

# Senate minutes

December 14, 2023

**Members present:** *Aloi, Arnold, Ball, Barry, Battles, Baxa, Boruff-Jones, Carpenter, Carver, Coleman, Demsky, Dinda, Edrisinha, Eis, Eldredge, Eskander, Glover, Goble, Golinski, Guessous, Hansen, Hartmus, Hay, Kiefer, Kies, Knox, Kobus, Kondratek, Iatha, Ligocki, Margerum-Leys, Merchant, Miller, Mitton, Naus, Olawoyin, Ostergaard, Pierce, Qian, Reger, Rios-Ellis, Shesko, Stanton, Tiegs, Tilashakski, Wadsworth, Wasserman, Hoch, Bennett*

**Members absent:** *Al-Shabrawey, Carey, Chamra, Craig, Daniel, Farooqi, Ferguson, Gemechu, Insko, Landolt, McMillion, Mezwa, Rawashdeh, Rutledge, Trivedi*

Provost Rios-Ellis called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M.

## SUMMARY of Information and Action Items

### INFORMATION ITEMS

#### 1.1. Graduate Program Submissions

- 1.1.1. **Graduate Certificate in Data Science, New Certificate Program**  
is an interdisciplinary graduate certificate program; Department of Decision and Information Sciences, School of Business Administration
- 1.1.2. **Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning for Health Science Professionals, Rename and Program Modification.**  
Department of Human Movement Science, School of Health Sciences

#### 1.2. Undergraduate Program Submissions

- 1.2.1. **Biology Secondary Teaching Minor, discontinuance of minor;**  
Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences
- 1.2.2. **Chemistry Secondary Teaching Minor, discontinuance of minor** Department of Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences
- 1.2.3. **Human Resource Development, B.S., program modification**  
Department of Organizational Leadership, School of Education and Human Services
- 1.2.4. **Music Education, Choral and General Music, B.M., program modification** to change total number of credit hours from 40 to 37;  
Department of Music, College of Arts and Sciences

#### 1.3. Combined Graduate School and Undergraduate Submissions

- 1.3.1. **Combined Bachelor/Graduate Degree Program Policy, Policy Modification**, to add language that was inadvertently omitted when the policy was revised under Requirements for a Combined Bachelor/Graduate program section (h.) Graduate Council, Graduate School and UCUI
- 1.3.2. **Wellness and Health Promotion, Combined B.S./M.P.H., Renaming/ Requesting to change the name to Public Health, Combined B.S./M.P.H.** This modification was approved by UCUI on April 18, 2023 via electronic vote. The next step was for this to be submitted to the Graduate Council for the review. This step was missed and the modification was sent to the University Senate as an informational item. This is returning to the University Senate with Graduate Council review (10/30/23) as a formal correction of approval and process
- 1.4. **Strategic Planning Update** (Josh Merchant)
- 1.5. **Mental Health Committee Update** - (Susan McCarty & Melodie Kondratek- in person)
- 1.6. **Update the Senate Committee (Co)Chairs for the Senate Record** (Nivedita Mukherji)  
Gen Ed Committee  
 Julia Rodriguez (UL) Co-Chair for Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo Sabbatical Leave

## 1.7 Provost's Updates

## ACTION ITEMS

- 2.1 Procedural motion approved to staff Senate Standing Committees
- 2.2 Non-substantive motion approved to change the name of the Senate Service Learning Committee to Senate Experiential learning Committee
- 2.3 Non-substantive motion approved from the Gen Ed Program Revision Ad Hoc Committee to change the membership

## A. INFORMATION ITEMS 1.1-1.7 above

- Provost Rios-Ellis provided Senators with the opportunity to ask questions or make comments on Information Items 1.1-1.3 above. There were none.
- Strategic Planning Update: Mr. Merchant provided an update on the process of the Strategic Planning Committee. He said environmental scans using 'Pesto' had been done, and subsequently the data had been reported, discussed, then triangulated. He indicated that the information will be in a report right after the first of the year. He noted there will be a theme proposed for the Strategic Plan which will be presented to the Board of Trustees.
- Mental Health Committee Update: Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Kondratek and Ms. McCarty were present to provide an update from the Mental Health

Committee, and to make a recommendation. Mr. Schwartz said that in the Counseling Center the biggest concern had been not having anyone at the front desk to meet/greet students in crisis. He said there are now hires to include two graduate students in Social Work and Counseling, which takes care of this biggest concern. He noted that the coverage at the front desk will not be total, but would be 75%-80% of the time. He added that there are still issues to address, such as the fact that there is still no office manager. One part-time person has been bumped up to full-time since the last Senate meeting. He said there are now updates and status reports from the Counseling Center which include statistics for students in crisis on campus which are available for perusal. He noted that one concern they face is burnout in the Center and turnover among staff where they have seen a 50% turnover in the past two years. Ms. Kondratek also provided an update. She stressed the 'first point of contact' when it comes to crisis management, a moment that she said has to be effective. She outlined the program for Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) at which attendees learn skills needed to provide assistance to someone in crisis. She informed the Senate that on campus there are 8 instructors for MHFA who have trained at least 600 individuals in the past two years. She indicated that the cost of this program is covered for OU faculty, staff and students. She observed that mental health is the #1 reason that students leave educational programs and so helping to provide resources for students in crisis not only helps the students but also assists retention. Statistics included the following: In 2021/22, out of 285 cases, 161 students left the university for reasons of mental health. In 2022/23, out of 248 cases, 135 students left for the same reasons. She observed that from a retention point of view, this could add up to a loss of one million dollars for the university. She provided information related to mental health events that were coming up, such as various training sessions, a CETL support link and event, mentioned therapy dog sessions which can be booked for meetings and events, and gave registration information for training on how to be a first responder. She also noted that the OUPD website has information for resources pertaining to mental health. Mr. Matthews from SEHS Counseling Center added that they continue to need full-time help.

- A Senate staffing committee update was provided.
- Provost updates: Provost Rios-Ellis said there had been a fire in an Engineering lab at 4:30 AM on Sunday, causing water damage, for which repairs were already underway. She thanked Mr. Latcha for making it possible to go ahead with student presentations that had been previously scheduled.

She wished everyone a good and restful holiday, and encouraged those who could to attend the upcoming Saturday commencement.

## **B. MINUTES from the meeting of November 16, 2023**

The minutes from the meeting of November 16 were approved, with one correction. In the Medical School, Mr. Baxa pointed out that the deadline for student submissions for the conference should be January 14 and not January 24 as stated in the minutes. (45 yes, 0 no).

## **B. NEW BUSINESS**

### **2.1 Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees: Updates and Changes**

***MOVED** that the persons listed be appointed to the committees or positions designated. (Guessous, Margerum-Leys)*

#### General Education Committee

Brittany Williams (SHS) for Stephanie Mabry (SHS) for Winter 2024  
Leave

Jessica Payette (CAS-HUM) for Derek Hastings (CAS-HUM) for  
Winter 2024 Sabbatical

#### University Assessment Committee

Erin Meyers (CAS) for Jennifer Heisler (CAS) for Winter 2024  
Sabbatical

The motion was approved (41 yes, 0 no)

**2.2 Non-substantive motion** to change the name of the Senate Service Learning Committee to Senate Experiential Learning Committee, create a subcommittee named Senate Service Learning Committee, and update the charge and membership to create better defined committee goals and objectives. (Kristin Landis-Piwowar - in person)

***MOVED** to change the name of the Senate Service Learning Committee to Senate Experiential Learning Committee, create a subcommittee named Senate Service Learning Committee, and update the charge and membership to create better defined committee goals and objectives (Wasserman, Eis)*

Ms. Piwowar explained that the purpose of the proposed change is that the two committees would work better together. Experiential Learning will be the new committee with Service Learning a sub-committee of it.

The motion was approved (40 yes, 1 no).

**2.3 Non-substantive motion** from the General Education Program Revision Ad Hoc Committee to change the membership of the General Education Program Revision Ad Hoc Committee to include a representative from the Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Data Analytics (OIRADA) as a regular non-voting ex-officio member. The presence of such a member has been extremely helpful to the General Education and General Education Assessment committees, and would help this committee in completing its responsibilities. (Laila Guessous -virtual)

***MOVED*** to change the membership of the General Education Program Revision Ad Hoc Committee to include a representative from the Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Data Analytics (OIRADA) as a regular non-voting ex-officio member (Eis, Wasserman).

The motion was approved (42 yes)

## **C. GOOD and WELFARE**

Mr. Ball reported that the Health Science Day was a big success, and he thanked everyone who helped or participated. He said that next time, they plan to market this event even better.

Mr. Pierce reported that SBA students in the ACHIEVE professional development program had gotten a Bronze Medal Award in the USA and Canada.

Mr. Mitton reported that there were two Bio-engineering students who made presentations in their department.

Ms. Randall said that it will be important to advertise graduate programs better and to continue to promote programs to raise awareness.

Ms. Guessous reported that three mechanical engineering students had won awards at the International Mechanical Engineering Expo out of 129 papers, being numbers 1, 2 and 3.

## **D. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dikka Berven (Senate secretary)