

Senate meeting

Minutes March 16, 2023

Meeting Location: Hybrid/ Oakland Center Banquet Room B or via Zoom

Members present: Aloï, Arnold, Ball, Barclay, Barry, Battles, Berven, D., Berven, K., Blumer-Schuttee, Boruff-Jones, Carey, Clark, Cortes, Craig, Debnath, Eis, Farooqi, Goble, Guessous, Hansen, Knox, Kobus, Kondratek, Kridli, Landolt, Law-Sullivan, Lerchenfeldt, Leibert, McMillon, Merchant, Meyers, Miller, Mitton, Naus, Ostergaard, Pily-Droulard, Reger, Rios-Ellis, Rivard, Romano, Rutledge, Shesko, Tilashalski, Wadsworth, Wells, Wendell, Zhu

Members absent: Chamra, Edrisinha, ElSayed, Fouladbakhsh, Hartmus,

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 P.M. by Provost Rios-Ellis.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. INFORMATION ITEMS

1.1. Graduate School Submissions (none)

1.2. Undergraduate Program Submissions

1.2.1. **Request to add the Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL Certificate) to Banner, update the title to TESOL**, and add one required course as the certificate has existed since 2000 and is listed in the UG catalog to allow validation via official transcription; Department of Linguistics, College of Arts and Sciences

1.2.2. **Modification to the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Minor Proposal**; Department of Linguistics, College of Arts and Sciences

1.2.3. **Modification to the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) PreK-12 Minor Proposal** for the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Catalog to meet the new MDE requirements (renaming the program, adding and removing courses); Department of Linguistics, College of Arts and Sciences

1.3. Combined Graduate School and Undergraduate Submissions (none)

1.4. Budget Presentation - Steve Mackey (in person)

1.5. Library Sustainability - Katie Greer (virtual)

1.6. Student Engagement Task Force - Lance Markowitz (in-person)

1.7. University Senate Committee Updates

Community Engagement Committee

Jennifer Anderson has been appointed Director of Community Engagement Service Learning Committee

Jennifer Anderson has been appointed Director of Community Engagement

1.8. Provost Updates

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 2.1 Motion from the Graduate Council approved to adopt a new policy on Graduate credits for Prior Learning (CPL) to begin Fall 2023**
- 2.2 Motion from the Senate General Education committee approved to change its charge to create a co-chair position and to add a position of a General Education coordinator**
- 2.3 Motion from the Graduate Council approved for a new Master's of Science in Finance to begin Fall 2023 (SBA)**

3. NEW BUSINESS

- 3.1 Motion from the Senate General Education Committee to amend the policy for international second-degree seeking students to remove General Education requirements**
- 3.2 Motion from the Graduate Council to create a Dual Degrees Program Policy that would allow three types of dual degree programs**
- 3.3 Motion from the Senate Planning Review Committee to change its charge amending its membership**
- 3.4 Motion from the Senate Steering Committee to create a new University Classroom Use and Academic Schedule committee to replace an existing Task Force**
- 3.5 Motion from the Senate Steering Committee to bring forth proposed changes to the Oakland University Senate Constitution for formal approval by the faculty**
- 3.6 Motion from UCUI to approve the new policy Undergraduate Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)**
- 3.7 Motion from the Senate Budget Review Committee to change its charge**

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

Provost Rios-Ellis offered senators the opportunity to ask questions or comment on Information Items 1.1-1.3 above. There were none and so she moved on to the next item.

1.4: Provost Rios-Ellis introduced Steve Markey (VP of Finance) who was invited to make a presentation to the Senate on the Oakland University budget. Following are some of his observations and several highlights of this presentation.

He discussed the issues that exist relating to Higher Education Budget fundamentals. He outlined budget challenges, explained what the All Funds budget review is, provided a recap of the FY22 General Fund budget, and gave an update on the FY23 General Fund budget. He stated that OU had budgeted revenue of \$261,000,000 but had expenses of \$270,000,000, which he commented is an obvious shortfall and so he declared that the main question is to figure out what amount is safe for reserves in order to avoid such a shortfall? He noted that there are budget challenges. He gave as an example that high school populations are declining in Michigan meaning that there are strong headwinds against us as well as increased competition from other institutions, so he said we need to re-invent ourselves as does every university in the USA. He noted that there is an unstable economic forecast and

continuing high inflation, as well as the problem of student retention. He differentiated between the numerous funds, explaining that the General Funds are monitored by the Budget Office, whereas the Non-General Funds are monitored by the Accounting Offices. He added that there are nine fund types with various restrictions and limited uses. He clarified that his presentation today concerned the General Fund only. He said it is generally recommended that in higher education there should be 3-6 months of reserves for expenses, according to which OU is in pretty good shape. He explained that at OU, 72% of revenue comes from tuition, 21% from the state, and 7% in other encumbered funds. He noted that 73% of expenses are salary and benefits. He provided definitions of the various categories for salary and benefits (faculty, administration and administrative, clerical), with faculty salary and benefits using 51% of the fund, administrative salaries using 31% of the fund, full and part-time clerical using 7%, and other used for union wages 4%, OU CMT and Public safety. He warned that there will be a credit hour impact with downward enrollment trends, and stated that a plan is needed for the future with 15% fewer high school graduates in the population in the next 15 years. In addition, he noted that enrollments in community colleges are down, with Oakland Community college losing almost 50% over the last nine years. He said OU has a long history of stewardship netting 93 million in savings, so there is a culture of stretching every dollar, but he said it's not enough, and he asked Senate members to think what would senators do if they had to solve this problem? He wants suggestions and said that he has created a google form for financial suggestions because he is looking for ideas on new revenue opportunities in the areas of student, faculty and staff retention; new programs for non-traditional students, and so on. He said the next steps are for everyone to participate actively in the Strive for 45 Campaign. He said there is a need to address how much is available in financial aid and scholarships; a need to support faculty needs for space and research; a need to address student enrolments and retention among freshmen and transfer students, a need to figure out the best way to address deferred maintenance, buildings, equipment and supplies, and to include campus safety as a priority. Ms. Miller asked if OU has been able to figure out why there is a deficiency in freshman enrollments. Provost Rios-Ellis said that the OU dashboard contains a great deal of information to explain the trends and why we are losing a higher percentage of students now. Ms. Miller asked if we are asking students why they are not coming back. Provost Rios-Ellis replied that this is a question for Dawn Aubry, adding that we could send surveys and see if students respond. Ms. Rios-Ellis continued that we need to build a portfolio of high impact practices to address this issue. She suggested that we need an introductory class for all incoming freshmen. Ms. Aubry said that in many cases besides the skyrocketing costs of higher education, there can be family issues for FTIACs who often lack support at home—in addition to academic issues. She noted that OU students work many hours which has an effect on their academic work, and added that adult learners often choose community colleges. She said we need more hybrid courses and more flexible scheduling, and she advised the use of the Golden Grizzly Graduates program that gets struggling students through to graduation by helping them financially when they stop out. Mr. Mitton indicated that there are four universities involved in the Strive for 45 and he stated that we need to talk to legislators. Mr. Markey replied that OU has been the torch bearer for this

objective in the legislature. Mr. Leibert asked how much money OU needs in order for departments to be able to hire faculty again which he said relates to accreditation. He added that it seems as if we have known about declining enrollments since 2005 but nothing has been done which causes a sense of insecurity because we keep cutting and now we need to cut more. Provost Rios-Ellis replied that OU is trying to build other sources of revenue because we are over-dependent on tuition and enrollment. Mr. Markey agreed that it is not a new problem and he concurred that the fact is that we've been cutting budget for 15 years. He said that have been deferred maintenance building decisions with pipes and roofs and such, where budgets were cut from these funds so as not to run out of everything else, but now there is nothing left to cut and there are still buildings that need to be repaired. He said we need to plan and prepare for the future because we can't cut our way out of the situation, so we need to create revenue and grow our way out of this situation by monetizing our assets. Provost Rios-Ellis thanked him for his presentation.

1.5: Dean Masters was present on behalf of Katie Greer in the library to talk about the efforts to make the library more sustainable. They have established the 'little free library' to find re-use for non-library books, they have a 'sustainable library' with books on sustainability and climate issues, and they have a seed library which is using an old card catalog cabinet that will have seeds for students to take and plant. In addition, he said they have more single-stream recycling bins in the library, and they want to create maps of the area and the trees. He added that they will take donations of seeds.

1.6: Lance Markowitz was present to talk about the Student Engagement Task Force established to facilitate communication between faculty and students, to discuss how to increase student interest and engagement. He said there is a student questionnaire that 500 students have already taken. He indicated that they have a partnership with CETL, and that they are participating in creating 'teaching tips' for faculty, and will have a panel discussion event soon where faculty and students can exchange ideas. Dan Arnold said that E-Learning would like to be involved in this committee.

1.7: Provost Rios-Ellis provided the following updates:

- Next month Chief Gordon will be at the Senate to talk about safety on our campus.
- Next month there will be a Happy Hour in Hillcrest Hall after the next Senate meeting which will be in person only.
- She encouraged faculty members to volunteer for Senate Committees because the call has gone out.
- She said the OUWB has selected their Dean candidates as this process is moving forward.
- She announced there will be a Latinex event on April 16 to which all are invited to celebrate graduation.

Ms. Farooqi asked if OU is looking for a policy in which those entering buildings would have to swipe a card in order to enter. Provost Rios-Ellis replied affirmatively, and said measures are being taken to decide about which buildings would have this feature. She added that they are also getting the loudspeakers updated in buildings because students are often wearing earbuds these days and so are not always able to hear what is going on around

them which led to deciding that louder loudspeakers are needed. She remarked that she is in the process of writing a grant for \$5,000,000 which would be used to educate on how to be ready and prepare. Mr. Romano asked what about if they don't get the money from the grant, and will we still be prioritizing campus safety? Provost Rios-Ellis replied that OU will be doing everything possible to keep the campus as safe as it has been, commenting that OU historically has been safe and that they are being very pro-active to keep it that way.

B. MINUTES of the meeting of February 16, 2023

The minutes of the meeting of February 16 were approved. Mr. Ball noted that he should have been listed among the members present for the February meeting. This will be corrected in the minutes.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 2.1. **MOTION** from the Graduate Council to adopt a new policy on Graduate Credits for Prior Learning (CPL) to begin Fall 2023 to create guidelines that would allow graduate students to be awarded graduate level credit for prior learning by meeting the equivalent knowledge required by their department; Graduate School.

MOVED *that the Senate approve the policy presented by Graduate Council to adopt a new Policy for Graduate Credits for Prior Learning to begin Fall 2023*

The motion was approved (39 yes, 0 no)

- 2.2. **MOTION** from the Senate General Education Committee to change its charge to create a co-chair position and to add a position of a General Education Coordinator in the committee membership to mirror the structure of the Senate General Education Assessment Committee (GEAC). (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo - virtual)

MOVED *that the Senate approve the changes to the General Education Committee to change its membership to create a co-chair position and to add a position of a General Education Coordinator in the committee membership.*

The motions was approved (39 yes, 0 no)

- 2.3. **MOTION** from Graduate Council to approve a new program proposal for a Master's of Science in Finance to begin fall 2023; Department of Accounting and Finance, School of Business Administration.

MOVED *that the Senate approve the proposal for a new Master's of Science in Finance program to begin fall 2023.*

The motion was approved (37 yes, 0 no).

D. NEW BUSINESS

- 3.1. The University Senate General Education Committee (GEC) proposes to amend the Policy for International Second Degree Seeking Students to remove general education requirements.

MOVED *that the Senate approve the General Education Committee (GEC) proposal to amend the Policy for International Second Degree Seeking Students to remove general education requirements.* (Guessous, Mitton)

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for final vote at this meeting

Comment: Proposal
UCUI Approval
Presentation

- 3.2. The Graduate Council proposes the creation of a new Dual Degree Graduate Programs Policy that would allow for three types of dual degree programs. Graduate Council, Graduate School.

MOVED *that the Senate approve the Graduate Council proposes the creation of a new Dual Degree Graduate Programs Policy that would allow for three types of dual degree programs.* (Guessus, Rutledge)

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for final vote at this meeting

Comment: Policy Proposal
Graduate Council Approval
Presentation

- 3.3. **MOTION** from the Senate Planning Review Committee (SPRC) to change its charge amending its membership to include the Registrar as a permanent member of the committee to ensure that the AP Assembly voice is represented.

MOVED *that the Senate approve the changes to the Senate Planning Review Committee (SPRC) charge to include the Registrar as a permanent committee member to represent the AP Assembly.* (Meyers, Rutledge)

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for final vote at this meeting

Comment: SPRC Membership Updated Charge and Rationale

Ms. Burrington was present from SPRC to comment that the Registrar is key on this

committee. She said the Registrar is an AP so they want to make the Registrar permanent, and also keep a different person, also an AP, on the committee to provide a needed set of voices.

- 3.4. **MOTION** from the Senate Steering Committee to create a university Classroom Use and Academic Scheduling committee to replace the existing task force and continue monitoring, reviewing, and guiding recommendations for classroom and academic scheduling and related resources as well as developing recommendations for policies and practices on the most efficient and effective use of classroom resources and academic scheduling development.

MOVED *that the Senate approve the Senate Steering Committee recommendation to create a new university Senate Classroom Use and Academic Scheduling Committee.* (Rutledge, Meyers)

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for final vote at this meeting

Comment: Senate Classroom Use and Academic Scheduling Committee Charge and Rationale

Ms. Westergard explained that looking at time modules and modernizing them is a complex process, and she stated that the group that looks at this needs to be permanent. She commented that they would work together with all matters related to the schedule.

- 3.5. **MOTION** from the Senate Steering Committee to bring forth proposed changes to the Oakland University Senate Constitution to the faculty of the university for formal presentation and election.

MOVED *that the Senate approve the Senate Steering Committee recommendation to bring forth proposed changes to the Oakland University Constitution to the faculty of the university for formal presentation and election.* (Mitton, Guessous)

It was decided that due to the lateness of the hour, this agenda item would be tabled until the next Senate meeting.

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for final vote at this meeting

Comment: Senate Classroom Use and Academic Scheduling Committee Charge and Rationale

- 3.6. **MOTION** from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) to approve the new Policy for Undergraduate Credit for Prior Learning (CPL).

MOVED *that the Senate approve the proposal from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) to approve the new Policy for Undergraduate Credit for Prior Learning (CPL).* (Rutledge, Guessous)

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for final vote at this meeting

Comment: Policy for Undergraduate Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)
UCUI Minutes 3-7-2023

3.7. **MOTION** from the Senate Budget Review Committee (SBRC) to change the charge to update the title of the member, the Director of Budget and Financial Planning, to their updated job title of Assoc.V.P., Budget & Financial Planning.

MOVED *that the Senate approve the changes to the Senate Budget Review Committee (SBRC) charge to update the title of the member, the Director of Budget and Financial Planning, to their updated job title of Assoc.V.P., Budget & Financial Planning.* (Guessous, Poly-Droulard)

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for final vote at this meeting

Comment: SBRC Membership Updated Charge and Rationale

E. Good and Welfare

Mr. Ball announced that there will be a Healthology event taking place from 2:00-8:00 P.M. next Wednesday to which all are invited.

Ms. Rodriguez announced that the Affordable Course Materials Initiative is accepting a new round of proposals for those interested in finding OER or affordable materials for their classes. She also congratulated the Psych 1000 multi-section class for which the Psychology department has decided to move to OER, thus saving \$43,000 for their students already. In addition, she informed the Senate that Caterina Pieri (Special Lecturer) had been honored for her work in creating materials for Italian language classes.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (Member and Senate secretary)