

Oakland University Senate Minutes

January 17 2019

Members present: Alsalmon, Ball, Battle, Baxa, Berven, D., Berven, K., Bowe, Campoy-Cubillo, Chaudry, Cheezum, Cheng, Clark, Corcoran, Craig, Daniel, Debnath, Dereski, Didion, Doherty, Edrisinha, Eis, Estes, Garfinkle, Giberson, Giblin, Gooren, Hranchook, Knox, Latcha, Law-Sullivan, Lentini, Long, Mazzeo, Megee, Meldrum, Mitchell, Mitton, Navin, Parkash, Reger, Rigstad, Roth, Stone, Van Til, Welling

Members absent: Aloï, Chamra, Dulio, Folberg, Fox, Guessous, Havstad, Ibrahim, Insko, Kleinschmidt, Lauer, Lucarelli, Margerum-Leys, Meehan, Townsend, Tracy, Wadsworth, Weiter, Wells

Provost Lentini called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M.

Summary of Information and Action Items

INFORMATION ITEMS

Program Modifications approved by Grad Council

Creation of a new graduate certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language K-12
In the Department of Linguistics

Removing the GRE requirement for admission and the requirement for research in the
Master of Arts degree in the Department of Biology

Appointment of a member of the Senate Elections Committee

Update on the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plan

ACTION ITEMS

Old Business

Approved the motion to adopt strategies in support of Goal 4: Diversity and
Inclusion of the Oakland University Strategic Plan

New Business

Election to replace a member of the Senate Steering Committee for Winter 2019

Motion approved to reaffirm the Senate's previous recommendation to the President
and BOT for a Ph.D. in Computational Physics in its amended form

Motion approved from the Academic Standing and Honors Committee to change the
requirement that students complete 62 credits at Oakland University to be
eligible to receive the university honors cum laude, magna cum laude, and
summa cum laude

Procedural motion to staff the Senate Standing Committee UCUI

Provost's Updates

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

Provost Lentini asked if there were questions concerning the program modifications that were approved by Graduate Council which included the creation of a new graduate certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language in K-12 in the Department of Linguistics (CAS); and, in the Department of

Biology (CAS), the removal of the requirement for the GRE for admission, and the removal of the requirement for research.

He informed the Senate that Zeina Alsalmon had been appointed to the Elections Committee.

Mr. Lentini then introduced Dawn Aubry who was present to talk about the Strategic Enrollment Management plan. He provided background to point out that although OU has done well with enrollments over the years, OU has never done a strategic enrollment management plan. He stated that the admissions process is not something that belongs solely in the admissions office. He said that this process should be a university-wide effort, that everyone can and needs to contribute. He pointed out that we are in a new era in which declining levels of birth rates and increasing numbers of people leaving the east coast and north of the USA, who are heading to the south and the west, have created a sobering picture in terms of demographics. He emphasized that there is a projected precipitous decline of high school graduates starting now and to go on well through 2030. He noted that some small liberal arts institutions are struggling to survive or closing, and he added that in our local area, Baker College is closing their Auburn Hills site and others as well to consolidate. The SEM committee will be considering not only recruitment as we have always done it, but also how the mixes of students have changed—how many undergraduates, graduates, transfer students, international students, online students, adult learners, for instance, with all the predicted demographic changes in the future in order to figure out the best way to plan. He said that OU needs to get ahead of the game in order to compete with the other institutions in Michigan.

Ms. Aubry provided a comprehensive overview in a power point presentation of the emerging challenges in higher education. She noted that the rising costs of education, the challenging funding streams, the increased competition for students, among other factors, require universities to be more intentional in their planning. She said that recruitment of the right students is important, but also we need to think about our brand, the academic offerings, the services and support model used to lead to better retention. She said they are trying to identify the barriers to retention, and define actions that can be taken to improve retention, to ensure student learning and success and to respond to the needs of a changing future. She defined what Strategic Enrollment Management involves, said who are the members of the team, and distributed a handout with graphics to show the purpose of the plan. She explained the process and the organizational framework that is being used to create OU's enrollment goals, shared the four important goals, and how they plan to address the downward trending demographics in Michigan. The Plan will be intended for the years 2020-2025, and should be ready to roll out by April 2019.

Provost's Updates

- ✓ Mr. Lentini updated the Senate on the 55,000 sq ft renovation of South Foundation Hall, of which 25,000 is new area. He said that for the last two years, the number one capital outlay request has been expansion of South Foundation Hall, and this has now been funded.
- ✓ He provided an update on the Carnegie Foundation's classification of institutions which has been re-done. He noted that previously, Oakland University was in the R-3 category but we have been moved to R-2 which is a higher tier of institution. He said it will be important to build on the research profile of the institution.
- ✓ He reminded Senate members that the Higher Learning Commission will be on campus from February 3-5, for which there will be open sessions and drop-ins going on.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of December 6, 2018

The minutes of the meeting of December 6, 2018, were approved.

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. Motion from the Steering Committee to adopt strategies in support of Goal 4: Diversity and Inclusion of the Oakland University Strategic Plan developed by the Council on Diversity Equity and Inclusion

MOVED that the Senate approve the strategies supporting Goal 4 Diversity and inclusion of the Oakland University Plan

Andrea Eis made a motion to amend the strategies of Goal 4 to include a strategy on women, which she pointed out are articulated in the handout distributed at the meeting, listed as strategy 4.2.5 to expand and promote greater inclusion of women for all areas of Oakland University with 3 bullet points. (seconded by Rebecca Cheezum)

This motion was approved unanimously.

Anica Bowe (SEHS) asked about the policy on undocumented students. Ms. Aubry said that we admit undocumented students, and they are eligible for institutional but not federal aid. She added that OU wants to be very welcoming to them.

The motion was approved.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election to replace a member of the Senate Steering Committee for Winter 2019--Senate Elections Committee

Chaturi Edrisinha (Elections Committee) conducted the election to replace a member of the Senate Steering committee. Dominique Daniel (KL) was elected by acclamation.

2. Motion from the Steering Committee to reaffirm the Senate's previous recommendation to the President and the Board of Trustees to approve a PhD in Computational Physics in the Department of Physics in the College of Arts and Sciences in its amended form

MOVED that the Senate reaffirm its previous recommendation to the President and the Board of Trustees to approve a PhD in Computational Physics in its amended form (Eis, Tracy)

David Gardinkle (Physics) provided insights into the reason for this reaffirmation, which was originally approved in the Senate in May 2012. He said that after approval the previous version had a big budget and did not go to the Board of Trustees because they were not going to be able to take it with the faculty lines. But now, the Physics department is ready to mount the program without any new faculty

lines because they now have all the expensive aspects of the program taken care of. He said they have the faculty with a new hire at the end of the year, and they have the computer resources that they need.

Brad Roth moved to waive the second reading. This motion was approved unanimously. The original motion was approved unanimously.

3. Motion from the Academic Standing and Honors Committee to change the requirement that students complete 62 credits at Oakland University to be eligible to receive the university honors cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude

MOVED that the Senate approve removal of the requirements that student complete 62 credits at Oakland University to be eligible to receive the university honoes cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude (Cheezum, Rigstad)

Mark Navin was present from the ASH committee to explain the reasoning behind this change. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Procedural motion from the Steering Committee to staff a Senate Standing Committee

MOVED that the person listed be appointed to the committee designated (Tracy, Rigstad)

University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction

Fritz McDonald (Winter 2019) replacing Ami Harbin (2017-2020) for her sabbatical.
Katie Hartsock (Winter 2019) replacing Rob Anderson (2016-2019) for his sabbatical.

The motion was approved.

E. GOOD AND WELFARE

There were no comments related to good and welfare.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (Senate secretary)