

OU Senate minutes February 18, 2021

Members present: *Aloi, Alsalman, Ball, Berven, K., Berven, D., Boruff-Jones, Campoy-Cubillo, Caushaj, Cesmelioglu, Chamra, Cheng, Clark, Corcoran, Corso, Debnath, Didion, Dinda, Elsayed, Epstein, Estes, Gajewski, Giblin, Gooren, Guessous, Jankowski, Knox, Latcha, Law-Sullivan, Liptak, Margerum-Leys, Mazzeo, Meyers, Mezwa, Miller, J., Miller, K., Miree, Parkash, Paul, Piskulich, Rios-Ellis, Roumani, Tiegs, Tracy, Van Til, Wadsworth, Wells, Zhang*

Members absent: *Barclay, Barry, Battistuzzi, Bradley, Cortes, Dean, Discenna, Doherty, Edrisinha, Landolt, Leibert, Massoud, McMillon, Roach, Southward*

Provost Rios-Ellis called the Zoom meeting to order at 3:10 P.M.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

Graduate Program Modification

Master in Education (Early Childhood Education) (SEHS) to 100% online

Undergraduate Program Modifications

Holistic Health Minor (SHS) to require the former elective courses HS 4450 and HS 4460; remove HS 4420; increase core credits from 14 to 15; decrease elective credits from 6 to 3

English BA (CAS) to offer new courses that update the curriculum

Linguistics (CAS) to add new minor in Speech Language pathology

Health Sciences BS (SHS) [Pre-Pharmacy Concentration] to remove CDS 4000 from Pre-Pharmacy Concentration

SASWCJ (CAS) to add a new minor in Applied Geographic Information Science

English (CAS) –English STEP program is being changed to correspond with the changes to the English major. Changes approved by STEP Council and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE)

Retirement Plan Updates

Land Acknowledgement Presentation

Senate Committee Volunteer Survey

ACTION ITEMS

Land Acknowledgement Resolution Approved

Procedural Motion to Staff Senate Committee

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

- Provost Rios-Ellis provided the opportunity for senators to comment on the Program Modifications listed above. There were no comments.
- Kelley Snook (Senior Vice President, One Digital) was present to provide an overview of changes to the OU retirement plan, a project resulting from legislation as well as litigation at other universities. He noted that an OU focus group had been created for this project that was made up of a cross-section of OU employees. He indicated that the TIAA Traditional option will not be available in the future. He said that additional updates about changes to the retirement programs would be forthcoming. Mr. Cheng expressed his concern and disappointment about the removal of the TIAA Traditional option.
- Megan Peiser and Ashleigh Dubeigh were present to update the Senate on the OU Land Acknowledgement Statement. They said they have been working for two years to prepare a document that they hope will be a living evolving process that has now begun. They noted that OU is behind other universities with regard to a land acknowledgement statement. They stated that they have been in discussion with tribal leaders and have incorporated collective voices to pay tribute to the native peoples and acknowledge what was done to them when their land was taken in 1807. They affirmed that this statement makes indigenous peoples visible again, and is part of a healing process growing towards inclusiveness. They said they are looking for cross-campus support and solidarity because OU needs to put action behind words. They noted that trust is not easy to gain with the native peoples. Provost Rios-Ellis expressed her support and said she wants to make this something that lives on.
- Cynthia Miree encouraged faculty members to volunteer, and to spread the word about volunteering for Senate Committees. The survey is presently available online.
- **Provost's Updates:** Ms. Rios-Ellis commented that the recent African-American events were excellent. She noted that there will be a monthly communication coming from the Academic Affairs office so we should look for that in our inboxes.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of January 21, 2021

The minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2021 were approved.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Land Acknowledgement Resolution

Mr. Jason Wasserman, Chair, Committee on Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion presented the following Land Acknowledgement Resolution for consideration by the Senate:

Whereas, the colonization of North America by European settlers, which has systematically displaced, destroyed, and devalued native people, continues to shape the contexts in which we work, teach, learn, and build community today, and

Whereas, Oakland University resides on land, ceded in the 1807 Treaty of Detroit, which is the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe people, also known as the Three Fires Confederacy comprised of the Ojibwe, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi; and

Whereas, a land acknowledgement statement does not constitute, in and of itself, a form of redress, but can inspire reflection and reconsideration about how we approach this history within our curricula, our policies, and our relationships with one another and the broader community,

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the Oakland University Senate offers its support for the adoption and widespread use of a land acknowledgement statement developed in collaboration with native communities, as one part of a larger, ongoing effort to educate the University community and redress historical and present injustices toward Native people.

The following motion was made:

MOVED that the Senate adopt the proposed Land Acknowledgement Resolution
(Meyres, Gajewski)

The motion was then made to waive the second reading (Margerum-Leys, Cheng). This motion was approved.

The motion to adopt the Land Acknowledgement Resolution was then approved.

2. Procedural Motion to staff Senate Committee

MOVED that the persons listed be appointed to the committees or positions designated
(new appointments and positions in **BOLD**) (Latcha, Gajewski)

Academic Computing Committee

2020-2022 Faculty Appointments

Academic Computing Committee: Chris Wilson - SHS replacing Brendan Kredell (CAS) as **CHAIR**
(Winter 2021)

The motion was approved.

D. GOOD AND WELFARE

Julia Rodriguez (Team leader for the OU Affordable Course Materials Initiative) said that the committee had wrapped up its first round of faculty stipends (\$5000 total) provided to faculty

members who initiated the use or creation of Open Education Resources in their classes. She said that approximately \$13,000 to \$38,000 were saved by students by these pilot programs. She announced that these faculty members would be presenting their projects at a Zoom event on March 3, from 12:00-1:00.

Dave Dulio encouraged Senators to nominate worthy individuals for the Community Engagement Awards.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 P.M. Provost Rios-Ellis wished everyone a good winter break.

Respectfully submitted,

Dikka Berven (secretary)