

**College of Arts and Sciences
Assembly Meeting
Minutes October 18, 2011
Oakland Center, Oakland Room**

Members present: *Berven, D., Berven, K., Clason, Dulio, Dvir, Eis, Estes, Giberson, Grossman, Harlow, Hawkins, Jhashi, Jumel, Kerrigan, Lombard, Lombardo, McDonald, Meehan, Naser, Nugent, Reger, Rosenthal, Roth, Russell, Shively, Turett, Wang*

Members absent: *Condron, Graves, Howell*

Ex officio present: *Moore, Stewart, Sudol*

1. Call to order

Dean Sudol called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes, September 20, 2011

The minutes of the CAS Assembly meeting of September 20, 2011, were approved (Eis, McDonald).

3. Election to the Executive Committee—Humanities 2011-2013, to replace Andrea Eis

Tamara Jhashi (Art and Art History) was elected to replace Andrea Eis on the CAS Executive Committee 2011-2013.

4. Presentation of the Marian P. Wilson Awards—Cynthia Sifonis

Ms. Sifonis announced the recipients of the Marion P. Wilson Award for 2011 and presented them with plaques and honoraria. The honorees were Matthew Fails (assistant professor, Political Science) and Lakshmi Raman (assistant professor, Psychology), for their outstanding achievements in the writing in their articles, entitled “Colonialism, property rights, and the modern world income distribution,” and “Do children endorse psychosocial factors in the origins of illness and disgust?,” respectively.

5. Presentation of the New CAS Faculty Engagement Awards—Dean Sudol

Dean Sudol announced that Jerry Grossman (Mathematics and Statistics) and Richard Stamps (Sociology and Anthropology) were the winners of the new CAS Faculty Engagement awards for their outstanding achievements in the area of faculty engagement. Mr. Sudol cited their numerous accomplishments and meritorious service at Oakland University throughout many years, but equally distinguished was the level of engagement at the local, state and international levels. Mr. Grossman and Mr. Stamps each will receive a \$1,000 award to be used to support their engagement activities.

6. State of the College Address—Dean Sudol

- Dean Sudol began his state of the college address by distributing a handout with statistics to show the disproportionately large contribution made to Oakland University by the CAS with respect to total credit hours delivered from the period of 2008-2011, in comparison to the other Schools on campus. He said that this is a graphic illustration of the fact that the CAS is the ‘cash cow’ of the university. He pointed out that there has been an improvement in retention within the College, with a 7% increase in return of the cohort of freshman students for the second year. Comparing this academic year with the last one, the CAS has gone from 270 to 288 full-time faculty; student credit hours have increased; the number of majors has increased; and the number of major programs has increased.
- It has been a good year in terms of research, with over \$1.2 million in indirect cost return awarded to faculty in 8 CAS departments. Of this money, 75% goes to the president and the provost, and 25% to the CAS, with distribution to the PIs (7%), departments (13%), and the College (5%).
- There are new programs in the CAS: the Biomedical Science major has been approved by the University Senate, and now the B.A. in Graphic Design, the M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Psychology, and Ph.D. in Applied and Computational Physics are in the Senate.
- The new director of the American Studies program is Jeff Insko.
- A Pre-Medical Council composed of twelve members has been created to assist with the Pre-Medical concentration in the CAS. The Pre-Medical Council will oversee the medical school preparation and application process, supply statistics, and so on. This council will be chaired by Associate Dean Kathy Moore. Also, a pre-med adviser in the CAS has been requested.
- Seventeen faculty searches have been authorized for next year throughout the CAS.
- Kathy Moore and a team including Fatma Mili, Brad Roth, Joi Cunningham, Jo Reger, and Julie Walters received a \$518,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for a project over the next four years intending to promote women in science and engineering at OU.
- There is a committee looking into ‘high impact practices.’ The committee has narrowed their focus to writing, and their fundamental point is that one of the best ways to keep students engaged in their studies is through the act of writing—‘writing to learn.’ Dean Sudol wants to promote the idea that at OU, students in the CAS will be involved in writing in all of their classes.
- A CAS STEM team focused on engaged STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) teaching and learning practices will begin a series of workshops for STEM faculty based on information taken from a national meeting in Miami earlier this year.

There have been numerous accomplishments of special note in the CAS, examples of which are:

1. Student Adam Hobart won the national Phi Alpha Theta Best Paper competition for the high quality of his project in history.

2. Phi Sigma Alpha won the 'Best Chapter Society,' first place in the USA, in political science.
 3. Jason Willis, studio art major, has gotten a job as the graphic editor for the Detroit News. He received the top prize for his achievements in the area of national news design.
 4. Dean Sudol thanked Todd Shackelford for bringing Richard Dawkins to campus, which was a highly successful event.
 5. Archeology students have gone to Israel for three years and worked on an 'Iron Age' site that was mentioned in the Bible. More than twelve students have been involved in the project, which is under the auspices of Hebrew University.
- Mr. Sudol observed that President Russi is intent on delivering more programs online. Mr. Sudol suggested that night classes may be better experiences for the students if they were online rather than in-class. He reminisced without fondness about the pedagogical challenges involved in teaching in a module that lasts 3 hours and 47 minutes in the evening, with a class of students who are tired from working all day and whose interests may be better served if they were able to take their class in the online format on their own time. He questioned whether the night class format is a good educational experience and encouraged Assembly members to discuss this issue with their departments.
 - Eric Barritt is the new vice president for 'Community Outreach,' i.e., fundraising. The university is moving into a new era of fund-raising.
 - There is an ongoing project, and now a green light from the administration, to prepare a proposal for a new building that will be intended to house communication, arts, media and performance programs. A proposal for a capital expenditure involves getting approval by the state. Although OU does have a new building, the university is still behind other universities in terms of square footage per student. The idea behind the proposal will be to include many stakeholders within the College, such as MTD, Art History and Studio Art, Cinema, Video, Communications, Writing and Rhetoric. An inventory of space needs has already been created. The students in these programs are space- or studio-oriented. An architectural firm has been hired to do a feasibility study. The architects have suggested that the best move would be to gut Varner Hall and redo it, adding on a 215,000 square foot addition. By using the gutted building instead of starting from scratch, the university would save significant money.

Question/Answer period:

Fritz McDonald pointed out that his students are working full-time, so it is not just the night classes that have working students in them. He said that Tuesday/Thursday classes are at a premium, and asked whether there could be a different model of MW—TR—WF instead of the present MWF schedule. Mr. Sudol suggested that perhaps the online format would work better for Mr. McDonald's classes. McDonald then asked about the reasons behind the one hour seven minute module of the MWF classes, and he said that with the four credit courses of this length, it is hard for departments to diversify. Mr. Sudol said that one solution could be to convert from 4-credit to 3-credit courses, or do more 2-credit courses. But the one hour seven minute time slot is by accreditation and law, and cannot be changed. Tamara

Jhashi asked about the issue of capital outlay and wondered, at any given time, how many proposals the state typically has on the table. Mr. Sudol said that he was not sure, but OU's need for a new building is clear because of the growth in enrollments. Also, one advantage is that OU now has strong allies in Macomb County because of OU's presence there. Jerry Grossman asked whether the CAS will have involvement in the upcoming presidential debate taking place on campus on November 9. Mr. Sudol said that while it is possible for students to get involved (stand-ins have been requested, for example), the fact is that basically this is a Republican Party event. There is no direct connection with the university. However, it will be good publicity for the university. Mr. Dulio said there would be tie-ins to campus—and a lot of activities going on. Lastly, Pete Trumbore raised the question about what would happen to the Social Sciences while the new building proposal for the arts was the focus of new projects, because Social Sciences is very pressed for space and living like sardines. Mr. Sudol said they will have to do their best to get along with their present space for the moment.