

Oakland University Senate Minutes

October 19, 2017

Members present: Aloï, Arnold, Ball, Banes-Berceli, Baxa, Berven, D., Berven, K., Bowe, Chamra, Chaney, Cheezum, Cheng, Corcoran, Craig, Debnath, Doherty, Dulio, Dvir, Edrisinha, Eis, Epstein, Giblin, Gooren, Harbin, Herold, Knox, Latcha, Lauer, Law-Sullivan, Lentini, Long, Margerum-Leys, Mishack, Mitton, Olawoyin, Orzach, Parkash, Rigstad, Roth, Schmitz, Shablin, Shkoukani, Stone, Van Til, Wallis, Weiter, Wells

Members absent: Cole, Corso, Dereski, Didion, Estes, Folberg, Guessous, Hranchook, Insko, Jagtap, Markel, Mazzeo, Meehan, Megee, Mitchell, Navin, Reger, Tracy

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

Summary of Information and Action Items

INFORMATION ITEMS

ADA Compliance

Scheduling Modules

Program Modification to the Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering

Final Undergraduate and Graduate School Reports: 2016 and 2017

Provost's Updates

ACTION ITEMS

New Business

Motion to recommend a revised University Mission

Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committee

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

- **ADA (American Disabilities Act) Compliance:** Todd Nucci was present to explain the progress towards ensuring that the university is ADA compliant so that the same experience is offered to all users who engage with the Oakland.edu website. He noted that there are guidelines available, and he mentioned that most vendors are ready to work with a compliance paragraph. In his presentation, he provided examples of the types of issues that are being corrected, such as creating a sharper color contrast to make the OU webpage look cleaner and easier to see, fixing broken links, correcting misspellings, and so on.
- **Scheduling Modules:** Steve Shablin explained that the classroom scheduling modules need to be respected and their use will be enforced. He showed the standard modules for both 4- and 3-credit courses, including secondary modules that require a nested class pair and approval from the Dean's Designee and the Registrar. He noted that any exception should be approved by the appropriate Associate Dean. He added that the summer semester uses a different set of modules.
- **Program modification:** Provost Lentini informed the Senate that the Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the School of

Engineering and Computer Science and the Department of Biology in the College of Arts and Sciences has been modified, and the modifications were approved by UCUI. Courses were added to assure curricular conformance to ABET learning outcomes and requirements.

- **Final School Reports:** Mr. Lentini noted that the Steering Committee had approved the Final Undergraduate and Graduate School Reports for August 27, 2016 and April 26, 2017.
- **Provost's Updates:** Provost Lentini provided an update on his Provosts' meeting in Washington, D.C. where an important topic of discussion was the downward trend of enrollments at the university level for five straight years. He observed that the university draws from community colleges, but their enrollments are also down. He said we need to improve retention rates, graduate more students and look at the competitive market to see which credits we are accepting. He added that if students have to jump through too many hoops to transfer into OU, they will go elsewhere. He observed that lower enrollments are a national trend but added that OU should be in a good position to improve enrollments because we are in the best possible location. He does not believe there are enough online course offerings. He stated that this is an urgent matter. He reminded members that new dollars all come from tuition, and indicated that examples of possibilities for which there is a market include credential and certificate programs, masters programs and stackable certificates, and he urged senators to think of ways that the curriculum options can be opened up to attract more students. He said that another important topic is the unequal number of credits needed to graduate for various programs—for example, some students are graduating with 150-200 credits which is a very high number of credits, and we need to figure out why this is happening. He pointed out that over 3 years, students took a collective 180,000 credits that they did not need. On the positive side, he said that there was a big graduating class, and there is a very diverse FTIAC class coming in.

B. Approval of the minutes of September 14, 2017

The minutes of the September 14, 2017 meeting were approved.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion from the Steering Committee to recommend a revised University Mission.

MOVED that the Senate recommend to the President and the Board of Trustees the approval of a revised Oakland University Mission (Ron Tracy, Dan Aloj)

Senators were provided with a handout with the current Mission Statement, which reads as follows:

“Oakland University is a preeminent metropolitan university that is recognized as a student-centered, doctoral research institution with a global perspective. We engage students in distinctive educational experiences that connect to the unique and diverse opportunities within and beyond our region. Through faculty-driven and student-engaged research, scholarship, and creative activity, Oakland University advances knowledge and art in a diverse and inclusive environment.”

Oakland University is an active community partner providing thriving civic, cultural, and recreational opportunities and valuable public service."

The Provost noted that the Board of Trustees does not like the above statement in part because it is too long and because the word 'metropolitan' was not a good word choice. He said that the purpose of a Mission Statement is to identify who we are and what we do, but in fewer words. He said that after being approved by the BOT, the statement then has to be approved by HLC. He opened up a discussion centered on the following *proposed* new Mission Statement coming from the Senate Steering Committee:

"Oakland University is dedicated to cultivating the full potential of a broad and inclusive community. We engage Michigan and the world through education, research, scholarship, and creative activity."

After an animated discussion and a good deal of tweaking to the above wording, the following statement was developed:

"Oakland University is a public doctoral institution that cultivates the full potential of a diverse and inclusive community. We impact Michigan and the world through education, research, scholarship, and creative activity. "

The motion was made to approve this statement (Chang, Latcha). The motion was approved with one 'no', and one abstention.

2. Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committee

MOVED that the person listed be appointed to the committees or positions designated. (Mark Rigstad)

Assessment Committee

Andrea Eis, CAS 2017-2018

The motion was approved.

C. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (secretary)