

Oakland University Senate Agenda

Meeting Details

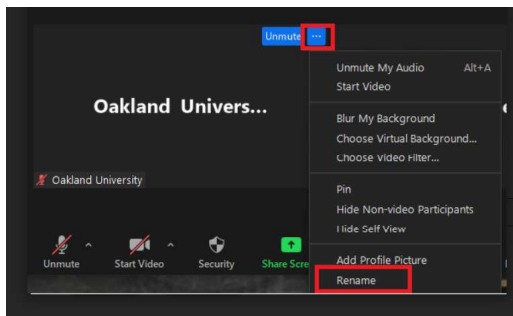
April 16, 2026

Meeting Time: 3:10 pm

Hyflex: Oakland Center - Banquet Room B or [ZOOM Registration Link](#)

Meeting Materials and Documents

- Only elected [senators](#) for the 2025-2027 term may vote
- Vote Yes (1) or No (2)
- If you wish to Abstain, simply do not vote
- If you are attending remotely, please rename yourself for voting purposes. To rename yourself-- hover over individual icon (2) click the 3 horizontal dots (3) click "rename" and rename yourself using SEN and first and last name (ie: SENKevinBall, SENKarenMiller)



-
- If senators leave the meeting, or join late, they are required to indicate *via* the Zoom chat for the minutes. Your departure or arrival may affect having a quorum that is necessary for a vote.
- If attending virtually and have a question or comment, please raise your virtual hand and turn on your camera.
- If attending virtually please have your camera turned on especially if you are speaking.

1. Informational Items

1.1. Provost Updates

1.1.1. President Ora Pescovitz (in person)

1.2. Graduate School Curriculum Submissions

- 1.2.1. **Energy Engineering, MS, graduate program modification**, to 1) Rename Foundation courses to Theory courses and add math, statistics and optimization courses to the list of theory courses, 2) Remove the "Thermal-fluid Science and Engineering" depth area as it overlaps with a concentration in the MS Mechanical Engineering program, 3) Broaden the "Renewable Energy" depth area to "Conventional and Renewable Energy", 4) Reorganize the "required" and "elective" courses within each depth area, 5) Expand the list of Engineering Electives to provide more options to students, Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science (Laila Guessous)
- 1.2.2. **Master of Business Administration/Master of Science in Safety Management Dual Program**, modification for a dual degree program to provide students in either the MBA or MSSM program the option to obtain two master's

degrees in approximately 3 years and prepare graduates for careers in private, public or non-profit organizations by integrating global understanding and business fundamentals that are key for manager success as they pursue increased responsibilities and an expanded leadership role, Departments of Management & Public and Environmental Wellness, School of Business Administration & School of Health Sciences (Paul Trumbull, Darryl Hill)

- 1.2.3. **New Graduate Course Approval for Areas without Graduate Degree policy revision** - to change the name of the policy to Graduate Coursework Not Part of a Graduate Degree, remove outdated language, to update the course numbering level to our current 4 digit framework, and to allow for any graduate level courses 5000 or above. These changes are appropriate given the growth of interdisciplinary coursework whereby a department may have expertise in a particular area from which graduate-level coursework is needed but may not have a graduate program. Additionally, the provision that such courses be reported annually to the Graduate Council is removed as it is not how course enrollment is now monitored at Oakland. The provision about purging courses from the Catalog is removed as there is a standard practice for all courses at Oakland;; Graduate Council (Brandy Randall)
- 1.2.4. **Graduate Certificates, Graduate School policy revision**, to remove outdated language, to remove the provision that certificates must be associated with a graduate degree program and comprised primarily of courses present in the degree curriculum. Additionally, redundant language has been removed and clarifications have been added. This streamlines and shortens the policy. The limit of one ungraded course has been removed, and replaced with the provision that at least one Oakland University course must be taken for a letter grade to ensure that students have a GPA; Graduate Council (Brandy Randall)
- 1.2.5. **Secondary Education with Special Education, MAT, graduate program modification and name change** to MAT in Special Education K-12 to more accurately reflect the certification to teach special education grades K-12 that students earn through the program; the current name resulted from an experimental approach that had been allowed by the state. The revision also modifies the distribution of credits related to student teaching, Department of Human Development and Child Studies, School of Education and Human Services (Erica Ruegg, Audra Slocum)
- 1.2.6. **Clinical Nurse Leader, MSN, suspended the degree program in Fall 2025 and then end a graduate degree in Fall 2026**, due to low enrollment and low regional and national market demand, Department of Nursing, School of Nursing (Carrie Buch)

1.3. Undergraduate Curriculum Submissions

- 1.3.1. **Chinese Studies, B.A., modification** to (1) add elective choices; (2) reduce credits from 44 to 40 to accommodate student needs and meet new requirements, reducing curriculum accordingly; Department of International Studies Program, College of Arts and Sciences (Liz Shesko)
- 1.3.2. **Japanese Studies, B.A., modification** to (1) add elective choices; (2) reduce credits from 44 to 40 to accommodate student needs and meet new requirements, reducing curriculum accordingly; Department of International Studies Program, College of Arts and Sciences (Liz Shesko)
- 1.3.3. **Latin American Studies, B.A., modification** to (1) add elective choices; (2) reduce credits from 44 to 40 to accommodate student needs and meet new

requirements, reducing curriculum accordingly; Department of International Studies Program, College of Arts and Sciences (Liz Shesko)

- 1.3.4. **Criminal Justice, B.A., Concentration in Information Security and Assurance, modification** to (1) change the Major Dependent Concentration name to Cybersecurity, due to a change in name to a minor offered by the School of Business, they changed the name to Cybersecurity Analytics and Management to keep up with the growing professional field; (2) and due to the SBA modifying the courses in this minor, it modified the courses in the major dependent concentration; Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)
- 1.3.5. **Communication, B.A., modification to the modality**, offering Partially Online (where 50% or more of the courses can be completed online) to this program; The Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations, The College of Arts and Sciences (Kathy Battles)
- 1.3.6. **Acting, B.F.A., modification to (1) rename the program Acting for Stage and Screen, B.F.A., (2) revise the program**, changes will focus on new courses, new requirements and a clearer pedagogical path for our students to follow, offering our acting majors a more robust acting training program that will prepare them not only for the theatre, but for various digital and 'screen' mediums; Department of Theatre, School of Music, Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences (Jeremy Barnett, David Gram)
- 1.3.7. **Human Resource Development, B.S., modification** to reduce the number of major credits from 68 to 60, the total number of the degree requirements remains 120 credits. Department of Organizational Leadership, School of Education and Human Services (Bill Solomonson)

1.4. Combined Graduate School and Undergraduate Curriculum Submissions

- 1.4.1. **Accounting, Combined B.S./MAcc, combined degree program modification** proposal to change the modality adding partially online (half or more of the program courses are delivered online), Department of Accounting and Finance, School of Business Administration (Liang Fu)

1.5. AI Institute and Data Centers (Steve Mackey) presenting online

1.6. Affordable Course Materials Initiative (ACMI): Introducing Z-majors (Julia Rodriguez) presenting in person

1.7. Senate Mental Health Committee Update (Terry Dibble) - presenting in person

1.8. Closing the ESL Program (Adem Althor) document provided; will not be formally presented

1.9. New Senate Ad Hoc Definition Committee (AmyThompson)

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

AI Committee

Alcia Freeman (SEHS) Co-Chair

2. Approval of [Minutes from March 19, 2026](#)

3. Unfinished Business

None

4. New Business

- 4.1. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the Graduate Council to establish a new Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Applied Early Childhood Practice and Policy to begin Fall 2026 to (1) meet the need for advanced training catering to scholar-practitioners with strong foundational knowledge in early childhood systems and theories, (2) meet the need for a more rigorous research mentor/apprenticeship for OU's Ph.D. students, (3) satisfy the minimum enrollment requirement (four students per doctorate-level course), and provide prospective students an alternative to the current research-based doctorate (Ph.D.) in Early Childhood Education. Department of Human Development and Child Studies, School of Education and Human Services (Tomoko Wakabyashi) presenting virtually

MOVED that the Senate approve the Graduate Council recommendation to establish a new Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Applied Early Childhood Practice and Policy to begin Fall 2026.

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Comment: Ed.D. in Applied Early Childhood Practice & Policy Proposal
COI Approval
Graduate Council Approval
UAC Recommendation
SBRC Recommendation
SPRC Recommendation
Proforma

- 4.2. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the University Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum to establish a new, online Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Strategic Communication to begin Fall 2026 designed by leveraging the research expertise of our Communication, Journalism, and Public Relations faculty and integrating coursework primarily from three undergraduate programs (COM, JMS, and PR [plus additional elective courses from WRT]), this innovative major creates a dynamic, interconnected learning environment that bridges classroom theory with real-world application. The interdisciplinary curriculum—merging public relations, advertising, media studies, and communication—equips students with a comprehensive skill set in strategic analysis, ethical communication, and practical execution. This program positions graduates for success in the ever-evolving landscape of strategic communication, effectively addressing both local and broader market needs; Department of Communication, Journalism, and Public Relations, College of Arts and Sciences (Robert Sidelinger, Kathy Battles)

MOVED that the Senate approve the new, online Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Strategic Communication to begin Fall 2026.

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Comment: BA in Strategic Communications Proposal
COI Approval
UCUI Approval
UAC Recommendation
SBRC Recommendation
SPRC Recommendation
Proforma

- 4.3. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the University Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum to establish a new Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology designed for the purpose of supporting transfer students, adult learners and traditional students seeking an applied, technical focused program in the engineering field that addresses documented state and regional workforce demand, aligns with Oakland's mission to provide accessible, high-quality, and workforce-responsive education, and offers a 90 credit program structure. The start date of this new program will be determined after HLC approval (minimum 18 months) which follows Board of Trustees approval; Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science (Asaad Makki, Vijitashwa Pandey) presenting in person

MOVED that the Senate approve the new Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology degree program.

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for final vote at this meeting.

Comment: BS in Engineering Technology Proposal
UGCC Approval
UCUI Approval
UAC Recommendation
SBRC Recommendation
SPRC Recommendation
Proforma

- 4.4. **PROCEDURAL MOTION** to approve and conduct a fully virtual University Senate Meeting on May 7, 2026 for the purpose of concluding unfinished business from this April 16, 2026 meeting and items on the attached agenda.

Comment: [Proposed May 7, 2026 agenda](#)
[Updated May 7, 2026 agenda](#)

Good and Welfare

Adjourn