



Thursday, June 12, 2003

## Senate makes significant accomplishments

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

The 2001-2003 **Oakland University Senate** and its 18 committees achieved a number of significant accomplishments reflecting a wide range of university concerns.

"The 2001-2003 senate worked hard, engaged in debates and undertook important issues," said Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil. "Significantly, in its final substantive action, the senate moved general education reform closer to implementation. I am very proud of our senate colleagues for their leadership in championing numerous academic issues and grateful for their patience, understanding and support to bring most of the agenda items to conclusions."

### OU SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

#### Academic Policies

The senate revised two academic policies aimed at helping students whose potential exceeds their ability to keep up with the fast pace of university instruction. The policies include:

- An improved probation and dismissal policy
- An expanded system of mid-semester evaluation

#### Constitution of School of Nursing

The senate approved a revised constitution for the **School of Nursing**.

#### Cooley Law School

The senate endorsed the development of a partnership with **Thomas M. Cooley Law School**.

#### General Education

The senate engaged in extensive discussions about a new general education program, first by accepting the shift to an outcomes-based program as recommended by General Education Task Force I, and then by inviting General Education Task Force II to develop prototypes and proposals for a new program.

#### New Programs

The senate reviewed and approved four new degree programs:

- B.A. in Studio Art
- B.S. in Financial Information Systems
- B.S. in Wellness, Health Promotion and Injury Prevention
- Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering

**Oakland University in 2010** The senate reviewed and endorsed the **Oakland University in 2010 Profile** and wrote a university vision statement.

#### OU Board of Trustees Faculty Representation

On two occasions, the senate took steps toward improving communications with the **OU Board of Trustees** by designating two faculty representatives to attend board meetings and proposing the creation of faculty liaisons to the board.

#### Presentations to Senate

The senate kept abreast of issues affecting the university community and academic affairs through informal presentations on numerous topics, including budget updates, Cooley Law School initiative, Profile 2010, School of Nursing accreditation and dean search, Smart Zone, general education assessment, academic calendar, telephone directory, classroom technology, athletics facilities, capital campaign, first-year advising center, core foundations, Academic Affairs review, and provost review.

#### Senate Committees

In an effort to streamline the governance process, the senate approved 16 changes in the membership, charge, name or

structure of several senate committees. In addition, the senate made a total of 177 appointments of members and chairs to senate committees.

### **Undergraduate Diplomas**

The senate approved the printing of the names of majors on undergraduate diplomas.

The OU Senate is an all-university governance body whose membership includes administrative officers, students and faculty members elected to two-year terms to represent their academic units. The vice president for academic affairs is its presiding officer.

The senate serves as a legislative forum that meets monthly during the academic year. It recommends new degree programs to the president and the board and must approve the constitutions of colleges and schools. It also determines academic policies and provides opportunity for public deliberation on issues of importance to the university. The senate carries out much of its work through committees, staffed mainly by faculty members but generally including student and administrative representatives as well.

For more information on the OU Senate, its members and committees, past meeting agendas and minutes, and a list of senate proposals and reports, visit the [Oakland University Senate](#) Web site.

#### **SUMMARY**

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