

Oakland University Senate
September 19, 2013
Minutes

Members present: Andrews, Awbrey, Berven, D., Berven K., Binkley, Cheng, Cole, Corcoran, Corso, Debnath, Dereski, Dulio, Dvir, Eis, Estes, Grimm, Groomes, Grossman, Howell, Johnson, Knox, Landolt, Latcha, Lee, Licker, Lim, Maxfield, Mazzeo, McEneaney, Meehan, Miller, Mitchell, Navin, Ragheb, Reger, Shablin, Singhal, Thompson, Tiegs, Tracy, Wells, Wharton, Williams, Wren

Members absent: Barber, Chamra, Doman, Folberg, Hankin, Hay, Hightower, Pelfrey, Penprase, Polis, Rigstad, Schartman, Schuiling, Switzer

Summary of Actions

Information Items

Appointment of Senate Parliamentarian—Jerry Grossman

Appointment of Senate Secretary—Dikka Berven

Appointment of Senate Elections Committee—Lynn Williams (SHS), Chair, Mark Navin (CAS), T.J. Wharton (SBA)

Program modifications approved by Graduate Council to the following:

Master of Science in Biology (CAS); Doctor of Philosophy in Biological Sciences: Biological Communication; Doctor of Philosophy in Education: Early Childhood Education; Master of Education in Special Education: Autism Spectrum Disorder; Graduate certificate in Special Education: Autism Spectrum Disorder; Master of Science in Engineering Management

Approved by Graduate Council:

New Certificate Program in Special Education: Special Learning Disability, and New Certificate Program in Special Education: Emotional Impairment

Policy approved by Student Academic Support Committee: Active Duty Policy Procedures

Merger of Department of Human Resource Development and Department of Educational Leadership into Department of Organizational Leadership

Provost's Updates

New Business

Election of the Senate Steering Committee for 2013-2015

Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees

Procedural Motion to appoint Chairs of Senate Standing Committees

Provost James Lentini called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M., welcoming Senate members.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Provost Lentini appointed Jerry Grossman as Senate Parliamentarian, Dikka Berven as Senate Secretary, and to the Elections Committee, he appointed Lynn Williams (SHS), Chair, Mark Navin (CAS), and T.J. Wharton (SBA).

- Mr. Lentini informed the Senate about program modifications which had been approved by Graduate Council, as follows:

- o Master of Science in Biology (CAS); Doctor of Philosophy in Biological Sciences: Biological Communication; Doctor of Philosophy in Education: Early Childhood Education; Master of Education in Special Education: Autism Spectrum Disorder; Graduate Certificate in Special Education: Autism Spectrum Disorder; Master of Science in Engineering Management. Mr. Lentini indicated that faculty members representing these program modifications (Mr. Dvir, Ms. Oden, Ms. Graetz and Mr. Van Til) were present to answer any questions, of which there were none.

- Mr. Lentini invited Ms. Wigent to explain the new certificate program in Special Education: Specific Learning Disability, and the new certificate program in Special Education: Emotional Impairment, both of which had been approved by Graduate Council. Ms Wigent informed the Senate that these programs were based on existing degree programs. She pointed out that students learn about disabilities based upon categories, and the new programs would allow students to come back to OU to get knowledge of disabilities other than those which they had previously studied. She said that students who had gotten their degrees elsewhere could also be interested in the new certificate program, and would enter a program that took into consideration their previous educational experience.

- Mr. Shablin was invited to explain the university policy on Active Duty. He thanked faculty members for their cooperation regarding veterans as well as students who are on active duty, and said that the policy documents the procedures faculty members should use when students are called away for active duty service.

- Provost Lentini informed the Senate about the merger between the Department of Human Resource Development and the Department of Education Leadership into the new Department of Organizational Leadership. He invited Mr. Bob Maxfield (Interim Dean SEHS) and his colleagues to explain this merger to the Senate. Mr. Maxfield outlined the process that had been used, which he said was consistent with the SEHS Constitution. Ms. Jana Nidiffer then explained the rationale for the merger. She stated that it was a very organic process between the two departments, both of which have very good enrollments. She said that Former Dean Gallien had started the ball rolling by observing that other universities had similar departments such as the merger which reflected that the field is moving in the new direction of the merger. She noted that the two fields are inherently interdisciplinary, and that faculty members in both departments were intrigued by the pedagogical benefits to faculty and students alike, allowing them to combine theory and experience. She pointed out that no programs would be eliminated, and accreditation would not be negatively impacted. She said that the faculty members are excited about the merger, and looking forward to a fresh perspective. Mr. Maxfield stated that the SEHS Executive Committee had discussed the merger, the SEHS Assembly had voted on it, and a recommendation was made to the university. It was approved, and then personnel decisions were subsequently made. Also, he indicated that SEHS was discussing with the AAUP the contractual implications of the merger. Associate Dean Nancy Brown described the process of hiring their new faculty member, Dave Strubler. She said that the hiring process had oversight, and that going into it, they did not know if the new faculty member would come from HRD or Leadership

because they were open to applicants from both. She pointed out that they had a real need for another senior faculty member to show leadership in their department. She said they were happy when they were able to hire David Strubler, and she indicated that there is an expectation of his becoming Chair following the approval of the merger. Mr. Strubler was present, and expressed to the Senate his excitement to be at Oakland University to oversee the emergence of the new department of Organizational Leadership.

Mr. Grimm said that he thought this merger sounded like a very good idea and a good move. However, he said that perhaps the Steering Committee might want to consider for the future whether UCUI and Senate Planning should be consulted in such cases. Mr. Maxfield replied that they did not think it was necessary to consult these groups, and said that their process had been consistent with past practices in their School, as well as congruent with their Constitution.

- **Provost's Updates:** Provost Lentini said that it had been a busy time since his arrival on campus on July 8, with some expected things and some unexpected ones. He thanked those who had helped him as he got settled into his new job, and said he looked forward to meeting others. As far as the year ahead, he said that one important emphasis will be Graduate Education, and trying to figure out what the opportunities are at Oakland University. He said OU already has great programs in place, but there are special challenges because OU does not have the overhead of other institutions. A second area of emphasis will be Retention and Graduation rates, a topic which he said is very important nationally as well as at OU. He was happy to say that this year the retention rate had jumped from 70.3% to 77.9%, which is a significant leap. He said that the goal will be to work on these areas no matter who is in the leadership role at the university. He also stated that construction was going well on all of the big projects going on all over campus. Lastly, he said there are searches going on in Academic Resources, and also for a Dean of SEHS.

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF April 13, 2013

The April 13, 2013 minutes were approved (Latcha, Andrews).

B. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of the Senate Steering Committee for 2013-2015—Senate Elections Committee

Ms. Williams opened the floor for nominations to the Senate Steering Committee, pointing out that there is a stipulation that there cannot be more than two Senate Steering Committee members from any one School. Nominations were taken from the floor, and then the motion was made and passed to close the nominations and vote on the slate that had been nominated (Howell, Meehan). The following members were thus elected by unanimous agreement: John McEneaney, Ron Tracy, Andrea Eis, Kris Thompson, Kevin Andrews and Eileen Johnson.

2. Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees

MOVED that persons listed be appointed to the committees assigned (Estes, Tracy):

Assessment Committee

Frank Lepkowski, Library, 2013-2015 (replacing Linda Hildebrand)

Rajeev Singhal, at-large 2013-2014 (unfilled from previous year)

Campus Development and Environment Committee
Maria Reznar, 2012-2014 (replacing David Kasdan)

Library Committee

Meghan Harris, SON, 2013-2016
Ron Tracy, SBA, 2013-2015P

Research Committee

Ferman Chavez, CAS, 2013-2015 (replacing Deb McGinnis)
Teaching and Learning Committee
Mary Dereski, SOM, 2013-2016 (replacing Mary Bee)
University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction
Art Bull, CAS (Math/Science) 2013-2015 (replacing Steve Wright)
David Kidger CAS (Humanities) Fall 2013 (replacing Susan Evans who is on sabbatical)
Jennifer Eastwood, SOM, 2012-2015

The motion was approved.

3. Procedural Motion to appoint Chairs of Senate Standing Committees

MOVED that the persons listed by appointed as chair of the committee designated (Shablin, Awbrey):

Senate Budget Review Committee

Arik Dvir, CAS, 2011-2014

Senate Planning Review Committee

Janell Townsend, SBA, 2011-2014 (replacing Lynn Williams)

The motion was approved.

C. GOOD AND WELFARE

* Karen Miller brought forward the topic of the presidential search, and said that the OU Board of Trustees was in the process of building a search committee for a new president. She informed the Senate that there is not presently any indication that there will be faculty members on that committee. However, she believes that faculty representation is necessary, important, and critical. For this reason, she proposed the following resolution for consideration by the Senate, a copy of which was distributed by Mr. Grimm for the perusal of Senate members:

“As the Board of Trustees creates the search committee for Oakland University’s next president, it needs to consider the opinions of all the major stakeholders of the institution. The next president will need to lead a complex community where many voices are represented. Those voices all need to participate in this selection process. A successful presidential search requires that the interests of administration, staff, students, and faculty all be represented from the beginning of the selection process. In particular, it is essential to have several members of the faculty serve on the presidential search committee. This faculty representation should reflect the

variety of constituencies on campus, representing the complexity of the instructional mission at the university. We believe that the University Senate would be the optimal body through which to organize the selection of faculty representation to the search committee.” (seconded by Ms. Williams)

Mr. Grimm expressed his enthusiasm for the resolution. Mr. Meehan asked what exactly was meant by the word ‘several’ in the resolution, whether it meant three, or more than three. Ms. Miller replied that she did not specify the exact number because the BOT have not yet decided how large the search committee would be, but although she believes it should be a substantial minority, she does not think it is possible to be specific at this time. Mr. Meehan replied that it is a great resolution, and he proposed that there should be four members. He also asked what the process involved would be. Ms. Miller replied that the process would probably be the decision of the Steering Committee. Ms. Mitchell suggested the possibility of recommending or specifying a percentage of the committee to be faculty, to guarantee their voice on the search committee. Ms. Reger asked If the Senate could get an update on the search committee. She stated that she had never heard of a situation where there would be a presidential search without faculty representation, and she thinks there should definitely be faculty representation. Mr. Lentini said that as Provost, he was not part of the search committee discussion, and so he has not heard how many people there would be on the committee because it is the BOT’s job to do this. Ms. Wells asked what would the role of the faculty members be on the committee, and asked whether there were any sense of the level of faculty participation in the decision-making process if they were to be on the committee. Mr. Dvir suggested that it might be a good idea to invite a representative of the Board of Trustees to come and talk to the Senate about this issue, and there was a voluble chorus of approval for this idea. Ms. Miller noted that the next BOT meeting had been cancelled because several members were going to be out of town, but her impression after talking to several BOT members was that they do want faculty voices on the committee. Mr. Grimm said that he loved Mr. Dvir’s idea of inviting a BOT member to the Senate, and noted that the presidential hire is up to the BOT, as is the committee constitution, but he is optimistic and excited about the search. Mr. Estes pointed out that the CAS Dean search committee had been a great success, as it was represented by a broad group, and he wondered why we would not have faculty representation since it is clear that faculty input is obviously good. Ms. Thompson said that she supports the resolution, but she asked for clarification whether the faculty members would be Senate members, or any faculty members. Also, she wondered what the process would be for selecting those faculty members. Ms. Miller replied that she thought the process should go through the Senate, but the possibility of serving on the committee should be open to anyone. She supposed that the head of the BOT would be in charge of making the decision, but she hoped that they would let the Senate do it. Ms. Eis said that she supports the resolution, and echoed Mr. Estes’ comments because she had a similar experience on the Provost search committee, and she felt that faculty voices were very important on that committee as well. Ms. Eis asked about the process by which the resolution would be passed to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Grossman suggested the possibility that the secretary of the Senate could convey the message. He also observed that in the resolution itself, the word ‘election’ in the last line might be better if changed to ‘selection’. Ms. Miller agreed, and this change to the resolution was made by unanimous consent. Mr. Andrews asked whether a second reading was necessary, and if so, he would like to move to waive it. Mr. Grossman said that a second reading was not necessary since this resolution was not a regular agenda item. Mr. Tracy proposed that the resolution be amended

to state that faculty should compose 30-40% of the committee. Mr. Cheng said he thought that would be too limiting, and suggested rather to state that a significant proportion should be faculty members. Mr. Andrews said that he thought as is, the resolution would begin a dialogue with the BOT, and he would prefer to leave the language as it was stated in the resolution. The amendment to the motion died for the lack of a second.

The Senate then voted on the above resolution, and it passed nearly unanimously, with one dissenting vote (T.J. Wharton).

* Mr. Crabill drew the attention of Senate members to the two handouts made available to the Senate members for the meeting, concerning the second annual Student Success conference to take place in February with universities across the state of Michigan. He was excited that their speaker this year would be Mr. George Kuh. Mr. Crabill asked Senate members to consider submitting a proposal for this conference.

*Mr. Grossman pointed out to the Senate members that there had been a tradition at Oakland University that had fallen by the wayside, in which the President would come to address the Senate at the beginning of the academic year. However, he thought it was regrettable that this had not been done since 2008. He said that the tradition should be restored. Mr. Lentini said that he had already discussed this with Interim President Youngblood, and she would be delighted to come.

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (secretary)