Senate minutes
October 16, 2025

Members present: *Al-Shabraway, Aloi, Arena, Ausloos, Ball, Bartley, Battles, Blumer-Schuette, Boruff-Jones, Carver, Chamra, Coleman, Craig, Dempsky, DeVore, Dunn, Dwyer, Edrisinha, Gilson, Govind, Grace, Guessous, Guest, Hartmus, Hoag, Jodge, Johnson, Kattner, Kauric-Klein, Kies, Knox, Landis-Piwowar, Landolt, Kozak, Margerum-Leys, Mathew, Matthews, McCulloch, Naus, Mitton, Nielson, Olawoyin, Piscotty, Rawashdeh, Rohn, Shesko, Tiegs, Tilashalski, VanLoon, Wadsworth, Wasserman, Wendell, Westergaard*

Members absent: *Carpenter, Chapman, Debnath, Dinda, Discenna, Hansen, Jamieson, Merchant, Pierce, Pratt, Thompson, Williams*

Vice-Provost Banes-Berceli called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

OLD BUSINESS
Motion approved to change the membership of the Senate Intercollegiate Athletics Committee
Motion approved to create a new Artificial Intelligence Senate Committee
NEW BUSINESS
Motion approved to staff Senate Standing Committees
Motion approved to change membership of Campus Development and Environment committee
Motion made to change Undergraduate Residency Requirement Policy
Motion approved to change the charge specific to faculty appointments on UCUI

Vice Provost Banes-Berceli invited Senators to comment on the Information Items 1.1-1.4 below. There were no comments.

She then invited the members of the AdHoc Gen Ed Committee to make their update.

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

1.1. Graduate School Curriculum Submissions
None
1.2. Undergraduate Curriculum Submissions
1.2.1. **Biomedical Sciences, B.S., Specialization in Anatomy** will be replaced with the Biomedical Sciences, B.S., Concentration in Anatomy to align with the university moving from specializations to concentrations; Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences (Gerard Madlambayan)

1.2.2. **Sociology/Anthropology, B.A., discontinue the combined majors**, they do not provide students with sufficient depth, and hampers students' potential to successfully utilize and apply the skills that would otherwise be achieved through a more comprehensive curriculum. Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)

1.2.3. **Sociology/Anthropology - Detroit Mercy Law School, Michigan State University Law School and Wayne State University Law School 3 + 3 Programs**, **discontinue the combined majors,** they do not provide students with sufficient depth, and hampers students' potential to successfully utilize and apply the skills that would otherwise be achieved through a more comprehensive curriculum. Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)

1.2.4. **LGBTQ Studies Minor**, **modification** to reduce the number of credits in the minor from 20 to 16, Department of Women and Gender Studies, College of Arts and Sciences (Ami Harbin)

1.2.5. **Anthropology Minor**, **modification** to reduce the number of credits in the minor from 20 to 16, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)

1.2.6. **Applied Geographic Information Science (GIScience) Minor, modification** to reduce the number of credits in the minor from 20 to 16, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)

1.2.7. **Archeology Minor**, **modification** to reduce the number of credits in the minor from 20 to 16, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)

1.2.8. **Astronomy Minor**, **modification** to reduce the number of credits required to achieve the minor and removing the emphasis on prerequisite Physics course, Department of Physics, College of Arts and Sciences (Andrei Slavin)

1.2.9. **Christianity Studies Minor**, **modification** to reduce the number of credits in the minor from 20 to 16, Department of Religious Studies Program, College of Arts and Sciences (Henri Gooren)

1.2.10. **Islamic Studies Minor**, **modification** to reduce the number of credits in the minor from 20 to 16, Department of Religious Studies Program, College of Arts and Sciences (Henri Gooren)

1.2.11. **Judaic Studies Minor**, **modification** to reduce the number of credits in the minor from 20 to 16, Department of Religious Studies Program, College of Arts and Sciences (Henri Gooren)

1.2.12. **Sociology Minor**, **modification** to reduce the number of credits in the minor from 20 to 16, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)

1.2.13. **Geology Minor**, **modification** to reduce the number of credits required by substituting courses and removing the emphasis on prerequisite Physics course, Department of Physics, College of Arts and Sciences (Andrei Slavin)

1.2.14. **Certificate in Media Literacy, new 12-credit Undergraduate Certificate** in Media Literacy from existing Journalism courses; Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations, College of Arts and Sciences (Kathleen Battles)

1.2.15. **Certificate in Media Writing, new 12-credit Undergraduate Certificate** in Media Writing from existing Journalism courses; Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations, College of Arts and Sciences (Kathleen Battles)

1.2.16. **Music Technology Minor, discontinue minor**, due to adding music major dependent concentrations, Department of Music, School of Music, Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences (Melissa Hoag, Elisabeth Hoegberg)

1.2.17. **Music Theory Minor, discontinue minor**, due to adding music major dependent concentrations, Department of Music, School of Music, Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences (Melissa Hoag, Elisabeth Hoegberg)

1.2.18. **Women and Gender Studies Minor, modification** to reduce the number of credits in the minor from 20 to 16, Department of Women and Gender Studies Program, College of Arts and Science (Ami Harbin)

1.3. Combined Graduate School and Undergraduate Curriculum Submissions

None

1.4. Update the Senate Committee (Co)Chairs for the Senate Record - Amy Banes-Berceli

<u>Academic Computing Committee</u>

Yaman Roumani (SBA) Co-Chair

Qunfeng Liao (SBA) Co-Chair

<u>Classroom Use & Academic Scheduling Committee</u>

Chris Goeth (Co-Chair)

To Be Appointed (Co-Chair)

Faculty Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
George Sanders (CAS)
Service Learning Committee
To Be Appointed (committee has meeting scheduled)
Teaching & Learning Committee
Hanna Kalmanovich-Cohen (SBA) Co-Chair
Subha Bhaskaran (CAS) Co-Chair

1.5. **Senate General Education Revision Ad Hoc Committee Update - Laila Guessous, Maria Paino, Kathy Battles**

Ms. Guessous made the report. She noted that the committee has decided not to call the program 'General Education' anymore. It will now be called 'Grizz Core'. She summarized their two years of committee work and encouraged Senators to look at the proposals for the two options which are available on the Gen Ed website.

She said that their hope is to provide more flexibility for students and faculty, to incorporate high impact practices and transferable skill building.

She emphasized that they were looking for feedback, asking for what people like about these proposals, so as to create one single proposal.

She observed that the First Year Experience is the single most important change proposed but there will not be voting on that because both models would have this feature. The two models were summarized briefly. She pointed out that there will be writing across the curriculum. She stressed that the Grizz core courses must be taught ever

Q/A There were questions summarized here, with answers provided by Ms. Guessous: Q: Ms. Dwyer: Can the GE courses be used for the major? Ans: Yes. Q: Mr. McDonald: How will the FYE be implemented? Will these courses be taught by full-time faculty? Will it require an administrative structure? Ans: Yes, yes and yes. Q: Matthews: Will there be student feedback? Ans: Yes, Student Congress has been consulted and a survey has already been done with 1573 responses. In addition, there is a student rep on the committee. Ms. Guessous indicated that the GE Committee wants to set up a time to meet with the Student Congress.
Q: Ms. Kies: With respect to the idea of transformative works proposed. She asked if there would be different topics, or would everyone use the same syllabus? Ans: There would be a list for faculty members to choose from and it can be a long list that faculty contribute to. The website has sample syllabi.
Q: Ms. Tilashalski: Have you talked to the academic advisers about the practical application of this? Yes, they are an integral part of this. Q: Mr. Rohn: Will this affect the number of credits for the majors and minors? Ans: They have looked at numbers of courses not numbers of credits. Some of these are 3 credit courses which is tricky since most people teach Q: Will there be a survey? Ans:

A survey was done last year but there will be a new survey.

1.6. Senate AdHoc Policy 482 Language Review Committee : Ms Banes-Berceli summarized the closure policy.

1.7. **ADA Title II Team.** Kristin Piwowar, John Young, Shaun Moore, and Diane Underwood. Ms. Underwood provided the update, stating that Title Two requires all governments to ensure that their services, programs and activities are accessible to people with disabilities. This means that all digital content has to meet WCAG 2.1 AA standards. She emphasized that non-compliance can result in steep fines and negative publicity, and the deadline for compliance is April 24, 2026. She added that this applies to everything that is done at the university. She noted that 5% of students are registered with DSS at OU, and that the national average of students with disabilities is 21% for undergraduates, which does not take into account for those who are not registered. She said that an ADA digital accessibility working group was formed, and they meet weekly, and they created a centralized digital accessibility webpage. They have a public accessibility statement. She remarked that their committee realizes that these requirements represent a huge lift for faculty.

Shaun Moore showed where the place to start is located on their IT web site. He said that the ADA Title II Compliance QuickStart in eSpace is recommended for how to get going. He stated they are going to have more staff to help. On the public website, they have had a head start and put the public accessibility statement on every page of their ADA links, and referred to a remediation tool called Grackle and how it can be installed. They have ADA help videos available of which the Account Manager is the number one tool. Faculty can contact their account manager.

1.8. Provost Updates

Ms. Banes-Berceli reminded Senators that Book Adoptions Due: October 25, 2025

eCampus Link

B. APPROVAL OF Minutes from September 18, 2025

The motion was made to approve the minutes of September 18, 2025 (Guessous, Mitton). The motion was approved. (46 yes, 0 no)

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the Senate Intercollegiate Athletics Committee to change the membership of the committee to better support the student-athlete experience at Oakland University. (Melissa McDonald)

MOVED *to change the membership of the Senate Intercollegiate Athletics Committee as presented.*

The motion was approved. (45 yes, 1 no)

2. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the University Senate Steering Committee to create a new Artificial Intelligence (AI) Senate Committee to provide 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. (Fritz McDonald)

MOVED *that the Senate approve creating the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Senate Committee as presented in the updated, attached proposal.*

Fritz McDonald presented an amended charge proposal. He provided a background for the history of AI which was first introduced in the 1950s. The committee would have a coordinated response to this technology on campus. He indicated that the committee would be composed of one person from each School and from the College, including the Medical School.

The motion was made to amend the proposal to include a member from UTS which would be a voting member. (McDonald, Battle)
This motion was approved. (43 yes, 3 no).

Mr. Arnold then expressed hesitation about the proposal because he said it reads like an overall university advising committee. He wanted to propose waiting to vote on this so there could potentially be more focused committees on campus, as for enrollment management, and others.

Ms. Randall moved to amend the charge to include Grad Council representation along with UCUI. (Brandy, Matthews).

This motion was approved. (41 yes, 3 no).

Ms. Randall then moved to amend the appointment of the student representative to be appointed by the Dean of Graduate Education (Brandy, Blumer-Schuette)

This motion was approved. (40 yes, 9 no).

At this point, there was a kerfuffle because it was noted that we had a parliamentary issue that needed to be corrected. The issue was that Senators have to make motions which was not the case in the previous two motions that had been.made. So Mr. Wasserman moved to address this problem by combining the two above motions into one, in order to address the fact that the motion maker has to be a Senator. (Jason Wasserman, Battles second).

This motion was then approved (40 yes, 7 no).

Discussion about this matter revolved around the following comments:
Mr. Wasserman stated that the strong reaction in the Senate today about the AI committee underscores the need to vote on this motion now.
Ms. Kies stated that we are trying to return decision-making to faculty governance, so she agreed with Mr. Wasserman. Mr. McDonald asked if the AI Task Force had filed a report. Mr. Arnold stated that they had filed a report, but it was not quite clear who had seen this report or where it had been distributed. Mr. Arnold again stated that he would like to table the vote on this proposal to the next meeting.
Mr. Mitton asked if there was anything in this charge that prevents other committees from doing what they do? Mr. McDonald said that there is nothing to prevent other committees from doing their work on this subject. Mr. Mitton added that therefore there can be different entities looking at this issue of artificial intelligence. He said the committee proposed is more of an investigative kind of committee, not a policy making committee, so he said this would not get in the way of any other committee.
Mr. Arnold re-expressed the importance of tabling this motion, noting that there are other structures and resources being developed and he would appreciate the opportunity to wait for this until there is more information about them.

Ms. Tilashalski then moved to table this discussion until November. (Tilashalski, DeVore)

Mr. Wendell argued against tabling the motion because he said it is a faculty governance issue and there is no need to delay. Mr. Wasserman reiterated this point. Ms. Kies said there are examples of committees being revised after they are established so there can be changes made to the committee in the future, if needed. Mr. Arnold said there needs to be clarity on the role of making policy for technical matters by this committee. A Senator noted that there is an AI committee already in the CAS.

This motion to table the original motion failed. (19 yes, 30 no).

The vote was then taken on the original motion to establish the new Artificial Intelligence Senate Committee.

The motion was approved. (40 yes, 5 no)

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees: Updates and Changes to previous year.

MOVED that the persons below be appointed to the designated committees for the indicated terms:

Experiential Learning Committee

Carrie Symons (SEHS) 2025-2-2028

General Education Assessment Committee

Lan Jiang (CAS) 2023-2026 to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term

Amanpreet Kaur (SECS) 2023-2026 to replace Richard Olawoyin (SECS)

General Education Committee

Amber Bismack (SEHS) 2024-2027 to replace Lauren Childs (SEHS)

Senate Planning Review Committee

Lori Burrington (CAS) for Roger LaRocca (CAS) Fall 2025 Sabbatical Leave

University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction

Scott Crabill (CAS) Winter 2026 for Amy Harbin (CAS) Winter 2026 Sabbatical Leave

University Research Committee

Hanan Abusbaitan (SON) 2025-2028 to replace Sarah Newton (SON)

The motion was approved. (46 yes, 0 no)

2. SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the Campus Development and Environment Committee (CDEC) to change the membership of the committee; due to the creation of the Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) Director of Sustainability, the CDEC would like to change one of the four student appointments from Oakland University Student Congress

(OUSC) to an Ex-Officio member as the OUSC Director of Sustainability. (Amy Banes-Berceli)

MOVED *to change the membership of the Campus Development and Environment Committee (CDEC) to appoint one of the Oakland University Student Congress (OUSC) student appointments as an Ex-Officio member identified as OUSC Director of Sustainability as presented.*

There was a motion to move to second reading. (Wendell, Johnson)
The motion was approved (45 yes, 1 no)

The original motion was then approved (45 yes, 1 no).

3. SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) to change the Undergraduate Residency Requirement Policy in the Undergraduate Catalog to reduce the undergraduate residency requirement from 45 credits to 30 credits in order to better align with the Michigan public institutions and to better support our students' academic progress. (Kristin Landis-Piwowar)

MOVED *to reduce the undergraduate residency requirement from 45 credits to 30 credits as outlined. (Landis-Piwowar, Guessous)*

4. SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) to change the charge specific to faculty appointments; of the appointed faculty members, the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) will appoint a faculty co-chair, for the term of one year. (Kristin Landis-Piwowar, Guessous)

The motion was made to move to second reading (Johnson, Matthews)
The motion was approved (44 yes, 2 no)

The original motion was then approved (44 yes, 0 no).

E. GOOD AND WELFARE

Kevin Ball was happy to say that today he had received the news from the accreditation group to affirm that they will be starting their Physician Assistant program in January 2026. He said this is a remarkable development and he thanked the team that had worked to make this program a reality.

F. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (Senate Secretary