

# Senate Meeting

## February 16, 2023

**Members present:** *Arnold, Barclay, Barry, Berven, D., Berven, K., Blumer-Schuttee, Boruff-Jones, Carey, Clark, Cortes, Craig, Debnath, Eis, ElSayed, Farooqi, Goble, Guessous, Hansen, Hay, Knox, Kobus, Kridli, Landolt, Lerchenfeldt, Leibert, margerum-Leys, McMillon, Meyers, Mezwa, Miller, Mitton, Naus, Poly-Droulard, Rawashdeh, Reger, Rios-Ellis, Romano, Roumani, Rutledge, Shesko, Sifonis, Wells, Wendell, Zhu*

**Members absent:** *Aloi, Al-Shabrawey, Ball, Chamra, Edrisinha, Fouladbakhsh, Hartmus, Kondratek, Latcha, Law-Sullivan, Lewis, Long, Merchant, Ostergaard, parkash, Pierce, Rivard, Rodriguez, Tiegs, Tilashalski, Tolbert, Tracy*

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

### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS

#### INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1.1. Graduate School Submissions  
NONE
- 1.2. Undergraduate Program Submissions
  - 1.2.1. **Modification to revise the title of Human Resources Management to Human Resource Management, removing the "s" to correct the grammar;** Department of Human Resources Management, School of Business Administration - Janell Townsend
  - 1.2.2. **Modification to the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program easing course requirements for students to allow General Education courses to double count for the major;** Department of Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies - Jennifer Cordon Thor
  - 1.2.3. **Modification to add and delete courses to the Medical Physics, B.S. program;** Department of Physics, College of Arts and Sciences - Eugene Surdutovich
  - 1.2.4. **Modification to the Spanish Language and Literature, B.A. program;** Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, College of Arts and Sciences - Stephen Filler
  - 1.2.5. **Modification to the Latin American Language and Civilization, B.A. program;** Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, College of Arts and Sciences - Stephen Filler
  - 1.2.6. **Modification to the Health Communication Minor program;** Department of Communication and Journalism, College of Arts and Sciences - Kathy Battles
  - 1.2.7. **Journalism B.A. Proposal to remove this major to be replaced with 3 B.A. programs with specializations that are updated to be more relevant to incoming students;** Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations, College of Arts and Sciences - Kathy Battles
  - 1.2.8. **Journalism and Media Studies, B.A., Specialization in Broadcasting and Digital Media Practice Proposal;** Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations, College of Arts and Sciences - Kathy Battles
  - 1.2.9. **Journalism and Media Studies, B.A., Specialization in Journalism Proposal;** Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations, College of Arts and Sciences - Kathy Battles
  - 1.2.10. **Journalism and Media Studies, B.A., Specialization in Media and Society Proposal;** Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations, College of Arts and Sciences - Kathy Battles

- 1.2.11. **Modification to the Modern Language, Modified, with Select Majors and Minors to change its name to Modern Language, Additional Major;** Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, College of Arts and Sciences - Steven Filler
- 1.2.12. **Modification to the Communication, B.A. program proposal to make our majors more attractive and meaningful to students, better organize and modernize both disciplinary and department developments over the past decade and offer our students a greater chance to explore their individual interests and professional goals within their degree;** Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations, College of Arts and Sciences - Kathy Battles
- 1.3. Combined Graduate School and Undergraduate Submissions  
NONE
- 1.4. SEHS Merger (RLA/TDES) - Jon Margerum-Leys (in person)
- 1.5. Financial Aid Presentation - Nicole Boelk (in person)
- 1.6. Updates on International Travel - Alex Zimmerman (virtual)  
[Link to Web Page for Presentation](#)
- 1.7. Senate AdHoc Committee on the University Calendar - Tricia Westergaard
- 1.8. Provost Updates

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 1.9 Motion approved from UCUI to adopt a new policy to define an Undergraduate Minor

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1.10 Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees was approved
- 1.11 Motion from Grad Council to adopt a new policy on grad credits for prior learning (CPL)
- 1.12 Motion from Senate Steering to update the Oakland Bereavement Policy was approved
- 1.13 Motion from the Senate Gen Ed Committee to change its charge to create a co-chair position
- 1.14 Motion from the Grad Council for a new Master of Science in Finance

## **A. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Provost Rios-Ellis offered Senators the opportunity to comment on Information Items 1.2.1 through 1.2.12 above. There were no comments

**1.4 SEHS Merger (RLA/TDES):** Jon Margerum-Leys was present to update Senators on the planned merger between the RLA and TDES departments in his School of Education and Human Resources. He noted that the merger would not result in personnel lay-offs, but would allow them to re-deploy faculty members into different areas in the future. He emphasized that this merger is enthusiastically supported and will allow the SEHS to evolve.

**1.5 FINANCIAL AID PRESENTATION:** Nicole Boelk was present to provide a detailed explanation to Senators about how the system of Financial Aid works at OU. She explained the fundamental importance of following the federal guidelines for financial aid. She said the #1 objective of the Financial Aid office is compliance of all student financial aid provided at OU with federal regulations. She emphasized that they are there to help, and they have a 'one-stop shop' for all student financial services. She urged Senators to look at their How You Can Help page, and to become familiar to be able to direct students to her office in order to get all the help they need. Mr. Leibert expressed concern about how to get students money for travel, noting that the cost of living is so great and these monies when granted are often forced to go onto a credit card which he finds an unsatisfactory situation from the student point of view. Ms. Boelk replied that the Financial Aid office may not be able to get money into the hands of students, but they are trying to drive down the overall debt of students. Provost Rios-Ellis asked how we can make sure more students have access to things like student travel in the summer, which is a high impact practice that the university should want to ensure we have for

students. Ms. Craig asked why OU doesn't have National Direct Student Loans which she was able to take advantage of when she was a student, in which you can borrow money on a short term basis, which is cheaper than a credit card. Ms. Boelk asked Ms. Craig to send her information about this. Ms. Miller said she was as concerned as Mr. Leibert about students being discouraged from participating in conferences because of the financial burden. She said we need more imaginative solutions to this problem. Ms. Boelk replied that this would be out of her purview because everything in her office has to be included in the EFA (Estimated Financial Assistance) requirement which limits the people in her office in their ability to be creative. Ms. Miller followed up by asking if there are tutorials and support for students to fill out because students get intimidated by the financial forms. Ms. Boelk answered that there are open sessions and her office will walk students through the process. Mr. Wendell said it seems as if there is inequity built into the system when it comes to conference travel money. Mr. Mitton noted that in his department, the ERI pays for student travel with research money. Further related to financial aid issues, Ms. Eis expressed concern about the ramifications of giving a student an 'I' grade, with regard to financial aid, because she said she gave a student an 'I' and the student lost financial aid. She wanted to know if this is normal. Ms. Boelk replied that students need to make satisfactory academic progress, and they get a one-semester warning after which if they don't get a grade, they will lose their eligibility. Mr. Romano spoke from the student point of view, and said that there was a negative impact on his financial aid when he got a scholarship.

**1.6 UPDATES ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL:** Rosemary Max was present from International Education to encourage faculty to know that when students travel internationally, it is good if the university knows about it. If they travel for university purposes, students can complete a registration from that will get them health insurance. If they are traveling independently, it helps OU to know where they are if they let the office know about their travel. She pointed out that the same is true for faculty and staff with regard to registering if/when individuals are traveling for a university purpose.

**1.7 SENATE ADHOC COMMITTEE ON THE UNIVERSITY CALENDAR:** Registrar Tricia Westergaard was present to explain the purpose of this new endeavor involving the formation of an Ad Hoc committee to address the university calendar. Ms. Miller stated that the contract covers key aspects of the calendar, and she noted that employers cannot negotiate with employees when a contract is in play.

**1.8 PROVOST'S UPDATES:** Provost Rios-Ellis asked for a moment of silence for students at MSU who passed away recently from the tragic event that occurred on their campus. She reminded everyone how fragile the emotional and mental health of students can be during these difficult times. She emphasized the importance of the information that was being requested for the Carnegie classification, and asked everyone to please respond when they are contacted.

## **B. APPROVAL of the Minutes of January 19, 2023**

The minutes of the meeting of January 19, 2023, were approved.

## **C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 1.9. Motion from the Undergraduate Committee on Undergraduate Instruction to adopt a new policy to define an Undergraduate Minor

***MOVED*** that the Senate approve the policy presented by Undergraduate Committee on Undergraduate Instruction to adopt a new policy to define an Undergraduate Minor

Ms. Piwowar returned to the Senate to explain that she had gone back to UCUI to discuss the definition of an Undergraduate Minor, as requested at the previous Senate meeting. However, she said that UCUI decided that the policy should be left as it is. However, she added that the

process for minors with credits that would be more or less than the number in the definition would be a matter that could remain open for discussion.

The motion was approved (31 yes, 5 no).

## **D. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1.10 Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees**

***MOVED*** that persons listed be appointed to the committees of positions designated (Guessous, McMillon)

#### Senate Budget Review Committee

Claudia Grobbel (SON) will replace Carolyn Tiempo (SON) for the remainder of the 2022-2025 term

The motion was approved (36 yes, 1 no).

**1.11 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 (Mitton, Rutledge)

Ms. Randall was present to explain that there are eligible activities (national exams, licenses, certifications, badges, and so on) that could be counted as prior learning (CPL). She said there are guidelines for this and in order to get these credits, the activity has to meet equivalent knowledge required by the department where the credits would be given. She said there will be a section in each program's catalog entry if they are willing to evaluate CPL through portfolio review and/or examinations. Mr. Wendell expressed concern about the badges component which is something that hasn't been approved yet. He noted that badges don't come with credit. Ms. Randall replied that some could be, and some not. She noted that our competitors give more and more badges whereas we don't do that so far. Mr. Wendell said that credit courses must be taught by faculty, whereas non-credit courses are not taught by faculty. He proposed a friendly amendment to remove any reference to badges in the motion involving the creation of a policy about CPL. Ms. Miller expressed her complete agreement with this concern.

***Amendment: To remove any reference to badges from the motion about a CPL policy.***

The amendment to the motion passed (32 yes, 3 no).

**1.12 MOTION** from the Senate Steering Committee to update the Oakland University Bereavement Policy to remove the word "undergraduate" so the policy will now apply to both undergraduate and graduate students.

***MOVED*** that the Senate approve the revised Bereavement Policy presented by the Senate Steering Committee to remove the word “undergraduate” so the policy will now apply to both undergraduate and graduate students (Eis, Poly-Droulard)

Ms. Banes-Berceli explained that the reason for this motion was that there was never an intention to exclude graduate students from the bereavement policy, and so the only change to the policy is to remove the word ‘undergraduate’ from the existing policy.

Mr. Naus expressed his opinion that this matter should be decided upon at this meeting, and so he made the motion to move to the second reading.

The motion to move to second reading was approved (38 yes, 0 no).

The original motion was subsequently approved (36 yes, 0 no).

**1.13 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).

***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 (**Meyers, Guessous**)

Mr. Campoy-Cubillo was present from the Gen Ed Committee to explain the reason to alter the structure of the Gen Ed committee to have 2 co-chairs would make it similar to the structure of the Gen Ed Assessment Committee. He said this would help with the work load and also with institutional knowledge on the committee. He added that another aspect of the motion is to add a coordinator for Gen Ed (ex-officio non-voting).

**1.14 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 (**Rutledge, Mitton**)

Mr. Uptegraff was present to explain the reason for this new program. He said it meets a market need for finance professional for which there is a robust local and national need. He said it would close the gap between finance and supply, and he added that it is an effective fit to OU’s objective to become more research intensive with a greater national recognition. He observed that it is a novel program that focuses on separate areas of concentration and study, namely, corporate finance, financial analysis, and investment analysis. He stated that it is very unique to have three tracks, and noted that this exists nowhere else in the USA. He said the program will have an integrative and interdisciplinary approach (finance, accounting and information science divisions), and he added that there would be significant industry interaction that would be experiential in nature, with guest speakers, corporate internships, and real-life project implementations. Ms. Shesko asked what the GPA for admission would be because she had seen it listed as 3.0 in one

place, and 3.5 in another. He replied that it is intended to be 3.0. Ms. Sheski noted that there is a minimum of 3.2 required for graduation admission. Ms. Randall clarified that this should be 3.0 throughout, and she would make that clear.

## **E. GOOD AND WELFARE**

Ms. Landolt expressed her relief about the suspension of development on campus, in reference specifically to the decision to suspend the East Campus Development, and she wanted to acknowledge the importance of the Senate resolution to that suspension.

Ms. Wells spoke to urge Senators to know what we can do to remain safe, and to provide compassionate listening to students. She outlined five general notions to keep in mind for what can be done to help with regard to resilience when people are confronting burnout: 1) Hear me, 2) Protect me, 3) Prepare me, 4) Support me, and 5) Care for me. She said we need to have a compassionate way to deal with those who are struggling to deal with life so that we deal with them in a meaningful way.

Ms. Farooqi said that there should be a push to create a Task Force to work on safety matters on the campus. She said she thinks there should be a permanent group that would respond to this need. Ms. Craig suggested people should look at the OUPD B CON which stands for Bleeding Control, in which you can learn techniques for emergency situations. She said it is a great training program. Provost Rios-Ellis said she agrees that prevention is needed, as well as other measures. Ms. Randall said that we as individuals also need to step up and do what can be done in a situation. Mr. Leibert urged anyone who needs counseling to come to his department where he said there is limitless counseling available.

## **F. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dikka Berven (Senate member and secretary)