

Senate Minutes September 19, 2019

Members present: *Alexander, Aloj, AlSalman, Barclay, Barry, Battle, Berven, K., Berven, D., Cesmelioglu, Cheng, Clark, Debnath, Didion, Dinda, Discenna, ElSayed, Epstein, Estes, Gajewski, Garfinkle, Ghobrial, Gooren, Guessous, Hristova, Knox, Landolt, Latcha, Leibert, Lentini, Liptak, Margerum-Leys, McMillon, Meldrum, Meyers, Miller, Parkash, Paul, Petrescu, Reger, Rodriguez, Rule, Tiegs, Tracy, Van Til, Zhang*

Members absent: *Ball, Campoy-Cubillo, Chamra, Corcoran, Corso, Cortes, Dean, Doherty, Edrisinha, Giblin, Hay, Isken, Joyce, Law-Sullivan, Long, Mazzeo, Mezwa, Roumani, Wadsworth*

Summary of Information and Action Items

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Appointment of Senate Parliamentarian
- Appointment of Senate Secretary
- Appointment of Senate Elections Committee
- South Foundation Hall Update
- Strategic Enrollment Management update
- Youth Protection Policy
- Provost's Updates

ACTION ITEMS

New Business

- Election of the Senate Steering Committee for the 2019-2021 Senate
- Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees

Provost Lentini called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M, welcoming new and returning Senators.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Appointments of Senate Parliamentarian, Senate Secretary and Senate Elections Committee: Provost Lentini appointed Mike Latcha as Senate Parliamentarian, Dikka Berven as Senate Secretary and to the Senate Elections Committee, he appointed Jo Reger (CAS, chair), Zeina AlSalman (SBA) and Debatosh Debnath (SECS).
- South Foundation Hall Update: Ms. Tricia Westergaard (Registrar) and architect representatives from Stantec were present to provide an update on the extensive renovations and addition being planned for South Foundation Hall in 2020/21. The architects explained that this is a capital outlay project that had been submitted to the state to deal with the space problems on campus. They noted that South Foundation Hall currently has 39 classrooms which will go up to 50 following the renovation. They said they had studied the 2018 scheduling data for classes in SFH to figure out how to get more classrooms into the space, and their research concluded that we have good room utilization but when rooms are in use, on average only about 49% of the seats are full and so a goal is to make the rooms the right size for the number of students which means making rooms smaller and reducing the number of chairs in a number of the rooms.

They also concluded that the rooms do not work that well for modern learning methods. So they are looking at removing every single wall between the rooms which will make the project a complete gut renovation. New windows will bring in additional natural light. They said the old style desks will be upgraded to more flexible furniture, and the technology will be upgraded so it is standardized in all the classrooms. They also noted that there will be room in this building for student collaboration and meeting after classes. Their plans will ensure that the building will meet sustainability goals, will be safe, universally accessible, and be an inclusive space. They broke classroom size down as follows: a handful of rooms that seat 20, a handful seating 24, with 32-seat classes being the main type; there will be 10 classrooms seating 42-48, and 2 72-seat classrooms. The renovations are expected to take up to 18 months, starting in May 2020. They also showed architectural drawings of what the new two-story building will look like with the new part and façade, as well as how the building will look with the renovations to the old area. Senators expressed the hope that there will be an opportunity for faculty members to provide their feedback once the plans are farther along, and they were assured by the Stantec people that there would be future meetings after the initial stages for further discussion about configurations and furniture. Senators expressed concerns such as:

- ✚ The classrooms as they are set up in the illustrations do not look like they will function well given the types of classes that are taught in SFH and so it would be better to see a model room set-up rather than an illustration.
- ✚ There will be two floors and not three in the new building and so since space is such an issue, this seems like a loss of space and not a gain.
- ✚ There will only be 10 new classrooms after all of the renovations are done which does not sound like enough additional classrooms to solve space needs.
- ✚ The additional sunlight in the south-facing rooms will make the rooms too warm and create glare on the blackboards and so there should be shades to protect against the heat and the light.
- ✚ There was disappointment that there will be white boards instead of blackboards.
- ✚ Given the arrangement and type of furniture shown in the rooms, it will be difficult to set them up properly for an exam situation.
- ✚ With the reduction of the number of larger rooms down to two, it will be increasingly difficult to find space for the group exams to be administered at the end of the year.
- ✚ On a positive note, there was support for the collaborative spaces being planned in the new building.

The architects explained that it will not be possible to have three stories in this building due to technical issues and modern building codes which include more space needed for ductwork, piping, electrical, mechanical work between the floors to meet modern standards, given the ceiling heights that the new configuration will have. They said that the mezzanine they are planning is actually a bonus. They assured senators that there would be a future opportunity to discuss the renovations and furnishings after this preliminary phase. Ms. Westergaard introduced Mr. Goeth who went over strategies and tactics for surviving the dislocation, such as classroom sharing and hybrid courses, increasing online instruction, and working with primary and secondary time modules, with Friday and Saturday providing additional opportunities for

scheduling. Also, the Registrar's office is working on identifying spaces that are not presently being used as classroom space to be converted temporarily into classroom space, such as the Registrar own conference room, making sure that such rooms have the technology necessary for classroom use. They called upon everyone to think creatively about how spaces might be transformed into classrooms during this construction period. Also, there are going to be off-site locations. Ms. Westergaard stressed the need for everyone to work together to get through this temporary construction phase, and she wanted to thank everyone in advance for their help in facing the challenges coming during this period.

- Strategic Enrollment Management: Provost Lentini pointed out that the state of Michigan is still in decline mode with respect to birth rates and 18-year olds graduating from high school, a trend which is predicted to go on through the year 2032, and therefore getting new students is more and more challenging. He specified that this is why a strategic enrollment management plan is essential. He introduced Ms. Dawn Aubry who was present to provide an update on the Strategic Enrollment Management plan (SEM). She reported that the numbers of undergraduate applications, undergraduate admissions and also transfer students are up this year. She informed the Senate that there are 20 new articulation agreements with other institutions to facilitate the transfer process for students. These articulation agreements are primarily with community college. She observed that although undergraduate enrollment is up, graduate enrollment is not. She explained that the greatest challenge for enrollment management is retention. She pointed out that we are presently at a 76% retention rate. She said that the present effort is the first time OU is working to hit an optimal enrollment through a strategic enrollment management plan, to meet the optimal enrollment by 2025. She stressed that it is important to get rid of policies and policies that tend to filter students out of the university instead of retain them, and create new processes that facilitate completion and success. She said that tactics and strategies are critical for a successful strategic enrollment management plan. She also said that if OU does not have a good strategic enrollment management plan, enrollments will have a downward trend in the future. However, with attainable goals of a SEM plan, enrollments can increase. She explained the critical importance of taking into account the relationship between the changing demographics in the state of Michigan and predicting enrollment trends.
- Youth Protection Policy: Mr. Kunselman was present to provide an update on the need for a Youth Protection Policy. He introduced his Task Force. He said that since 2012 after issues occurred at Penn State, a Youth Protection team was formed here at OU which in turn led to a policy that was drafted, but never issued. However, a website intended for camps and to guide camp sponsors was created. Then, after an alarming incident on campus in 2017 where an accused child predator was found to have spent time in the Lowry Center, there was an investigation that led to an audit of processes in place, which led ultimately to the creation of the Youth Protection Policy. Mr. Kunselman noted that will be an administrator in charge of youth protection on campus. The policy itself is included among the documents and materials provided for this Senate meeting.
- Provost's Updates: Provost Lentini referred again to the South Foundation Hall renovation project, and added that the university is looking into purchasing a building across Squirrel Road

which is a 128,000 square foot space. He expressed his hope that this will come into fruition and help to free up some space on campus and to accommodate a variety of needs, including teaching and research. He stated that there will be more information coming about this acquisition. He added that there is also a Wilson Hall renovation project still in the planning stages, but which will not be of the scope of the South Foundation Hall project.

A. APPROVAL of the Minutes of May 9, 2019

The minutes of the meeting of May 9, 2019, were approved.

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of the Senate Steering Committee for the 2019-2021 Senate—Senate Elections Committee

Jo Reger (chair of the Elections Committee) conducted the election for the Senate Steering Committee for 2019-2021. The following people were nominated: Dan Aloji, Erin Meyers, Tom Discenna, Ron Tracy, Ellen Gajewski and Julia Rodriguez. They were then approved by acclamation.

2. Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees

MOVED that the persons listed be appointed to the committees or positions designated:

Academic Conduct Committee

Clark, Dan 2019-2021 extending term to 2022
Levenson, Helen 2019-2021 extending term to 2022
Gajewski, Ellen 2019-2021 extending term to 2022
Prieta, Raquel 2019-2021 extending term to 2022
Yan Lin 2019-2021 extending term to 2022

Assessment Committee

Trevedi, Even (CAS) 2019-2022 replacing Tom Raffel 2019-2022
Tonsing, Kareen (CAS) 2019-2022 clarifying term
Condron, Dennis (CAS) 2019-2022 clarifying term

General Education Committee

Lynch, Amanda (SHS) 2019-2022

Library Committee

Zhao, Peng (SECS) 2018-2020 reinstatement—he was replaced in error in April 2019 by Subramaniam Ganesan

Research Committee

McEneaney, John (SEHS) 2019-2021 replacing Chaturi Edrisinha 2019-2021

Insko, Jeff (CAS) 2018-2020 Chair rather than Co-Chair

Teaching and Learning Committee

Barry, Meaghan, (CAS) Co-Chair Fall 2019

Battistuzzi, Fabie (CAS) replacing Meaghan Barry as member and Co-Chair Winter 2020

University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction

Reznar, Melissa (SHS) 2019-2022 replacing Sumit Dinda

Nowelsielski, Roz (SBA) 2019-2022

The motion was approved.

C. GOOD AND WELFARE

There were no items for Good and Welfare.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dikka Berven (Senate Secretary)