

Oakland University Senate

February 14, 2019

Members present: Aloj, Alsalmon, Ball, Baxa, Berven, D., Berven, K., Bowe, Cheezum, Cheng, Clark, Corcoran, Craig, Daniel, Debnath, Doherty, Dulio, Eis, Estes, Fox, Garfinkle, Giblin, Gooren, Guessous, Knox, Latcha, Law-Sullivan, Lentini, Long, Lucarelli, Margerum-Leys, Mazzeo, Megee, Meldrum, Mitchell, Mitton, Navin, Parkash, Reger, Rigstad, Roth, Stone, Tracy, Wadsworth, Weiter, Welling, Wells

Members absent: Battle, Campoy-Cubillo, Chamra, Chaudhry, Dereski, Didion, Edrisinha, Folberg, Giberson, Havstad, Hranchook, Ibrahim, Insko, Kleinschmidt, Lauer, Meehan, Townsend, Van Til

Provost Lentini called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M.

Summary of Information and Action Items

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Global Engagement Program  
Affordable Course Materials Update  
Provost's updates

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Old Business**

Approved motion from the Academic Standing and Honors Committee to change the requirement that students complete 62 credits at Oakland University to be eligible to receive the university honors cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude

#### **New Business**

Motion from the Graduate Council to approve a new Graduate English Proficiency Policy

Motion from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction to approve a new Undergraduate English Proficiency Policy

Procedural motion to Staff Senate Committees

### **A. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- ❖ Provost Lentini invited Rosemary Max (International Education) to talk about Global Engagement and what it means for our campus. She emphasized the pathways programs to be implemented through the International Education office. She said her office had come up with a vision statement which aspires to the global mobility of students and faculty at Oakland, and the visibility in the world of Oakland University. She noted that this vision fits in with the OU belief in the transformative power of global engagement on the community and the individual. She

said that practical goals are to increase the number of international students by 10%, or by 2000 students; to see larger participation to 30%, particularly by undergraduates, in study abroad; to think about ways to have strategic international partnerships. She outlined how they would achieve these goals. She gave an example of the summer session giving international students a taste of our campus in an attempt to get them back for a degree program. She stated that there are 907 international students on campus in a trend that has been steadily rising, but most of them are graduate students and so they want to increase the number of undergraduate students which will allow us to stack up with peer institutions in this category. She noted that these efforts will fit in with the Strategic Enrollment Management efforts going on right now. Another way to attract students will be the non-degree pathway programs such as the ESL institute to woo students to stay on campus for degree programs as part of the overall recruitment and retention programs. They will be trying to increase the number of OU students studying abroad which is presently about 4%. This would be done through developing an affordability message, raising funds for scholarships, creating a faculty-led global engagement seminar, and shifting the mindset about study abroad. She pointed out that 85% of OU students come from within an hour of our campus, and 17% live on campus. She explained that one of the ways study abroad is messaged elsewhere is to say that it costs about the same as living on campus and so it will be harder to message that at OU where the majority of students do not live on campus. She added that 97% of our students when they are done with their degree work in this region of southeast Michigan. She said we need to maximize our location because we have an international community with international companies, and we should work more closely with them. In addition, her office is looking at revamping and modernizing the English proficiency requirement policy to create better pathway programs for international students. She said that of all the students who have gone through ESL, 57% have gone on to get a degree on our campus, and the other pathway programs are also effective.

- ❖ Ms. Rodriguez was present to provide an update about the affordable course materials initiative. She reminded the Senate that she had given a presentation last year about Open Educational Resources, and she reviewed the progress that had been made last year on the OER Task Force with the Senate resolution to support the use of affordable materials, and the student resolution that had been taken to the Board of Trustees in support of the use of affordable textbooks. She said that since then, a plan has been put together which the Provost endorsed in December for a campus affordability textbook initiative which is going forward. She is looking for people to join the team. She noted that the team will be looking at affordable resources from a broad perspective, and so in some courses that might mean adopting a free OER textbook, in other courses it might mean using readings from the library as their primary source as opposed to using a textbook, another class might be a combination of things. The way the initiative will move forward will be with teams, where one team will look more at the structural changes that can be made while looking at current practices and policies for selecting, communicating to students and purchasing materials and supporting student success through affordability, and the other team would be looking at course conversion which would involve developing ways to educate faculty about affordable options and how we support faculty in converting their courses. She invited anyone who would be interested in working on this to let

her know. Mr. Lentini said he wanted to re-iterate that one of the goals of the institution is student success and affordability, and so he would be looking for more input and help on that project.

- ❖ **Provost's Updates:** Mr. Lentini observed that the Higher Learning Commission had spent three days on campus and had congratulated the campus team that had organized their visit because they felt it went so smoothly. He thanked everyone involved in making their visit such a success. He thinks there will be a draft of their report available fairly soon. He said that they happened to be here when the water main break occurred in Kresge Library and so they did not go into the library but they understood that this sort of thing can happen. He thanked Dean Weiter for all of his work during the aftermath of the water main break. Dean Weiter said that the clean-up and repairs are progressing. He said there has been great support from various offices at the university, he is proud of his faculty and staff for the work they have done, and he said that 24/7 operations may be able to resume after the break [*note: good pun*]. He said the entire repair will take six to nine months.
- ❖ Mr. Lentini updated that the South Foundation Hall and Wilson Hall renovations would be going forward expanding opportunities for classroom space and faculty offices which are desperately needed. Some departments that are spread all over campus will be able to be co-located, and the increase in square footage will not solve all the problems but will be moving in the right direction as far as space is concerned. Ms. Law-Sullivan asked if faculty members would be able to provide any input into the design of classrooms. Ms. Piskulich said that they are in the early stages of these renovations but as they move forward there will be opportunities for input. She noted that as the renovations go forward the plan is to keep South Foundation open during the construction.
- ❖ Mr. Lentini said he was at the House of Representatives in Lansing for Governor Whitmer's speech during which she talked about education including not just K-12 but also higher education, and so it was not just about trades and career tech. He was encouraged that she said there will be funding for education. An example was her 'reconnect program' for students who want to return to school to further their education, and a free two years of community college was discussed as a concept, as well as an idea for funding assistance for students attending a 4-year college if they keep a B average. However, he noted that there were no concrete plans for these ideas yet.

## **B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of January 17, 2019**

Mr. Garfinkle noted that in the minutes, it should state that there would be a Ph.D. in *Applied and Computational Physics*. Also, Ron Tracy should have been listed as present.

## **C. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Motion from the Academic Standing and Honors committee to change the requirement that students complete 62 credits at Oakland University to be eligible to receive the university honors cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude.

**MOVED** that the Senate approve removal of the requirement that students complete 62 credits at Oakland University to be eligible to receive the university honors cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude

The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **D. NEW BUSINESS**

##### 1. Motion from the Graduate Council to approve a new Graduate English Proficiency Policy

**MOVED** that the Senate approve a new English Proficiency Policy (Aloi, Rigstad)

Ms. Guessous observed that a lot of international students are in the School of Engineering and Computer Science and she wanted to relay possible concern about the policy as written because there was a slight concern that we have exchange programs at the undergraduate level with universities in China and other countries, and students come over and they take some classes at OU, then go back to their home institution. She said that anecdotally, those have been some of their best students and the exchange programs are part of their pipeline to recruit students into their graduate program. And so she said that concern had been expressed to her that the Graduate proficiency policy did not include some of the same options that were included for the undergraduate students, including the 24 credits issue, and so she asked that whoever was working on this policy should reach out to the Dean of the School of Engineering as well as Gary Barber who is in charge of their articulation agreements to make sure that the new policy does not introduce some new roadblock for international students at the graduate level. Ms. Max replied that there is a meeting planned with the two people mentioned to discuss this policy.

##### 2. Motion from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction to approve a new English Proficiency Policy.

**MOVED** that the Senate approve a new Undergraduate English Proficiency Policy (Cheezum, Daniel)

The motion was made to waive the second reading (Meldrum, Stone). Mr. Meldrum said that the reasoning behind waiving the second reading is that this policy is more lenient and would allow the university to reach out to people who not been able to come to OU under the previous policy, and so the sooner it is approved, the better.

The motion to waive the second reading was approved.

The original motion was then approved unanimously.

##### 3. Procedural Motion to Staff Senate Committees

**Moved** that the person named be appointed to the General Education Committee

Katie Hartsock (Winter 2019) to replace Rob Anderson (2016-2019) for his sabbatical. (This corrects an error on the January agenda appointing Katie Hartsock to UCU) (Eis, Tracy).

Motion was approved.

**E. GOOD AND WELFARE**

There were no comments under Good and Welfare.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dikka Berven (Senate secretary)