

Oakland University Senate Minutes

January 19, 2017

Members present: *Andrews, Arnold, Ball, Baxa, Beres, Berven, D., Berven, K., Cheng, Corcoran, Daniel, Debnath, Dereski, Didion, Dulio, Edwards, Eis, Epstein, Estes, Giblin, Gooren, Grimm, Guessous, Harbin, Hay, Howell, Keller, Knox, Latcha, Lee, Leibert, Lentini, Long, Mazzeo, Miller, Parkash, Polis, Ragheb, Reger, Rigstad, Roth, Roumani, Schartman, Sifonis, Thomas, Thompson, Townsend, Tracy, Weiter, Williams*

Members absent: *Aloi, Awbrey, Chamra, Chopin, Dallo, Edrisinha, Folberg, Goldberg, Golinski, Groomes, Hansen, Margerum-Leys, Mathieson, Wells*

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

Summary of Information and Action Items

INFORMATION ITEMS

Provost's Updates

Approval by Grad Council of the name change of the Department of Biomedical Sciences to the Department of Foundational Medicine

NEW BUSINESS

Election to fill a one-semester vacancy on the Senate Steering Committee for the 2016-2017 academic year

Motion from the Graduate council to recommend approval for the EdD in Organizational Leadership in the School of Education and Human Services

Motion from the Steering Committee to staff a Senate Standing Committee

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

Provost's Updates :

Provost Lentini provided Senate members with an update on the enrollment situation. He presented slides showing various enrollment scenarios for the target date of 2025, which included a middle-range target of 21,700 students, a conservative target of 20,600 students, and a more ambitious target of 23,000 students. He reported that enrollment trends in the State of Michigan are being studied, and said that target scenarios based on improvement in retention are based on and confirmed by analyses that have been done in Laura Schartman's office. He said that student success is at the top of the list of important topics at the university at this time, and he emphasized that student success involves every aspect of student life from

the moment they apply to the university to the day they graduate. He reported that statistics show that Michigan is the third worst in the nation as far as losing student who are graduating from high school, with neighboring Illinois the second worst, and so this means that in Michigan, all universities are trying to recruit from a smaller pool of students. He said that the university is looking at retention throughout all the years of the students' lives (1st to 2nd year, 2nd to 3rd year, etc.), and he expressed his strong belief that we have the capacity to do better. He said that the university works hard to recruit but we are less successful when it comes to retention. He observed that the reasons for poor retention are complex, and are sometimes financial, sometimes academic, and that now we are in the range of 76% retention rate for 1st to 2nd year students. The goal is to hit 81% but he noted that it is hard to move these numbers up. He stated that 80% of the university's budget is built on enrollment and we need a revenue stream to continue in the same direction that the university is presently going. He said that that days of great growth at OU were unprecedented over the last 20 years but that growth has slowed now with graduation rate in the 47% range with a goal of getting it to 51%. He asserted that the university need to invest in student success. He provided an anecdote from Georgia State and their 'intrusive advising' program, as follows: At Georgia State they have a large number of PELL students, and they have added 43 new advisers which was a significant investment. The return is that they have added \$18,000,000 in revenue from this, after investing \$2,000,000 for the advisers. He noted that at OU in the CAS advising office, the ratio of students to advisers is 700 to 1 but it should be 300 to 1, and so we must move in that direction. He stated that the goal will be to get to a ratio of 351 to 1 by the year 2025. Ms. Townsend pointed out that another thing they had done at Georgia State was to hire some very high profile highly paid faculty members. Provost Lentini agreed that this was important. He observed that we have 32 retention initiatives on campus but we need to make bolder moves. Mr. Berven asked about the retention of transfer students, and Mr. Lentini agreed that this is an important group given that 40% of our students are transfer students, which means that both FTIAC and transfer students are part of this issue. He added that in fact, for the universities that depend on FTIACS, there will be a bigger problem in the future than for those universities that have a high number of transfer students such as we do. Mr. Leibert asked whether graduate student retention is a factor in the metric. Mr. Lentini replied that graduate student retention is a different animal-- it is a part of the mix for revenue and is an important issue, but figures in differently to retention. He noted that we have the mid-size school dilemma which means that we need to figure out how to re-tool and we must decide what are our strengths and what are the areas that we can develop. Ms. Townsend asked why OU is at the bottom when it comes to state funding. In reply, Mr. Lentini bemoaned the fact that the State does not do a per student allocation, but said that if they did, we would have \$30,000,000 more in funding. He stressed the point that we cannot manage without raising tuition and indicated that it is frustrating that the average institution is getting \$4,000 more per student than we are getting. He said that Grand Valley has a similar pattern of growth and they are

also at the bottom for funding, whereas more of a base funding is needed. Mr. Shablin provided the Senate with the information that in the Fall 2016, 75 students were academically dismissed. He pointed out that after two semesters these students can return and re-apply to the university. He noted that these 75 students generated \$2,000,000 of revenue. He said he saw this as a problem and said that we need to develop services that help the at-risk students. He added that at the end of the Fall 2016 semester, there were 800 students on probation. Mr. Lentini confirmed that our future depends on retention and that above all, we need to improve the retention rate, and this issue is at the top of the list in terms of resource allocations at the university. He noted that the Athletic programs and OTUS are two groups who do incredibly well because they have a lot of hands-on help for students. Zach Thomas said that all of this is great and retention should be the focus, and he asked about enrollment expectations as far as how much of the mix is new students. Mr. Lentini replied that when they look at retention, there is a mix of new students and students already here. Mr. Thomas expressed his concern that with the expected increase in enrollment, there are also costs, because more students cost the university more, as with parking, for example. Mr. Lentini agreed. Ms. Townsend said that we need more support for the DSS office which may be a way to help a critical group of students. Mr. Lentini replied that we need to look at tutoring and other services as we focus on initiatives to improve retention.

Provost Lentini also updated the Senate on the name change of the Department of Biomedical Sciences to the Department of Foundational Medicine, which has been approved by the Graduate Council.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of December 15, 2016

The minutes of December 15, 2016 were approved, with one correction. Mr. Grimm requested to make sure that his expression of gratitude to the Task Forces who had worked on the Strategic Plan would be added to the December minutes.

C. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Election of new member to the Steering Committee (one semester)

Kyle Edwards conducted the election. Anne Hranchook was nominated. Her nomination was uncontested. She was therefore elected without objection and took her seat immediately.

2. Motion from the Graduate council to recommend approval for the EdD in Organizational Leadership in the School of Education and Human Services (Mr. Andrews, Ms. Eis)

***MOVED** that the Senate recommend to the President and Board of Trustees approval of the EdD in OrganizationL Leadership in the School of Education and Human Services*

Julia Smith from the School of Education made a presentation of the reasons for the new EdD program which are based upon the need for leaders in community service. Her power point presentation is attached to these minutes. She stated that the program is designed for practitioners, and that the people who would participate in it would not be people who would become researchers or professors. She said there is a workforce demand for people with this degree. She noted that the projected enrollment will be 10 in the first year, 15 in the second year, and 20 in the third year. She said that they will eventually want to expand into other domains. She provided an overview of the program design, including the courses that students would take. She compared an EdD to a PhD, and noted that according to the Carnegie designation, the EdD is for practitioners. She said these people need advance training in leadership and emphasized that it is a different audience than researchers. Mr. Grimm thanked her for a good presentation, and asked if there had been any input from the SOB. Mr. Mazzeo confirmed that there was, and said there was no problem with the program from their perspective. Mr. Ball said that in SHS, leadership is a key ingredient. He said the distinct thing about this program is that it supports leadership in the community. He expressed his strong support. Ms. Berven asked if people with this degree can apply for university faculty positions. Ms. Smith said that it is not impossible but that the degree is designed for people who wish to become leaders in the community.

3. Procedural motion from the Steering Committee to staff a Senate Standing Committee (Ms. Daniel, Mr. Andrews)

MOVED that the person listed by appointed to the committee designated.

Academic Computing

Christina Papadimitriou {SHS}

The motion was approved unanimously.

D. GOOD AND WELFARE

There were no comments for Good and Welfare.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (secretary)