

Minutes of the Oakland University Student Congress
Legislative Body Meeting
10 March 2008
Oakland Room, Oakland Center

Legislators Present: Brown, Costakes, Cruz, Dillworth, Gura, Miller, Spedoske

Legislators Absent: Thomas, Ray, Fitzsimmons

Executive Board Present: Mr. Meyer, Ms. Ms. Fallis, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Twardy, Ms. Vanderford

Executive Board Absent: Ms. Muhammad, Ms. Dayag, Ms. Kukuk, Mr. Miller

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:06 P.M.

II. Roll Call

All members of the Legislature were present except Mr. Fitzsimmons, Ms. Ray, and Mr. Thomas. All members of the Executive Board were present except Ms. Muhammad, Ms. Dayag, Ms. Kukuk, and Mr. Miller. Ms. Kukuk arrived late. Mr. Miller was filling the position of chair in his capacity as Steering Committee Chairman.

III. Action Items

Minutes from 03 March 2008 approved by voice vote.

Guest Speakers: Cindy Hermsen (Financial Aid) & OU Registrar Steve Shablin

Ms. Hermsen discusses the change from spring/summer to one summer semester:

Why we did it–

Classes were lasting the entire summer (14 weeks) but only getting financial aid for half the course.

Other schools had larger summer semesters with mini-sessions.

Instead of 2 non-standard terms, we now have 3 equal semesters, with mini-terms in each.

Gives more flexibility for faculty and increased their interest in holding summer courses

Ms. Hermsen passed out a flyer with the calendar for the semesters and also info that spells out the different options for class registration in the summer semester. They are communicating this information to the student body through flyers and posters.

Mr. Shablin commented on registration:

More courses will expand out of the seven week model in favor of a ten week model

(May 5 to July 12). More courses will be offered in the 15 week semester in future terms as well.

This means more courses evenly distributed throughout the academic year. Some two week programs for non-traditional students will also be available in the summer.

Mr. Meyer gains the floor for an inquiry: how will this affect our funding as a tuition-dollar funded organization?

Ms. Hermsen responds: we do not know specifically yet but discussions with budgeting office, Dean McIntosh and Jean Ann Miller and other orgs with that funding model are taking place, but no change will be made in the funding formula. Direct questions to Jean Ann Miller and Dean McIntosh. Mr. Meyer responds that he will contact those individuals.

Ms. Vanderford gains the floor for an inquiry: will there be restrictions on the amount of credits you can take in the summer?

Mr. Shablin responds: we changed the credit overload process – you can now have up to 16 credits without advisor permission. For grad students, you can have up to 12 without advisor permission.

Mr. Brown gains the floor for an inquiry: question on how credits are being counted – How do we compute where the credits are counted and how aid is disbursed?

Ms. Hermsen responds: If you are enrolled in the first and second seven weeks of summer, you will need twelve credits total for the entire semester to be full time – half of the aid will go in the first seven weeks, and the other half will go in the second seven weeks.

Mr. Meyer gains the floor for a second inquiry: Does it matter which half you take your 16 credits in if you do so in summer?

Mr. Shablin responds: no, think of it as one large semester in which the total for summer can be no larger than 16 credits. We will have two conferral dates this year to accommodate the transition.

Ms. Hermsen – please contact steve or I with any questions or concerns regarding the new summer semester.

Mr. Griffin is excused on a Point of Personal Privilege at 4:24 P.M.

Comments from the Gallery commences.

Mr. Jonathan Parks: Very happy to see the pres. Debates today. Here on behalf of pre-college programs/ GEAR-UP; friendly reminder about the program. We intend to get 410 students on campus, we need 20 mentors for the summer camp. Stop at 106 NFH or e-mail me at jdparks@oakland.edu for more information. We begin in June and go through to July 18th. Mentors are compensated as follows:

Head residents get \$100/night
Head Mentors and Mentors vary. \$1-\$10 per night.

We are very flexible with schedule
Day 7:30am to 4:30/5:30pm
Night 4:30/5:30 to 11:00pm/12:00am

Legislative Debate and Questioning of Congressional Court Nominees Kristen Guralczyk

Mr. Brown gains the floor for an inquiry – are you taking summer courses?
Ms. Guralczyk responds – yes, so I will be around

Mr. Spedoske gains the floor for an inquiry – what time commitments do you have, will you have time for this?
Ms. Guralczyk – I have two jobs that are very flexible and I will have time for this.

Mario Hagar

Mr. Brown gains the floor for an inquiry – are you available this summer?
Mr. Hagar responds – I will be around grading for the math department, possibly doing pre-college programs

Mr. Spedoske gains the floor for an inquiry – What is your time constraint for fall/winter?
Mr. Hagar responds – Grading for math department on my own time, not sure what I will have as far as classes.

Confirmation of Committee Members Ben Spedoske, Steering Committee

Mr. Miller gains the floor to introduce the nominee – Ben has interest in joining, and I would be happy to have him. Will have 2 open spots still.

Mr. Spedoske is approved by voice vote.

Elizabeth Wilbur, Validations Committee

Mr. Miller gains the floor to introduce the nominee in his capacity as Elections Commission Chair – I have known Ms. Wilbur since 2004, I have every confidence in her. She was in OUSC for a short time, involved in different activities outside of OUSC, will place emphasis on things getting done fairly.

Ms. Vanderford is excused on a Point of Personal Privilege at 4:40 P.M.

Ms. Wilbur approved by voice vote.

IV. Discussion Items

Speakers

Mr. Brown gains the floor to introduce a topic – comment regarding class offerings in summer; graduate students do not have many offerings in the summer and it is almost impossible to get full time status unless I waste money on electives.

Ms. Kukuk gains the floor for a comment on the topic – I spoke to someone who would be walking in may but is being forced to wait until December because of this transition.

Statements of Student Concern

Mr. Twardy gains the floor to introduce a topic – student organizations having pressure put on them because of the mandatory 60/40 student/non student ratio. Mr. Twardy vows to look into this rule.

Mr. Meyer gains the floor to speak on the topic – I agree with ratio

Mr. Cruz – Organizations should be mindful of member attendance and track the ratio that way

V. Reports and Updates

Mr. Meyer, Ms. Fallis, Ms. Kukuk, Mr. Twardy, and Mr. Miller were present to give their reports.

Mr. Brown of Judiciary, Ms. Dillworth of Scholarship, and Mr. Miller of Steering were present to give their updates.

VI. Other Items that May Come Before the Body

No comments from the Gallery.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 P.M.