going on now for director of Development and Alumni Relations, two Deans searches, and a search for Associate Vice President for Research.
- He also announced that Bill Nye the Science Guy has been confirmed for the Varner Vitality Lecture, at which announcement there was a wave of excited murmuring.

#### **A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the October 15, 2015 Senate meeting were approved unanimously.

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

##### **1. Motion from the Library to approve a revised constitution. (Daniel, Guessous)**

*MOVED that the Senate recommend to the President and the Board of Trustees approval of the revised Constitution of the Library.*

Dean Weiter offered a unanimous consent request that Article 2, Section I of the Constitution would read “who hold an appointment in the Library.” The request was accepted without objection.

The motion was approved unanimously.

##### **2. Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees (Andrews, Eis)**

*MOVED that the persons listed be appointed to the committees of positions designated.*

##### **General Education Committee**

Spunaugle, Emily, Library, Winter 2016 replacing Amanda Nichols Hess for her leave

Poly-Droulard, Lynda, Winter 2016, replacing Deborah Tierney (SON) 2013-2016

##### **Teaching and Learning Committee**

Bongers, Nick, AP, 2-15-2016, replacing Rebecca Cheezum (resigned) as CHAIR

Buch, Carrie, SON, 2015-2016, replacing Rebecca Cheezum, SHS, 2013-2016.

#### **C. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dikka Berven (secretary)

