

Senate Minutes

January 16, 2025

Members present: *Aloi, Battles, Baxa, Boruff-Jones, Brumer, Carpenter, Coleman, Corcoran, Craig, Dinda, Eis, Goble, Guessous, Hansen, Hartmus, Keifer, Kies, Knox, Kobus, Kondratek, Landolt, Latcha, Lehman-Pace, Ligocki, Margerum-Leys, McMillon, Mitton, Naus, Olawoyin, Pierce, Qian, Rawashdeh, Reger, Rodriguez, Rutledge, Shesko, Tilashalski, Trivedi, Underwood, Wadsworth, Wasserman, Wenz*

Members absent: *Al-Shabrawey, Ball, Barry, Bzhetaj, Carey, Carver, Chamra, Edrisinha, Garcia, Gemechu, Glover, Hay, Insko, Merchant, Miller, Ostergaard, Stanton, Tiegs, Williams, Zhu*

Interim Provost Kevin Corcoran called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

OLD BUSINESS

Motion approved for Test-Optional admission

Motion approved to establish a new M.S. program in Bioengineering

Motion approved to establish a new B.S. in Applied Data Science

Motion approved to revise Graduate Admission policies

NEW BUSINESS

Motion approved to staff faculty on Senate Committees

Motion made to establish the definitions of Hy-Flex and Partially Hy-Flex programs

Motion approved to change the membership of the DEI Committee

1. Informational Items

Provost Corcoran provided Senators with the opportunity to ask questions or make comments on the following informational items numbered 1.1 through 1.3 as on the agenda. There were no comments on these items.

1.1. Graduate Program Items

1.1.1. Posthumous Graduate Degree Policy, revision to Graduate School Policy beginning Winter 2025 to change the Graduate Posthumous Degree Policy to create clear guidelines that can be uniformly applied across all types of graduate programs, and to allow for the awarding of a Certificate of Accomplishment in the event a deceased student who was in good standing with the institution at the time of death did not meet the guidelines to award a posthumous graduate degree;

Graduate Council (Brandy Randall)

1.2. Undergraduate Program Items

1.2.1. Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, B.S., Specialization in Histotechnology, modification to Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, B.S., Concentration in Histotechnology, Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences (Sumi Dinda)

1.2.2. Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, B.S., Specialization in Nuclear Medicine Technology, modification to Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, B.S., Concentration in Nuclear Medicine Technology, Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences (Sumi Dinda)

1.2.3. Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, B.S., Specialization in Pre-clinical professions for medicine, dentistry, optometry, and veterinary medicine, modification to Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, B.S., Concentration in Pre-clinical professions, Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences (Sumi Dinda)

1.2.4. Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, B.S., Specialization in Pre-Pharmacy, modification to Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, B.S., Concentration in Pre-Pharmacy, Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences (Sumi Dinda)

1.2.5. Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, B.S., Specialization in Pre-Physician Assistant, modification to Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, B.S., Concentration in Pre-Physician Assistant, Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences (Sumi Dinda)

1.2.6. Computer Science, B.S. Concentration in Computer Systems and Networking, new concentration for defining curriculum for students, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science (Mark Qu)

1.2.7. Computer Science, B.S. Concentration in Cybersecurity, new concentration for defining curriculum for students, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science (Mark Qu)

1.2.8. Computer Science, B.S. Concentration in Game Development, new concentration for defining curriculum for students, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science (Mark Qu)

1.2.9. Computer Science, B.S. Concentration in Web and Mobile Systems, new concentration for defining curriculum for students, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science (Mark Qu)

1.3. Combined Graduate and Undergraduate Items

(none)

1.4. Academic Conduct Committee Update -(Laila Guessous, Julian Rrushi, Elysa White, Greg Thrasher)

Laila Guessous was present to provide an update on the work of the Academic Conduct Committee, most of which she said is in the annual report they submitted last year. She pointed out that this is a committee that continues working in the summer as needed when it is necessary to have hearings. She noted that there are four co-chairs for this committee. She explained that there were 70 cases last year involving 79 students. The departments with the largest number of cases were English (13) and Math (13). Of the 70 cases, 56 students were found responsible and one was found not responsible. After fact-findings, cases were withdrawn for 22 students. There were 38 academic administrative hearings and 19 full Academic Conduct Committee Hearings, 25 cases of plagiarism, and 54 cases of cheating, with 82 total sanctions given. The vast majority got probation, 14 reprimands, 2 suspensions and 1 expulsion. She said that the committee has worked hard to make it a learning experience for the students. For example, students have been made aware of the tutoring center, or been asked to write a reflection essay. She said that her committee has some recommendations, such as for faculty members to make sure the course syllabus includes the rules. If it is okay to use AI, for example, the syllabus should say so, or if not, the syllabus should say so.

1.5. Provost Updates

Provost Corcoran provided the following updates:

- He noted that we are 183 days away from the start of the arrival of the new Provost on May 19, 2025.
- He reminded Senators that back in the Fall semester, an email was sent out to the university community requesting feedback about concerns or observations concerning the future of higher education. This request was in anticipation of an event coming up in two weeks from today's meeting. Graham Harper and Mr. Corcoran have brought back the framework used in the 1958-59 year to review in 2025 in thinking about the future. They have invited various individuals to come for discussions to take place in the Christopher Wren dining room, to take place from 1:00-3:00. The discussion will be guided by the questions that came from the email responses.
- He noted that there is a reception today at the Art Gallery for an exhibit entitled *Gradations*, starting at 5:00-7:00.
- He said that his office intends to invite the new Provost during the next couple of months to interact with the OU community in a less formal way prior to her official start.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from December 12, 2024

Moved to approve the minutes of December 12, 2024 (Guessous , Margerum-Leys)

The motion was approved (35 yes, 0 no).

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1. SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to end the temporary Test-Optional undergraduate admission (due to COVID-19) to permanently establish the Test-Optional undergraduate admission at Oakland University for the incoming classes of 2026 and beyond. (Shane Lewis)

MOVED to shift the temporary Test-Optional undergraduate admission to permanently establish the Test-Optional undergraduate admission at Oakland University for the incoming classes of 2026 and beyond.

The motion was approved (35 yes, 2 no)

3.2. SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the Graduate Council to establish a new Master of Science (M.S.) in Bioengineering to begin Fall 2025 to synergistically pair advanced course work in both biological sciences and engineering in order to prepare students for the quickly evolving bioengineering needs both in research and industry; Department of Bioengineering, College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering and Computer Science. (Shailesh Lal, Alycen Wiacek)

MOVED that the Senate approve the Graduate Council recommendation to establish a new Master of Science (M.S.) in Bioengineering to begin Fall 2025.

The motion was approved (37 yes, 1 no).

Ms. Guessous added her congratulations to the faculty members who had worked to create this program.

3.3. SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) to establish a new Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Applied Data Science to begin Fall 2025 as an interdisciplinary platform offering a

comprehensive curriculum in data science to prepare students with necessary quantitative and computational skills; Department of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Arts and Sciences (Anna Spagnuolo, Yongjin Lu)

***MOVED** that the Senate approve the recommendation from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) to establish a new Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Applied Data Science to begin Fall 2025.*

The motion was approved (38 yes, 0 no).

3.4. SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the Graduate School to revise the Graduate Admissions, Graduate School Policy effective Winter 2025 modifying Graduate School admissions policies to remove the Graduate School required recommendations for graduate certificates, reducing the Graduate School required recommendation to one for masters and doctoral programs, clarifying that earning a previous degree considered to be graduate level in the United States meets qualifications for graduate admissions, and allowing an exception for the requirement that a bachelor's degree be awarded prior to beginning graduate study in the case of an approved agreement with another university that provides evidence that the applicant has met the bachelor's degree requirements; Graduate School (Brandy Randall)

***MOVED** that the Senate approve the recommendation from the Graduate School to revise the Graduate Admissions, Graduate School Policy as presented.*

The motion was approved (39 yes, 0 no).

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1. Procedural Motion to staff faculty on Senate Standing Committees.

MOVED that the persons below be appointed to the committees designated: Academic Calendar Development Committee. (Guessous, Dinda)

Associate Provost Banes-Berceli presented the motion to make the following staffing changes:

Michelle Hammond (SBA) for Evan Trivedi (CAS)
Academic Honors Committee

Amany Tawfik (ERI)
Community Engagement Committee
Nick DiPucchio (CAS) AT-LARGE for Jeff Insko (CAS) AT-LARGE
Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
Drake Dantzler (CAS)
Angineh Djavadghazaryan (CAS)
Inaya Hajj Hussein (SOM)
Pratik Kothari (SBA)
Patrick Kennedy (SON)
Chris Wilson (SHS)
Yongsoon Yoon (SECS)
Anne Zacharias (UL)
Greg Bartley (SEHS)
General Education Assessment Committee
Tom Giberson (SEHS) Winter 2025 for Jacob Cayanus (CAS) Sabbatical leave
Honorary Degree Committee
Robert DelGreco (CAS) for 2023-2026 term replacing Xie Zhu (SBA) on leave

The motion was approved (35 yes, 0 no).

4.2. SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) and the Graduate School to establish a new academic policy formalizing the definitions of Hyflex Programs and Partially Hyflex Programs (Shaun Moore, Kristin Landis-Piwowar, Brandy Randall)

***MOVED** that the Senate approve the recommendations of the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) and the Graduate School to establish a new academic policy formalizing the definitions of Hyflex Programs and Partially Hyflex Programs. (Guessous, Eis)*

Shaun Moore (Director e-Learning) was present to explain this proposal about Hybrid-Flexible courses. He noted that this format became popular during the pandemic because this type of course allows students flexibility to choose to attend the course in-person or online. The definitions have been updated so that there are now two versions: Flex and HyFlex. He said students have the ability to choose whether they attend in person or online, and those formats have already been approved. He observed that the SEHS Graduate Certificate in Lean Leadership is the first official HyFlex program that OU offers which went through Grad Council in 2022. He added that in 2025, more programs are looking to be moved online—however, he pointed out that the HyFlex programs never went through

governance so that is the new part of this motion. He showed the definitions which are posted on the e-Lis website for which there are Fully HyFlex and Partially HyFlex programs, with the latter having some classes that have to be attended in person.

Ms. Guessous asked if the program is in person now, but there are HyFlex courses later, what would they do. He replied that they would go through the governance process. Mr. Mitton asked about when it comes to international students, what are the requirements permitting them to take the courses. Do they need a student visa and what about internships? Mr. Moore replied that if international students are here on campus, they cannot take more than one course online.

4.3. NON-SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the Senate Steering Committee to request the Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee change its membership to add an At-Large faculty position to the committee to provide a space for ERI faculty or faculty to serve in support of outside accreditation needs. (Amy Banes-Berceli)

***MOVED** that the Senate approve the recommendation of the Senate Steering Committee to change its membership to add an At-Large faculty position to the Committee. (Guessous, Eis).*

Associate Provost Banes-Berceli explained that after review, the Steering Committee realized that the committee didn't have an At-Large position. She pointed out that At-Large would be normal for this type of committee which could be used for accreditation needs.

The motion was approved (27 yes, 1 no).

5. Good and Welfare

Brandy Randall had several items:

- From the Grad School—they have extended the deadline for the 3-minute presentation of their thesis—it is a thesis competition. January 21 is the new deadline. The grand prize for each one is \$1000. Our winner will represent OU at the mid-western university competition.
- Grad School is hosting a contest. Some people have earned more than one degree from OU. They want to come up with a fun name for this group. The first step is for faculty staff and students to submit suggestions for a

name for this group of people. The deadline is January 24. Both of these projects are on the Graduate School website.

- Also, she said there will be a Don and Jan O'Dowd award to recognize an outstanding graduate student. This year they can recognize two students. Nominations can come from faculty or staff. Deadline is January 31. Student has to have graduated in the Fall or Winter semester 2025. The recipients will be chosen by the Graduate council and be recognized at graduation.
- Lastly, she announced that Red Douglas was nominated for an AACNUK Patricia Cross award which he received. He will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.
- Julia Rodriguez: OU Libraries and the Affordable Course Materials Initiative is accepting applications to transform courses to OER and low-cost.
- Ethan Lehman-Pace: Next week is the first Cultural Heritage week hosted by Student Congress. They hope to have a fashion show. Also, he said that the Student congress has resumed the Mindful Mondays program 1:30-2:30 and he wanted to encourage the OU community to participate. He added that the Student Congress has been working with Julia Rodriguez for Affordable Materials to be a state-wide thing and he asked faculty to be sure to mark courses if they are low-cost.
- Tricia Westergaard: She said it could be as early as tomorrow when the Academic Calendar Committee will be putting out the results of their survey out.
- Provost Corcoran said the Provost meeting in Lansing will be discussing the Affordable Course Materials initiative and applauded the Student Congress for their work.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (Senate secretary)