

**College of Arts and Sciences
Assembly Meeting
November 16, 2010, 3:30 P.M.
Oakland Center, Oakland Room**

Members present: *Berven, D., Berven, K., Cheng, Connery, Elder, Estes, Giberson, Graves, Grossman, Hawkins, Jumel, Kerrigan, LaRock, Meehan, Nielsen, Nugent, Sanders, Sheridan, Stamps, Trumbore, Whitehead, Williams, Wood*
Members absent: *Dvir, Eis, Howell, Lewis, Ogunyemi, Schweitzer, Seymour*
Ex-officio present: *Moore, Stewart, Sudol*

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Dean Sudol.

2. Approval of Minutes, Meeting of October 19, 2010

The minutes from the Assembly meeting of October 19, 2010, were approved (motion by Meehan, second by Estes).

3. New Business

a. Dean Sudol introduced the following resolution, resulting from a request made by the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance to change their name from 'Department of Music, Theatre and Dance' to 'School of Music, Theatre and Dance':

Resolution: The College of Arts and Sciences Assembly supports a name change from Department of Music, Theatre and Dance to School of Music, Theatre and Dance.

Mr. Stamps led off the discussion by asking how the other Schools within the university feel about this name change. Mr. Sudol replied that he had not asked them. Mr. Sudol provided a handout to show that there are 'Schools of Music' housed within Colleges at a number of universities in the USA. He explained that the CAS is made up of 'sub-units,' and there is a precedent for name changes within the CAS. As an example, the Department of Medical Laboratories changed their name to Biomedical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Sciences Program. However, Mr. Sudol acknowledged that in the CAS, the particular request of MTD is a unique occurrence, and the request had been discussed at length. The 'School' of Music, Theatre and Dance would function the same as the department presently functions, but the name change would improve their image significantly in the eyes of the outside world. He observed that MTD is larger than the School of Nursing, as a point of comparison. MTD has its own staff, and it is more complex than other departments in the CAS. He said that changing the name would send a powerful message to potential students, and it would attract students and faculty alike. In addition, there could be more competitive fund-raising due to the name change. Mr. Trumbore questioned what the new name would mean in the future apart from the name change in and of itself. He asked about the history of the relationship of the

department of MTD to the CAS—was it originally a ‘school,’ then did it become part of the CAS, such that this would actually be a move back to the way it originally was? Mr. Sudol provided a brief history of the MTD, recalling that there had been several transformations throughout the years. Music, Theatre and Dance were eventually amalgamated, but the faculties are three distinct faculties with one department chair. He compared the situation to Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism in this regard. He expressed appreciation to department chairperson, Jackie Wiggins, for pulling the department together into a successfully functioning unit. In terms of size, Music is large, Theatre is small, and Dance is tiny. The department does approximately 100 performances per year. It is very complex and has been through enough transformations over the years that it now has numerous ‘barnacles’ left over from previous periods. Mr. Sudol said that the next step after the name change would be an overhaul of budget and administrative process. Outside experts would be brought in, and they would start from scratch. Furthermore, the MTD department is underfunded in every way. Ten or twelve years ago there was a budget crisis in the state of Michigan that resulted in serious budget cuts within the university, and Dean Downing had to make cuts in MTD at that time, including cutting a facilities manager position. The result was a level of staffing that was not sufficient for the needs of the department, and today MTD is critically understaffed. Mr. Sudol hopes to get the funding he needs to address these issues.

Mr. Grossman asked if there are ‘sub-chairs’ within the department of MTD. Mr. Sudol said that there are ‘program directors.’ Mr. Grossman said that the name change is more than a spelling change, and he asked if the department becomes a school would the title of the head of the school be ‘chair’ or ‘dean’? Mr. Sudol said the head would be called ‘chair.’ Mr. Grossman observed that in the AAUP contract, MTD is described as a department, and the name change therefore has contractual implications. He wondered if the AAUP would agree with the name change, and if they had been asked about it. Mr. Sudol said that they had not been asked. Mr. Stamps then inquired whether the chairperson of MTD would actually be running a school or a department? Also, he asked whether the other universities listed on the handout sheet provided by Mr. Sudol also have departments of Dance and Theatre, although each is described as a ‘School of Music’? Ms. Wiggins addressed this, noting that the University of Michigan likes to say that they are the only School of Music, Theatre and Dance in the state of Michigan. MTD’s request for a name change is a particularly big issue for the music group of their department. She added that for some Schools of Music, theatre and dance are included. In the case of OU’s department of MTD, the three groups get along well with each other, and the faculties do not want to split up. Besides this, there are personnel who serve all three groups, so splitting up would be problematic.

Ms. Hawkins asked if there are other universities besides the University of Michigan that have Music, Theatre and Dance in one School and also whether the person in charge in Schools of Music is called a ‘dean.’ Ms. Wiggins replied that usually the person in charge is called a ‘director’ or a ‘dean.’ This issue is not what OU’s MTD cares about, however. For them, it is all about the image that is projected. It is just a name change, but a change that would mean everything to the department. They need the recognition of whom and what they are, and they need to convey this message to the outside world who actually expects them to be a ‘school.’

Mr. Meehan observed that at the Executive Committee meeting of the Assembly, they had pretty much replicated the arguments he was hearing. He expressed his concerns as follows: What are the budgetary implications? What is the process for making this name change, because it seems like more than the change of the name. If MTD becomes a 'school,' would it then have priority over other departments in the CAS? He said he would like to see something in writing to explain these issues. Also, he said there were organizational problems. Concerning the idea of bringing in someone from the outside to look at budgetary matters after the name is changed, he wondered why someone could not be brought in now before the name is changed. In addition, Mr. Meehan pointed out that the name change would become a precedent within the CAS. He mentioned his own department which would like to be called 'School of Social Sciences' so they would be able to compete better with the University of Michigan. He reiterated that he would like to see the MTD matter laid out in writing. Lastly, Mr. Meehan said that he had concerns about the contractual aspects. For example, the Schools at OU all have their own CAP. Would MTD have its own CAP? Would there be increasing complexity? He urged that the request for changing the name should be laid out on firmer ground because of the various issues that needed to be addressed.

Mr. Grossman agreed with Mr. Meehan's comments, and said that although he generally supports the idea of the name change, he did not think the Assembly was ready to vote at this meeting since neither the AAUP or the other Schools in the university had been asked about it, and the name change should be done within the context of discussion with the rest of the university. He clarified that from a parliamentary viewpoint, the resolution as presented could be passed now by a two-thirds majority. If passed with only a simple majority, it would then come back for a second reading at a subsequent Assembly meeting.

Mr. Graves said that he had sympathy with the concerns expressed at the Assembly, but he realized that Mr. Sudol needs support from the Assembly to go forward with the request.

Ms. Wiggins said that in a perfect world, MTD would be their own School, and in fact, she had made this request to the Provost six years ago. But the time is not right for that move now because of the difficult economic times and all of the financial issues. Mr. Trumbore asserted that the Assembly should not base its decisions on union approval concerning programs beneficial to the college. Rather, they should be moved forward based on their merits and other considerations dealt with as they arise. Mr. Connery said that the union is not the only issue. He said that at Oakland University, the word 'school' has a particular meaning in documents. MTD is offering a new *meaning* to the word such that in the future, the word would be used for two different things. He agreed that there are budgetary implications as well, and they need to be spelled out. Ms. Wiggins responded that it is common for universities to be made up of 'schools' instead of 'colleges.' Ms. Hawkins said that she agreed with Mr. Connery and Mr. Meehan. She pointed out that schools have deans and associate deans, and there needs to be a process outlined for the change from department to school. Ms. Moore came back to the point that the present request is just a name change. She recalled that the Health Sciences co-opted the term 'biomedical sciences,' and the CAS was not consulted when they made that change. Mr. Sudol said that if the budgetary matters have to be worked out ahead, he was afraid that there would be no change at all. He said that he would like to use the

name change as an opportunity to move forward. Mr. Grossman asked if the resolution were to pass in the Assembly, what would the next step be? Mr. Sudol replied that he would next talk to the Provost. He said that he did not think the matter of the name change was a governance issue, but rather was simply as a name change. Mr. Grossman said that other changes that have been made within the university were not issues that affected the contract. Mr. Connery added that other changes did not involve words that were already in use. Mr. Meehan pointed out that a proposal for MTD to become a separate school had been presented to the provost years ago, but had met with resistance. Mr. Stamps indicated that the Dean was trying to move forward, and break a log jam. Ms. Wiggins said that there are financial issues, and that is why MTD needs the support of the Assembly. She added that there is support for the name change all over the campus. Ms. Wood said that she understands and supports the idea, and said that in the future there may even be a School of Fine Arts. She pointed out that both MTD and the department of Art and Art History have one foot in the Fine Arts and one in Arts and Sciences. But she does not want to be in a College of Fine Arts.

Mr. Grossman suggested that concerning the resolution put forward for consideration at this meeting on the subject of the MTD name change, different wording is needed. He suggested a change from ***“The College of Arts and Sciences Assembly supports a name change from Department of Music, Theatre and Dance to School of Music, Theatre and Dance”*** to: ***“The College of Arts and Sciences requests the Dean to pursue a name change from Department of Music, Theatre and Dance to School of Music, Theatre and Dance.”*** Mr. Stamps supported this wording, and stated that we need to let the rest of the university know that this change is in the works. The Assembly then voted unanimously to support the resolution as revised by Mr. Grossman.

Mr. Sudol said that he would report back to the Assembly in January.

b. Dean Sudol presented the following resolution: ***“The College of Arts and Sciences Assembly supports the concept known informally as “Degree in Three” in which several CAS programs schedule courses to enable students to complete a degree in less than four years.”***

Mr. Sudol introduced the topic of the ‘Degree in Three’ by saying that the idea of the “Degree in Three” had been discussed extensively with CAS department chairs, and had been brought up at the Assembly as well. Chairs had been asked to lay out courses in such a way that students would be able to finish in three years. The result was that there are now 19 majors that are scheduled to facilitate a bachelor’s degree in three years. Mr. Sudol said that we want to let students know that this option is available and make it easy for those students who want to do it. He wants to be able to tell the public about it. He observed that it is likely to appeal to only a tiny fraction of students—possibly as few as two dozen or so. OU students typically have to work in the summer rather than take classes. But doing their degree in three years can launch motivated students to a career or professional school early, and this could have a positive impact on their lives, financially and otherwise. Also, if the public knows this option is available, we can possibly attract more of the kind of students that we would like to have. Mr. Sudol expressed his surprise that members of the Senate had arguments when it was brought up there. He wanted to bring it back as a resolution to the Assembly.

Mr. Stamps questioned why anyone would *not* want to have this available? Mr. Connery pointed out that it is already available, but that this is not what it was about. Mr. Elder asked whether the Degree in Three would change the way departments run? Mr. Sudol replied that chairs had chosen to schedule 19 programs this way out of an overall total of 72. Ms. Wood wondered if the Degree in Three is the reason that departments have recently been asked to schedule more 300/400 level courses in the summer session. Mr. Sudol said that perhaps so, but it is a way to increase activities and credits at the university during the summer as well. Ms. Wood cautioned that courses designated as writing intensive courses should only be offered in the long summer session, not one of the shorter sessions. She said she had taught a course designated as writing intensive in the shorter summer session and there ended up being a 50% attrition rate. There was even one case of plagiarism that she thinks may not have happened if the student was not under so much pressure by doing the work in the short time. Mr. Berven said that there is a concern about how the 'Degree in Three' program is advertised to the outside world because the public could perceive it that we are 'dumbing down' the bachelor's degree. Mr. Sudol agreed that marketing is a sensitive issue. Mr. Berven suggested that calling the program something else, such as 'Accelerated Degree' might sound better. Mr. Sudol agreed with this suggestion. Mr. Trumbore agreed that it is a marketing issue, but Mr. Stamps expressed fears about turning it over to marketing. Mr. Stewart said that the chairs were concerned that the students need to be good enough to be able to do the program in three years. Mr. Grossman asked in what sense the 'Degree in Three' is a program. Mr. Stewart said that they can sign up for scholarships. Mr. Grossman asked if this is available already, or will there be special scholarships for students who sign up for the program? Mr. Sudol said there are not special scholarships for these students, just a reminder about existing scholarships. Mr. Grossman asked again in what sense it is a program? Mr. Sudol said that it is just marketing. Mr. Connery said that this is a problem, because if we market it, it means that we think it is a good idea. But he said that he did not think it is a good idea. He indicated that he would like to see a comparison of students graduate in three years with students who do their degree in four years in order to see if the 'Degree in Three' has academic integrity, because at the present moment, he does not think it does. Mr. Trumbore said that academically, it is the same degree in three years that students would get in four years, with the same courses. So it is not an academic issue. Mr. Elder said that there is a lot of growth that takes place within students between semesters during the summer, and this program might prevent that growth from taking place. Mr. Meehan pointed out that the CAS department chairs had already worked through the Degree in Three, and it is already online and available for students. Ms. Moore said that there is a need to counter the idea that the courses are not scheduled in a way that it would be possible to do a degree in three years. Mr. Sudol gave an example of a particularly gifted young timpanist in the department of MTD who had done his degree in three years and had subsequently gotten auditions with some of the finest orchestras in the USA. Mr. Giberson asked if the resolution that we were considering was going anywhere from here? Mr. Sudol said that the program is already available, and it had been at the Senate as an informational item. Mr. Elder asked if there is funding available for the Degree in Three program? Mr. Sudol said that there was no special money. Mr. Stamps said that he would vote in favor of the resolution, but he liked Mr. Berven's idea of calling it 'Accelerated Degree' because that did not make it

sound so much like it could be one of Baker College's programs. The Assembly voted unanimously to support the resolution.

4. College Updates

Center for International Programs: Mr. Sudol indicated that this is an area where he foresees dramatic growth, and he wants to bring in a new director.

Mr. Sudol said that there are presently two graduates from the department of MTD are acting in shows on Broadway, and this is an accomplishment to be proud of.

President Russi had called a meeting of the Executive Council to do some fine-tuning of the Strategic Plan given the unforeseen the financial difficulties of the present economic times. An outside consultant had made the suggestion to connect the Capital Campaign and the Strategic Plan. Mr. Sudol said that this is an excellent idea that may seem obvious, but it had not been done before.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven