

## **Oakland University Senate Minutes**

**April 20, 2017**

**Members present:** Aloj, Andrews, Arnold, Ball, Barry, Battles, Baxa, Berven, D., Berven, K., Cheng, Clark, Corcoran, Daniel, Debnath, Dereski, Didion, Dulio, Eis, Epstein, Folberg, Giblin, Golinski, Gooren, Grimm, Guessous, Keller, Knox, Kubicek, Latcha, Lee, Leibert, Lentini, Long, Margerum-Leys, Mathieson, Megee, Parson, Polis, Reger, Roth, Roumani, Schartman, Thomas, Thompson, Tracy, Weiter, Williams

**Members absent:** Awbrey, Battistuzzi, Chamra, Corso, Dallo, Edrisinha, Edwards, Esetes, Goldberg, Groomes, Howell, Mazzeo, Miller, Miree-Coppin, Rigstad, Townsend, Wells

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

### **Summary of Information and Action Items**

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Two Program modifications approved by Graduate Council**

**Fifteen Program modifications approved by UCUI**

**Fall 2017 Classroom Scheduling Update**

**Barnes and Noble New Affordability Initiative**

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Motion to approve Bachelor of Music in Music Pedagogy and Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy in CAS**

**Motion to approve Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Education and Performance in CAS**

**Provost's Updates**

##### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion from Graduate Council to modify MS in System Engineering**

**Motion from UCUI to approve changes to OU Policy regarding CLEP**

**Motion to approve new hiring policy**

**Motion from Academic Computing Committee to change membership**

**Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees**

#### **A. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

- Provost Lentini asked if there were any questions regarding the lengthy list of program modifications on the agenda, coming from Graduate Council and UCUI (please see April 20, 2017 Senate Agenda for a complete list of these program modifications). There were no questions on these items.
- Mr. Shablin and Mr. Goeth were present to provide an update to the Fall 2017 classroom scheduling situation. Mr. Shablin began by quoting the comforting words of Depak Chopra, who had stated that "All great changes are preceded by great chaos", a notion with which Mr. Shablin concurred. He said that the Registrar's office is continuing to work with the Associate Deans to resolve issues and refine the scheduling process. Mr. Goeth showed a slide to

illustrate classroom sizes and rooms on campus, and indicated the priority ordering system for rooms (policy 190): Classes come first, then academic meetings, conferences, testing sites for ACT, LSAT, School district testing (AP), OC reservations used for non-class events. He explained that as far as time modules are concerned, classes that use the standard modules have priority. He explained how the class schedule would roll, and what optimization looks like. He mentioned how his office schedules for back-to-back instruction (using same building), and how seat fill and location preferences are prioritized. There were several questions and comments from senators, such as Keith Berven who asked how this will work for the future. He noted that there are classes in his department that are not listed because they do not have a room yet, and so students cannot sign up yet. He also asked whether the schedule would roll the way it is optimized. Laura Dinsmoor (Chair, Student Academic Support) said that classes should be scheduled using standard modules. She recommended that chairs have to follow timelines, and brought up the issue of 3-credit versus 4-credit modules. Todd Leibert asked whether the model of optimization lead to optimization. Mr. Goeth replied that it did. Laila Guessous said that in Engineering, foreign students arrive in August and so she was concerned if the system would allow that information since these students arrive to campus late. Andrea Eis observed that in her department, a capstone course went 'inactive', and then disappeared and she added that this was a difficult period. She questioned how this kind of information is supposed to flow. Mr. Goeth asked faculty members to let the Registrar's office know how information should flow and how it went this year. He noted that it was centralized this year and so it has been a year of change.

*\*(Provost Lentini reversed the order of the next agenda items because he would be leaving early for another meeting.)*

In his Provost's Updates, Mr. Lentini reviewed the accomplishments of the Senate during the year. He stated that the Senate had:

- Approved numerous changes to Senate committees, charges and membership;
- Approved new and revised policies such as the guidelines for Senate action items, the foreign language requirement for international students, the residency policy, the grading system in **the** School of Medicine, a new Oakland University grading scale, the GPA rounding policy, the hiring and CLEP policies;
- Heard about retention, the bookstore, revisions of the moribund course policy, the scheduling policy, the bullying policy, the sexual misconduct policy, and student employment policy;
- Heard and sometimes questioned planned program improvements through numerous information items presented at each meeting;
- Approved new programs in Cybersecurity; a new BSN-DNP in Nurse Anesthesia, the EDD in Organizational Leadership, Public Relations and Strategic Communication; Piano Pedagogy; Piano Performance and Pedagogy, Dance Education; Dance Education and Performance;
- Approved a new constitution in the Library, heard about departments in the School of Health Sciences, approved the creation of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance;
- Approved guiding documents for the university including the Strategic Plan goals, the Strategic metrics, and the University Master Plan.

Provost Lentini then thanked Senators for their service, and thanked the Steering Committee for their advice and guidance over the past two years. He thanked Kevin Andrews for his additional role as Senate Parliamentarian and Dikka Berven for her work as Senate Secretary. He also thanked George Preisinger and his staff for making the technology work at each meeting, and Carol Carr to make sure we have had a room, name tents and also refreshments. He added that it takes a village to make this work and he appreciates everyone's efforts in a busy year of supporting colleagues and students and taking OU forward.

*\*( Associate Provost Michelle Piskulich took over to preside in the absence of Mr. Lentini who left at this point.)*

- A representative of Barnes and Noble, Mr. O'Connor, provided a long-distance report (Skype) about a new affordability initiative. He mentioned that the average student loan debt is \$37,000. He said that 63% of students don't buy books, 19% graduate in 4 years. He explained the meaning of Open Education Resources and possibilities for students to save money. Ron Tracy expressed his reservations that when he had looked at some of these resources, he found that he would need a lot of supplemental material and so he has used a published textbook for the content of his course.

#### **B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of March 16, 2017**

In an odd twist of events, Senate members thought they were approving the minutes from the March 16, 2017 meeting, but in fact the minutes that were posted on the Senate website were the March 17, 2016 minutes from the previous year. The Senate secretary would like to express her apologies for forwarding the wrong document for posting on the Senate website, and for providing the Senate parliamentarian with this parliamentary pickle.

#### **C. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **1. Motion from UCUI to recommend approval for a Bachelor of Music in Piano Pedagogy and a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy in the College of Arts and Sciences.**

***MOVED** that the Senate recommend to the President and the Board of Trustees approval of the Bachelor of Music in Piano Pedagogy and the Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy in the College of Arts and Sciences.*

Ms. Wiggins (Chair, MTD) was present to answer questions about this program and the following one on the agenda.

The motion was approved unanimously.

##### **2. Motion from UCUI to recommend approval for a Bachelor of Arts in Dance Education and the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Education and Performance in the College of Arts and Sciences.**

***MOVED** that the Senate recommend to the President and the Board of Trustees approval of the Bachelor of Arts in Dance Education and the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Education and Performance in the College of Arts and Sciences.*

The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **D. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **1. Motion from the Graduate Council to modify the Master of Science in Systems Engineering to shift administrative responsibility to the Department of Industrial and System Engineering and change the course requirements (Hranchook, Daniel)**

***MOVED** that the Senate approve administrative responsibility for the Master of Science in Systems Engineering to the Department of Industrial and System Engineering in the School of Engineering and Computer Science and change the course requirements approved by Graduate council.*

Robert Van Til (Professor of Lean Studies and Chair) explained the history of the programs in Industrial and Systems Engineering department as background for the motion. He said there would be no new courses, and these changes concern all existing stuff. He explained what Systems Engineering is, and noted that the primary demand is in the areas of Defense and Connected Transportation, and it is difficult to outsource. He said this is the job of the future and there are jobs available. Mr. Latcha added that this change does not represent a complicated shift, by giving administrative authority to another department. He then moved to waive the second reading. This motion to waive the second reading was seconded by everyone. The original motion was then approved unanimously.

##### **2. Motion from UCUI to approve changes to the Oakland University Policy regarding the acceptance of the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) credits (Andrews, Williams)**

***MOVED** that the Senate approve removing the requirement that non-transfer students have fewer than 64 OU earned credits and transfer students have fewer than 32 OU earned credits as a condition for accepting CLEP credits.*

Tricia Westergaard was present to explain that CLEP provides the opportunity for students to sit for an exam and get college credit. She said that the current policy was written in 1977 and has become a barrier to student completion. She pointed out that seven of the 4-year Michigan public universities do not have this barrier and it is time to remove it from OU as well. Mr. Arnold moved to waive the second reading (seconded by Mr. Dulio). The motion to waive the second reading was approved.

The original motion was then approved unanimously.

### **3. Motion from the Steering Committee to approve a new hiring policy (Daniel, Eis)**

***MOVED** that the Senate approve a new hiring policy.*

Joi Cunningham was present to explain the new hiring policy. Mr. Andrews asked for clarification on when the hiring form has to be filled out by the person applying for a position. Ms. Cunningham said that it is filled out when the applicant arrives. Mr. Cheng moved to waive the second reading (seconded by Kris Thompson). This motion was approved. The original motion was approved unanimously.

### **4. Motion from the Academic Computing Committee to change its membership to include a representative from Technical Services and Classroom Support (Eis, Andrews)**

***MOVED** that the Senate approve the change in membership for the Academic Computing Committee to include a representative from Technical Services and Classroom support.*

Doug Carr was present to explain the reason for the change, namely, that nobody on the Academic Computing Committee can address what goes on with technology in the classroom, and so this committee needs a representative who can answer those questions. Zach Thompson moved to waive the second reading (seconded by Mr. Tracy). The original motion was approved.

### **5. Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees (Hranchook, Daniel)**

***MOVED** that the persons listed be appointed to the committee or positions designated*

The motion was approved.

## **E. GOOD AND WELFARE**

Zach Thomas said that regarding the excused absence policy, students are not receiving equitable opportunities to make up work. He provided a handout of the excused absence policy, and he gave anecdotal examples of this problem. He suggested that a solution would include to form an Ad Hoc committee to look into the matter.

## **F. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dikka Berven (Senate Secretary)

