

College of Arts and Sciences
ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2017
Oakland Center Gold Room C

Members present: Andrews, Barry, Bekele, Benz, Berven, D., Berven, K., Cheng, Corso, Eis, Guest, Jones, McDonald, Navin, Pobutsky, Reger, Roth, Spagnuolo, Tucker, Walwema, Welling, Westrick, Yang
Members absent: Battles, Dulio, Freed, Herold, Miller, Orces, Rigstad, Wang

Dean Corcoran called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of January 24, 2017

The minutes of the meeting of January 24, 2017, were approved.

2. UPDATE ON THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE

Jackie Wiggins (Chair, MTD) was present to answer questions about the proposal concerning the name and structural changes to the Department of Music Theatre and Dance.

Dean Corcoran updated the Assembly on the progress of the proposal at various levels up to this point, noting that it had been reviewed and tentatively approved by the Provost, which he hailed as an important step in the right direction.

Mr. Cheng observed that the present proposal was different from the previous proposal from the last meeting, which was also the proposal approved by the CAS Assembly in 2011, which involved a name change only. He inquired why the name change alone is no longer sufficient.

Ms. Wiggins replied that times have changed since 2011, and the department has grown to the point where further structural changes are needed if MTD is going to be able to continue to function.

Mr. Andrews observed that the present proposal was different from the one that the Senate Steering committee had been presented at their meeting a few weeks ago, as well as different from the 2010 proposal which was largely a name change. He noted that the present proposal provides a structure where the Director is no longer a member of the bargaining unit, and he asked if the Director would be at the level of an Associate Dean in the CAS. He also pointed out that this structure of a School within the CAS is a new entity at Oakland University, and he inquired whether the MTD unit would still be a member of the Humanities group within the CAS. The Dean replied that it would be.

Ms. Wiggins explained that the three entities of Music, Theatre and Dance are very different and because of this, there are situations that are not good, such as actors who are evaluating musicians in the tenure process, and musicians who have to evaluate dancers. She said that this process does not make sense. She said that they have basically already been functioning as a School in the sense that they have had three chairs for quite some time acting as chairs of Music, Theatre and Dance in an unofficial way because they are not technically chairpersons in the CAS. But she added that MTD is ten times larger than it was some years ago, and the proposal with the structural changes represents a first step towards MTD becoming a separate School eventually, which is what she said it should be some day. She explained that as Chair of MTD, she has been doing more of a Dean's job for quite some time, but without compensation. She stated that if and when she retires, if the present structure does not change, it will be impossible for the university to hire someone to do the job that she presently does in her role as Chairperson. She explained that she is in charge of 173 employees, a task much larger than any other chairperson in the CAS, and she asserted that it is beyond time when

she should receive compensation for the amount and kind of work that she has to do, which is largely administrative.

Mr. Andrews asked whether there will still be one designated member of MTD to the CAS Assembly with the new structure.

The Dean replied that this was the type of thing that they had not addressed yet, but he said they would figure that out. At present, he thought there will still be one member of MTD to the Assembly.

Mr. Corso expressed both his sympathy and his empathy with the proposal because he stated that the Department of Art and Art History also has three separate disciplines operating within the context of one department. He asked for the reason that the proposal being discussed was different from the 2011 proposal the Assembly had reviewed in January.

The Dean responded that since January, there had been further conversations at several levels within the university, and the proposal has benefited from those conversations, resulting in the present form of the proposal.

Mr. Corso said that he is happy to have MTD in the CAS and asked if the plan would be for it to stay there in the future.

Ms. Wiggins said it is impossible to say what the future will bring, but her unit is asking for recognition of what they actually are, how they have grown, and also they want compensation for the Director who is doing more work than any Chair on campus.

Mr. Corso asked how long the structure outlined in the proposal would meet the needs of MTD, and Ms. Wiggins replied that it is predictable that the School will grow, that as a School recruiting will be easier, and eventually it will make sense for MTD to be a separate School.

Dean Corcoran concurred that it is not possible to foresee the future and gave as an example the cinema studies major, which now has 90 majors, which is a development nobody would have guessed or predicted could happen some years ago. He added that it is possible to think of other different structures in the future, as for example, a School of the Arts. He noted that making MTD a School inside the CAS is much less expensive than making it a School separate from the CAS, and in fact, the School inside the CAS will only cost about the equivalent of one Assistant Professor position, or \$40,000-45,000.

Mr. Andrews asked whether the research that went into preparing the proposal involved checking to see if there are similar structures at other universities in which there is a School within a College.

Ms. Wiggins replied that MTD units at other universities have all different structures, and there is no single model. She added that if there is a "Department" of Music, Theatre and Dance, it is usually in a small liberal arts school of 3,000 students, and in fact, that is how the OU Department of MTD is perceived in the outside world.

Mr. Andrews re-iterated the question of how long the proposed structure will be satisfactory, and Ms. Wiggins replied that if they get a new building, that will change things.

Mr. Andrews asked what would be the effect if the number of students were to double in size, and if that would make the proposed structure unsatisfactory. Ms. Wiggins said that it would.

Dean Corcoran noted that the State of Michigan will not pay for a new MTD building, or for a performance building for athletics, either, and that such buildings would have to come from private money.

Mr. Andrews noted that there is no trigger for what will happen in the future, but he believes it is reasonable to say that doubling the number of students in MTD could make a difference.

Ms. Wiggins replied that she had looked carefully at the School of Health Sciences at OU, and she compared them, pointing out that MTD is bigger than they are, but because of constraints put on MTD by the university, they do not have as many majors.

Mr. Andrews asked what these constraints are, and Ms. Wiggins replied that she was talking about scholarships, because MTD does not have a reasonable scholarship base which they need and without which they will never grow because students will always go elsewhere where they can get a full ride.

Mr. Corcoran added that the history of the university and the donors is relevant to this situation as well.

Mr. Berven observed that if MTD is a School instead of a Department, it will be easier to attract money from donors, and Ms. Wiggins agreed.

Mr. Cheng asked if this kind of structure could cause changes in other units in the CAS that also have multiple disciplines.

Mr. Corcoran replied that these entities would more likely become departments, and not Schools.

Mr. Andrews asked if the Director of the School of MTD will attend Academic Council meetings, to which the Dean replied that he/she would do so. Mr. Andrews also asked if it was the case that the Director would not attend Chairs' meetings, and Dean Corcoran stated that this was correct.

Mr. Andrews asked how the Director position would fit into the pay structure, and the Dean said the Director would be a faculty member.

Mr. Andrews further inquired if there will therefore be several "small d" Chairs, and Mr. Corcoran said that was correct, and those Chairs would attend the Chairs' meetings. Mr. Andrews said that in his opinion, this structure would provide a model that other units may want to follow.

Ms. Wiggins again attested to the point that MTD does so much that they have the complexity of a School, but to become a School, they would need many services which eventually the CAS would not be able to provide and it will be at that point that MTD would become a separate School outside the CAS.

Mr. Corcoran pointed out that the new president of Oakland will have a major impact on the direction the university will go in the future, and he added that the present President is completely supportive of this proposed direction of the School of MTD.

Mr. Andrews said that the proposal should contain verbiage to explain clearly why it is important that MTD should be a School and not a Department.

Ms. Berven asked what would happen if the present proposal is not approved. Ms. Wiggins replied that this would be very bad because the same thing that happened in 2004 when MTD had gone into receivership could happen again. She said that Mary Papazian (a former associate dean) saved the day by writing an excellent report that outlined the dire situation MTD was in.

But Ms. Wiggins said emphatically that MTD never wants to be in that situation again.

Ms. Eis asked what should come next in terms of the process to move this proposal along.

The Dean replied that the proposal should go to the Senate, and then perhaps to the Board of Trustees, and also to the AAUP.

Mr. Andrews agreed that the proposal would require BOT action because it requires a modification of the contract.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dean Corcoran provided a quick update on the Presidential search, saying it is moving quickly along, and that the goal is to have 2-4 candidates on campus in early April when students are still here, which he emphasized was an important aspect of it.

He reminded Assembly members to respond to the online climate survey that was recently made available.

He said that a call had gone out from Communication and Marketing office where they are working on the branding of the university. He said they want to meet with 600 people during the process to get as much input as possible.

Brad Roth announced that an NIH grant of \$1,900,000 had been received by a member of the Assembly, Randy Westrick in Biology, and there was an enthusiastic round of applause to acknowledge this accomplishment.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dikka Berven, secretary