

Senate minutes

Thursday, November 21, 2024

Members present: *Al-Shabrawey, Aloj, Ball, Barry, Battles, Baxa, Carey, Carpenter, Chamra, Coleman, Corcoran, Craig, Dinda, Edrisinha, Eis, Gemechy, Goble, Guessous, Hansen, Hartmus, Kiefer, Kies, Knox, Kobus, Kondratek, Landolt, Latcha, Lehman-Pace, Margerum-Leys, McMillon, Miller, Mitton, Ostergaard, Qian, Reger, Rodriguez, Rutledge, Shesko, Stanton, Tiegs, Tilashalski, Trivedi, Wadsworth, Wasserman, Wendell, Wenz, Williams*

Members absent: *Boruff-Jones, Brumer, Carver, Liu, Dinda, Bzhetaj, Gardia, Glover, Golinski, Hay, Insko, Ligocki, Merchant, Naus, Olawoyin, apierce, Rawashdeh, Zhu*

The meeting was called to order by Interim Provost Corcoran at 3:10 P.M.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

1.1. Graduate Program Modifications

- 1.1.1. **Human Movement Sciences, PhD, graduate program modification** to begin Fall 2026 to specify only the courses not the credits that can fulfill the core requirements and to add two courses as three credit online options to fulfill the statistics requirement; Department of Human Movement Science, School of Health Sciences

1.2. Undergraduate Program Modifications

- 1.2.1. **Bioethics Minor, modification** to reduce the number of credits in the minor from 20 to 16; Department of Philosophy, College of Arts and Sciences (Mark Navin)
- 1.2.2. **Communication, Advocacy, and Social Justice Minor, modification** to reduce the number of credits from 20 to 16; Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations, College of Arts and Sciences
- 1.2.3. **Instrumental Performance B.M., modification** to adjust the language requirement to include Modern Language or ASL courses, Department of Music, School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences (Jeffrey)
- 1.2.4. **International Relations Minor, modification** to reduce the number of credits from 20 to 16; Department of Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences
- 1.2.5. **Organizational Communication Minor, modification** to reduce the number of credits from 20 to 16; Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations, College of Arts and Sciences
- 1.2.6. **Philosophy B.A., modification** to reduce the number of credits from 44 to 40; Department of Philosophy, College of Arts and Sciences

- 1.2.7. **Philosophy Minor, modification** to reduce the number of credits from 20 to 16; Department of Philosophy, College of Arts and Sciences
- 1.2.8. **Ethics in Criminal Justice Minor, new minor** for students who have an interest in ethics and social justice issues in law and law enforcement; Department of Philosophy, College of Arts and Sciences (
- 1.2.9. **Data Science, B.S. (SECS) name will be reinstated.** The change to Data Science Engineering, B.S. moved to the University Senate via improper governance procedures. Interim Provost Kevin Corcoran provided an email to the Office of the Registrar. This will move to the senate as an information item; Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science
- 1.2.10. **Computer Science, B.S., Specialization in Artificial Intelligence discontinue specialization** due to the transition of all specializations to concentrations. The Computer Science, B.S., Specialization in Artificial Intelligence will be replaced with the creation of the new major dependent Computer Science, B.S. Concentration in Artificial Intelligence to be approved through governance; Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science
- 1.2.11. **Film B.A., modification** to the the major by combining two existing majors (Film and Film Production) into one major to strengthen the core curriculum and offer flexibility and **change the credit hours** from 48 to 52; Department of English, Creative Writing and Film, College of Arts and Sciences (Brendan Kredell)
- 1.2.12. **Film Production B.A., discontinue** the major by combining content with the Film B.A.; Department of English, Creative Writing and Film, College of Arts and Sciences

- 1.3. **Combined Graduate and Undergraduate Modifications**
None

- 1.4. **Campus Master Plan Update** - Steve Mackey, Jennifer Myers, Nicholas Kothari-Arcadis
- 1.5. **Policy Presentation** Chad Martinez
 - Policy 627 - (new) Parental, Family or Marital Status and Pregnancy or Related Conditions for Students
 - Policy 715 - (new) Parental, Family or Marital Status and Pregnancy or Related Conditions for Employees

- 1.6. **Committee for Academic Recovery and Success (CARS)** - Amy Gould

- 1.7. **Update the Senate Committee (Co)Chairs for 2024-2025 the Senate Record**
- Amy Banes-Berceli
 - Experiential Learning Committee
Rebecca Cheezum (SHS)
 - Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
TBD
 - Service Learning Committee (subcommittee of Experiential Learning Committee)
Deidre Hurse (SOM)

- 1.8. **Provost Updates**

ACTION ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS

2.1 Motion approved to change the University Senate Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee charge as outlined and reduce its membership.

2.2 No vote taken on motion to adopt the OU Classroom Recording Policy as presented .

NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Motion to establish the Stackable Graduate Certificates Policy effective Winter 2025.

3.2 Motion to create an Artificial Intelligence Senate Committee

3.3 Motion approved to disband the Senate Academic Standing and Honors Committee and transfer ownership of the dismissal process

3.4 Motion approved to create the Senate Academic Honors Committee

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

Interim Provost Corcoran provided Senators with an opportunity to ask questions or make comments on items 1.1-1.2 above. There were none.

1.4 Campus Master Plan Update: Steve Mackey and Jennifer Myers updated the status of the Master Plan. Mr. Mackey explained that there has been great response from the campus community about this first iteration of the plan which will be refined further. He introduced Jennifer Myers (architect) who is facilitating the creation of the Master Plan. She pointed out that the schedule started 14 months ago and is divided into five phases of which they have now done the following: Task 1 Discovery; Task 2 Analysis; Task 3 Idea generation ; Task 4 is the Refinement where they are now with a date to finish up by April of next year. She stated the goal for the Master Plan to strengthen the academic core for which they are proposing changes to get some more green space to pull together the academic heart of the university. She said there are five big moves: 1) Diversifying the campus community, 2) uncovering hidden gems, 3) engaging at the periphery; 4) activating the core, and 5) making the on-campus experience purposeful. They are looking at what aspects can be showcased of the campus and dovetail with the Strategic plan to make OU a university of choice. Ideas include activating changes to residential buildings, and working on how to bring wellness into the spaces. She observed that housing is presently in demand, so OU needs to meet that need. They are exploring concepts for transforming residential life by creating more outdoor space to engage students outside, such as making pathways through campus for moving on foot and other means besides cars. They also propose to bring Greek housing back on campus. They also want to enhance the outdoor spaces using concepts for sustainability such as looking at geo-thermal and more sustainable parking. She referred to potential changes to parking area P1 including making the present road through campus a pedestrian path and moving traffic to a ring road to move along Squirrel. They are also looking at what can be done to bring additional revenue sources into campus. She opened it for questions, among which were the following:

Q: Since medical students, for example have to leave and return back to campus it is a concern if parking is lost. Will the plan mean losing parking? A: There will be some loss of parking. Q: What is the size of the enrollment planned? A: 15,000 students. Q: What kinds of private public partnerships are being envisioned? A: The committee will convene a working group to assess what the opportunities would be and which zones would be possible. These partnerships would have to be congruent with OU values, but it is necessary to look at various revenue streams. Q: Given that SFH is the main classroom building, can they avoid losing parking in that area? A: Nothing is set in stone. Q: Are there plans to improved access to Kresge? A: There will be a new entrance to the library. Q: Can future green spaces include plans that are sustainable with native plants? A: Yes and Ms Myers noted that OU already is doing that. Q: Is there a plan to preserve wetlands in the southwest portion of the campus? A: The northeast area of campus is the most obvious area for potential partnerships. Q: Who will be on the working group about partnerships? A: Faculty members will be included in the group.

1.5 Policy Presentation: Chad Martinez was present to explain the new policy 627 Policy on Parental, Family or Marital Status and Pregnancy or Related Conditions for Students. He said that much is dictated by new federal regulations issued this summer. He noted that they want to make reasonable modifications to policies and practices to ensure equal opportunity. He said there are limitations and they would be requesting documentation or certification to participate. He explained that there is an employee responsibility to this policy and they are working with different departments to make sure they are aware of this. If the student doesn't tell you, there is nothing the faculty has to do.

1.6 CARS: Amy Gould (Academic Affairs Student Achievement and Persistence Specialist) was present to explain that they are looking at barriers making students at risk of not succeeding. She explained the membership and the charge of the CARS (Committee for Academic Recovery and Success). She added that the dismissal appeal review meetings would be three per year—in January, May and August following the close of each semester. She noted that on average, 11% of students are on probationary status. The committee will meet year-round, in addition to the dismissal appeal meetings, to discuss initiatives to improve the performance of students on academic probationary status.

1.7 Update on the Senate Committee Co-Chairs: Associate Provost Banes-Berceli provided an update (see above) on Senate Committee co-chairs.

1.8 Provost Updates: Provost Corcoran reminded Senators that Monday is the end of the open adoption textbook. He mentioned that this is important because students who have wavers have to go through the bookstore.

He said the Provost Candidate search is done for now and that feedback for all four candidates will be made available in the next couple of days.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of October 17, 2024.

The minutes of the meeting of October 17, 2024 were approved (44 yes, 0 no).

C. OLD BUSINESS

2.1 SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the University Senate Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee to change the committee charge and reduce the membership

as outlined to provide specific goals that do not compete with or duplicate efforts of other university groups and will better serve the university community.

MOVED to change the University Senate Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee charge as outlined and reduce its membership.

The motion was approved (39 yes, 1 no).

2.2 SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the Senate OU Classroom Recording Policy Ad Hoc Committee to adopt a new OU Classroom Recording Policy; this ad-hoc committee was created by the Senate Steering Committee and tasked with developing a new Classroom Recording Policy. (Michael Latcha)

MOVED to adopt the OU Classroom Recording Policy as presented.

Mike Latcha reported back that the committee has met and addressed all of the issues that were raised at the previous Senate meeting, and therefore they have presented an amended motion. Ms. Guessous asked if she understood correctly that classroom videos can be stored within the OU system. She added that some faculty members post videos on a private youtube site and she asked if they can not continue to do that. Mr. Latcha replied that they cannot and that recordings should not be posted on youtube. But he added that if a faculty member wanted to record a lecture, it could be done separately from the classroom, but not part of a learning/teaching classroom. Ms. Rodrigues asked if this will be a burden for dance and theater? Mr. Latcha replied that this issue will require student consent, not for performances, but for classroom recordings which are not to be shared. Ms. Rodriguez noted that these days, social media is how advertising for programs is done and this could be problematic for Music, Theater and Dance who might want to make a recording of a class for advertising. Ms. Guessous asked who faculty would petition for an exception. Mr. Latcha replied that exceptions would be an administrative decision. Discussion ensued about student classroom activities that might want to be shared outside, such as experiential learning among others, and it was observed that this could be a missed opportunity if classroom activities cannot be shared on social media. In addition, there were questions about synchronous and asynchronous recorded sessions. A question was asked about MTD where if they record every class and want to post on social media, do they need a waiver for each and every class? Additionally, the question was asked whether recordings be used in misconduct hearings, and whether either a professor or a student could bring in a recording to a hearing.

Mr. Latcha said further discussion should take place on the committee, and he asked Senators to send further comments to the committee for consideration. No vote was taken.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

3.1 SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the Graduate Council to establish a new Stackable Graduate Certificates Policy effective Winter 2025 wherein students will have the opportunity to earn a transcript-recognized, non-degree credential for completing a structured sequence of courses that may be stacked into a graduate degree upon admission to a degree-seeking program as outlined.

MOVED to establish the Stackable Graduate Certificates Policy effective Winter 2025 as outlined.

Brandy Randall was there to explain the policy. Dean Ball asked if certificates can be provided along the way to a degree within programs? She said students can be awarded a certificate along the way to a degree. Ms. Guessous asked if requirements for the certificate program are the same as admission to the graduate program? Ms. Randall said they are looking at the requirement for letters of recommendation for the certificate programs, and that 3.0 grade point would be the same for both.

3.2 SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the University Senate Steering Committee to create a new Artificial Intelligence Senate Committee allowing collaboration involving faculty and administration to provide an opportunity for Oakland University to coordinate a centralized resource in response to this evolving technology for the campus community. (Wasserman, Eis)

MOVED to create the Artificial Intelligence Senate Committee as presented in the attached proposal.

Fritz McDonald was present to explain that the reason for this motion is that faculty are seeking a university position on AI. The committee will draw on all Schools as well as Dean of Students, CETL, Elis, advising and the Provost's office. Mr. Dinda asked about the relation with URC which is not a governing body but rather a research committee. Mr. McDonald said they will look more closely at the charge of the URC. Mr. Margerum-Leys asked how this committee would interact with the task force on AI? Mr. McDonald said that the task force will end their work next year, so this committee would be taking the baton and continuing as a Senate Standing Committee.

3.3 SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the Senate Academic Standing and Honors Committee, to disband the Academic Standing and Honors Committee and transfer ownership of the student academic dismissal process to the new, multi-unit Committee for (Trevedi, Eis)

MOVED to disband the Senate Academic Standing and Honors Committee as presented

Nicole Mathew explained that ASH committee was advised by the Office of Legal Affairs to make changes, to remove student members, to add additional voting members, to create rubrics, and to shield medical information. The committee voted to transfer the responsibility to a committee that would meet all the conditions of Legal Affairs. The result was that they voted to disband the ASH committee.

Mr. Trivedi made a motion to move to second reading (Trevedi, Baxa).

Motion passed 31 yes, 6 no.

The original motion was approved (37 yes, 3 no).

3.4 SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the University Senate Steering Committee to create a new Senate Academic Honors Committee to provide oversight on university policies concerning university honors and promote and manage the Undergraduate Distinguished Achievement Award nomination process. (Shesko, Eis)

MOVED to create the Senate Academic Honors Committee as presented in the attached proposal.

Associate Provost Banes-Berceli presented the motion. She said this committee would absorb the rest of the duties of the committee that was just disbanded.

Ms. Eis moved to go directly to second reading (seconded by Guessous)

This motion was approved (28 yes, 6 no)

The original motion was approved (36 yes, 3 no)

E. GOOD AND WELFARE

Ms. Tilashalski encouraged Senators to attend the Women's and the Men's basketball games.

Dean Ball said that the Radiologic Technology program had its site review and passed with flying colors. He thanked the faculty and everyone who helped.

Ms. Randall asked Senators to be sure to encourage students to pay attention to emails.

Provost Corcoran wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (Senate secretary)