

Senate minutes

May 7, 2026

Members present: *Aloi, Arena, Ball, Bartley, Battles, Boruff-Jones, Carpenter, Carver, Chamra, coleman, Craig, Demsky, DeVore, Dinda, Dunn, Dwyer, Edrisinha, Fails, Grace, Guessous, Hartmus, Hodge, Hosch, Jamieson, Kattner, Knox, Landis-Piwowar, Landolt, Lewis, Margerum-Leys, Mcculloch, Merchant, Olawoyin, Pierce, Rawashdeh, Rohn, Shesko, Thompson, VanLoon, Wendell, Westergaard, Williams, Youngquist*

Members absent: *Al-Shabrawey, Ausloos, Blumer-Schuetzte, chapman, Debn ath, Govind, Guest, Hansen, Hoag, Johnson, Kauric-Klein, Miller, Mitton, Nielsen, Ostergaard, Piscotty, Pratt, Tilashalski, Wasserman*

Provost Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Motion approved for a new Ed.D in Applied Early Childhood Practice and Policy

Motion approved for a new B.S. in Engineering Technology

A. Informational Items

Provost Updates

Provost Thompson noted that the Winter graduation ceremonies had gone very well, and she thanked everyone who was there to help.

B. Approval of [Minutes from April 16, 2026](#)

The motion was made to approve the minutes of April 16, 2026 (Margerum-Leys, Guessous), with one correction in the role call.

The motion was approved (38 yes, 0 no).

C. Unfinished Business

1. SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the Graduate Council to establish a new Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Applied Early Childhood Practice and Policy to begin Fall 2026 to (1) meet the need for advanced training catering to scholar-practitioners with strong foundational knowledge in early childhood systems and theories, (2) meet the need for a more rigorous research mentor/apprenticeship for OU's Ph.D. students, (3) satisfy the minimum

enrollment requirement (four students per doctorate-level course), and provide prospective students an alternative to the current research-based doctorate (Ph.D.) in Early Childhood Education. Department of Human Development and Child Studies, School of Education and Human Services (Tomoko Wakabyashi)

MOVED *that the Senate approve the Graduate Council recommendation to establish a new Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Applied Early Childhood Practice and Policy to begin Fall 2026.*

The motion was approved. (37 yes, 1 no).

2. SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the University Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum to establish a new Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology designed for the purpose of supporting transfer students, adult learners and traditional students seeking an applied, technical focused program in the engineering field that addresses documented state and regional workforce demand, aligns with Oakland's mission to provide accessible, high-quality, and workforce-responsive education, and offers a 90 credit program structure. The start date of this new program will be determined after HLC approval (minimum 18 months) which follows Board of Trustees approval; Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science (Asaad Makki, Vijitashwa Pandey)

MOVED *that the Senate approve the new Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology degree program.*

The motion was approved. (36 yes, 6 no)

4. Good and Welfare

Dean Louay Chamra thanked everyone for supporting the new Engineering program, and he provided assurances that everyone would be happy with the new program when it is underway.

Ms. Guessous thanked Kristin Landis-Piwowar for all her work over the years. Provost Thompson expressed her agreement, and mentioned that there will be interviews for an Interim position comins soon. She thanked Ms. Landis-Piwowar for all of her good work during her years at OU.

Provost Thompson thanked Senators for being open to a new program such as the one that was just approved in Engineering.

Mr. Margerum-Leys echoed this sentiment of Dean Chamra. He added that this is the last Senate meeting of Dean Kevin Ball due to his retirement, and he wished Dean Ball well.

Dean Carpenter announced that the OUWB commencement ceremonies would be tomorrow, and commented on how well done the Pinning ceremony was last night.

Provost Thompson expressed her gratitude to the entire Senate for all of their hard work, and wished everyone a great summer.

D. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (Senate secretary)