

Senate Minutes

April 21, 2022

Members present: *Al-Shabrawey, Barclay, Barry, Berven, K., Blumer-Schuttee, Boruff-Jones, Carey, Carver, Clark, Cortes, Debnath, Didion, Edrisinha, Eis, ElSayed, Farooqi, Fouladbakhsh, Goble, Guessous, Hartmus, Hay, Knox, Kobus, Kondratek, Latcha, Leibert, Lerchenfeldt, Lewis, Long, Margerum-Leys, Mazzeo, McMillon, Merchant, Meyers, Mezwa, Miller, K., Miller, J., Mitton, Naus, Nichols Hess, Ostergaard, Parkash, Poly-Droulard, Rawashdeh, Reger, Rios-Ellis, Rivard, Roumani, Rutledge, Tiegs, Wadsworth, Wendell, Zhu*

Members absent: *Ball, Berven, D., Chamra, Craig, Graves, Hansen, Landolt, Law-Sullivan, Southward, Tolbert, Tracy, Wells*

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 3:12 P.M. by Provost Britt Rios-Ellis.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

Graduate School Modifications

Modification to the Post Master Graduate Certificate in HRM program, Department of Management and Marketing, School of Business Administration

Modification to the PhD in Nursing (BSN to PhD) program, School of Nursing

Modification to the MSN in Adult Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program, School of Nursing

Modification to the Graduate Grading System, OUWB School of Medicine

Modification to the Post Master Graduate Certificate in Reading Language Arts, Department of Reading and Language Arts, School of Education and Human Services

OU Advance Update

Kresge Library Open Access Fun

Ad Hoc Senate Committee for Spousal Hire Policy

Provost's Updates

ACTION ITEMS

Old Business

Motion from the General Education Committee to change its charge and membership

New Business

Motion from the General Education Assessment Committee to change its charge and membership

Motion from the School of Education and Human Services to amend the Constitution of the School of Education and Human Services

Motion from the Academic Standing and Honors Committee Proposal to change its charge and membership

Motion from the Senate Steering Committee to establish a new Service Learning Senate

Committee

Motion from the Senate Steering Committee to establish a new Community Engagement Senate Committee

Motion from the Graduate Council to modify the English Language Proficiency Policy for the Graduate School

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

Graduate School Modifications: Provost Rios-Ellis provided Senators the opportunity to comment on the above program modifications and presentations. There was no discussion on any of the items.

- Janell Townsend explained that were changing the Post-Master's Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management (15 credits) to a Graduate Certificate in HRM, which does not require an MBA or equivalent, and will require 12 credits and is stackable with the MBA program.
- Laura Pittiglio explained the change in the BSN to PhD in Nursing option to include Nursing Education Courses.
- Carolyn Tieppo explained the change in the MSN in Adult Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner position, from 49 credits/700 clinical hours to 48 credits/630 clinical hours, which is the same as other NP specialties in SON.
- David Thomas explained the change in the Graduate Grading System in the OUWB from the grades "Pass" and "Pass with Remediation" to "Pass 1" and "Pass 2" as the remediation wording incorrectly suggested that students required additional instruction or repeat part or all of a course to achieve competence.
- Tanya Christ explained the Reading Language Arts Post-MAT program was being changed to allow students who to attain a Reading Specialist endorsement through the certificate program, with a change in courses and requirements of 28 credits instead of 16 credits.

Amy Banes-Berceli gave an update on OU Advance. The OU Advance Steering Committee is finalizing the Situational Analyses for the working groups, which will be available in the intranet system once they are completed, and shared the [OU Advance](#) link for when it goes live.

Julia Rodriguez presented on the impact of the closing of the Open Access Publishing Fund, which has been in existence for six years and funded wholly from the KL budget. Due to the strain on the Library's budget and shrinking funds, they can no longer support this, and she encourages a broader campus discussion about other ways to fund this. This is especially important due to the impact on graduate students. Discussion ensued.

- Brandy Randall requested that, if departments were finding this a challenge, that they get in touch with her.
- Janelle Townsend commented on another university that requires and pays for their faculty to publish in open access journals. She also did not know that OU had money available for this. She thinks it is good as a way to increase the awareness of great faculty work, and that OU should be careful about cutting funding without understanding long term implications.

- Julia Rodriguez noted the option for papers to be put in IR for open access, and she can come to departments to explain this.
- Ken Mitton noted that Vision Science gets funding from outside sources so that people can publish in this peer reviewed journal without page charges. Julia replied that this is called a Diamond model and helps with the inequity of requiring payment to publish. OU has an agreement with Cambridge Journals, so that any OU faculty can publish in them for free, but these cost KL a lot more money.
- Britt Rios-Ellis noted Ken's point was good, and also responded to Janelle that it was important for OU to support faculty and students, and to Julia that the larger discussion was warranted to find sustainable ways to fund these efforts.
- David Garfinkle noted that in Physics they use the Archive (a pre-print server) to make papers available free to the faculty and to anyone who wants to read it, which he thought was a reasonable model and wanted to know why it couldn't be exported to other fields. Julia noted that Physics was always ahead on this. With the changes that happened as a result of COVID, because sharing pre-print research to enable the development of vaccines, people are starting to understand the impact of making our research available. However, different fields react differently to publishing their research in open access.
- Scott Tiegs noted that many pre-print servers still have funding requirements, and you could be left holding the bag if your funding runs out before your research is completed. He appreciated the library funding.
- Britt Rios-Ellis felt there was a need for more discussion, and said she would engage with Julia to create that conversation on a broader basis.

Amy Banes-Berceli explained the creation by Senate Steering of an ad-hoc committee, at faculty request, to investigate spousal hire policies, due to the issue impacting recruitment and retention. The committee will make a report with its recommendations.

Britt Rios-Ellis gave more updates:

- The May Senate meeting will be in-person on campus.
- committee chairs and co-chairs need to start working on their end-of-year reports, as they are due to Amy Banes-Berceli by July 15.
- The new Senate will start on August 15, and we need to share the end-of-year committee reports with new committee chairs.
- There will be an RSVP form for the Happy Hour gathering after the May Senate meeting, with an option to submit your favorite (non-explicit) song for playing at the Happy Hour. She noted her appreciation of the work of the Senate and Steering Committee, and thinks this is a good chance to all get together in-person after so long.
- As of May 2, there will no longer be a mask mandate on campus, so masks will be optional. They are watching data carefully on this, including hospitalizations and mortality, and the waste water screening results. Amy Banes-Berceli noted that waste water screening was happening at 6 sites, including the residence halls and some classroom buildings.
- Laila Guessous asked if we can still request masks be worn in classes, and the provost replied that yes, absolutely, but they cannot be required.

- In response to a question from Janelle Townsend about hybrid Senate meetings, Provost Rios-Ellis said yes, although her preference is to get together in a room if possible. She said that if people are not comfortable, hybrid meetings are good, and that the attendance of 97 people on today's zoom was outstanding participation.
- Ken Mitton noted that people should still consider caution on masks, as even vaccinated people have been getting "COVID colds" and long-COVID syndrome. The provost noted that Ann and Cora Hansen are still watching all of this and that they are still having regular updates and meetings.
- Update on 1500 University Drive. While the BOT approved "up to \$25 million" they don't plan on spending even near that much, and will keep renovation costs to a minimum. The building is being purchased for 8.15 million. The BOT knows that inflation and supply chain issues could change the costs (as they did with SFH and VAR), so they are building in extra, but are not planning on using it. This enables us to have a shovel-ready project that we can ask the state for help with funding. She will provide regular updates on the progress and spending on 1500 University Drive at Senate meetings, to ensure transparency on this. 1500 will be paid for out of state and federal resources, not the general OU budget. This building is for the faculty and students, enabling OU to grow and flourish, with interdisciplinary and interprofessional focus to advance OU, as well as, in line with our mission due to the building's proximity to Pontiac.
- The Provost noted that there will be 36 new and replacement faculty this fall, and that investments have been made in new programs in areas of need and potential growth. In the past three years, OU has approved 5.25 million in research startup package funding.
- David Garfinkle noted that in the 30 years he has been at OU, new academic buildings have only been constructed for the professional schools, and none for CAS or devoted to classrooms. He does not understand the strategy of buying a building for academic purposes off campus, but looking a building a hotel on campus, and that makes him feel that something is wrong with the process, and wants to know what will be done to fix the process to further the academic mission.
- Britt Rios-Ellis noted that with 226 space requests, the demands are quite high. Adding 460,000 sq. ft. with 1500 University still leaves us the lowest space funded per student among state universities.
- Amy Banes-Berceli noted that the programs planned for 1500 University cut across all of the units including the College. They will be geared for graduate level classes, since those students won't need to go back and forth to the main campus; and for SMTD while VAR is under renovation, with schedules set up so that those students also don't have to go back and forth. She also noted that this was brought before Senate governance (planning and budget committees) prior to this moving forward. Britt did note that they did not have all of the due diligence done when this was presented to the committees, so some costs did go up after that was complete, though some of that is usual maintenance costs. She also mentioned again the importance of this building to the Pontiac Initiative.
- Karen Miller said that it was troubling to move facilities off campus when the Bear Bus has been discontinued. She wanted to know about OU's responsibility, for students living on campus without cars, or doing ride-shares, and other logistical problems. Mary

Lewis also noted issues for students with disabilities. Britt replied that conversations are going on about starting up the Bear Bus again.

- Ken Mitton noted that other universities have brought research into issues of things like electronic vehicles and other sustainable, environmentally positive when they expand their campuses, and wants to know if that is going on at OU. Britt said she is not familiar with all of the efforts but that it can be readdressed in the May meeting.
- Britt asked Mike Latcha about these efforts in Engineering. He said that they have been establishing partnerships, such as with Ford and other companies, for exploring things like making the Bear Bus autonomous, though the pandemic squelched a lot of that. These are now getting back on board. Britt mentioned that she was interested in fostering more sustainability projects on campus, such as eliminating single use plastics, etc.
- Annie Gilson asked why OU is proposing leasing OU's land on east campus to private companies that are not part of the mission. Britt said she will have people come to Senate in the fall to talk more about this. Scott Tiegs noted that this is happening quickly, with plans going out to bid this summer, and it needs to be addressed sooner if possible, maybe in the May meeting. Amy Banes-Berceli noted the East Campus Development Task Force headed by Mike Westfall, who has presented to SBRC, SPRC, and CDEC, and will present to Senate Steering, and that hopefully he will present to Senate in May. Britt did say that things have been slowed a bit.
- Karen Miller wanted to emphasize deep concerns and questions about how East Campus development is progressing. She believes that there should not even be bidding until a campus-wide conversation about this has happened. There is not a specific timeline on bidding, and her understanding is that he has not presented anything to the BOT yet, probably not until June. Scott noted that the PowerPoint that Mike Westfall circulated noted that this was going out to bid in August for the Walton and Adams boutique hotel plan.
- David Garfinkle noted the difference between business and academic entities with shared government works. Though the BOT makes the ultimate decision, they commit to placing all relevant information before the Senate and its committees, giving them a chance to weigh in with recommendations before any official decision is made. So to avoid a contract violation on shared governance grounds, there has to be a thorough presentation before the Senate, to enable this opportunity for Senate comment and recommendations. He reminded people of the issues with the second golf course being decided with no faculty input. Britt said that she will do everything to assure that will not happen again.
- Karen Miller (paraphrasing Mickey Mantle) said "everything that David said," but noted that the long-term campus master plan mentions possibility of a hotel on campus. She wanted to know why that takes priority over others that are more academic in nature, especially when there are already so many hotels around OU. Britt said that she did not know the answer to that, but that this would be developed by investors. In the chat there were comments about locations of hotels and that a study had been done to judge community demand. and the opportunity this would give to partner with OCC on hotel, restaurant, and management training.

- Janelle Townsend advocated incorporating academic programming with whatever is developed on the corner, such as a hospitality program, possibly also in partnership with the Royal Park for student experiences at both locations — partnerships with the community, opportunities for students, and research for faculty — rather than being an isolated commercial development. Including the community earlier on would help foster these opportunities. In the chat, Ken Mitton suggested a possible partnership with OCC also, for hotel, restaurant, a management training, as well as specializing and spearheading sustainability. Britt said that there has been some discussion about a hospitality program and something that would focus on sustainability would be great.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of January 20, 2022

No questions/discussion. The minutes of the Senate meeting of January 20, 2022, were approved (43 yes, 1 no).

C. OLD BUSINESS

C1. Motion from the General Education Committee to change its charge and membership

MOVED that the changes to the charge and membership recommended by the General Education Committee be approved.

No questions/discussion. The motion was approved (42 yes, 0 no).

D. NEW BUSINESS

D1. Motion from the General Education Assessment Committee to change its charge and membership

MOVED that the changes to charge and membership recommended by the General Education Assessment Committee be approved (Eis, Guessous)

Lori Ostergaard presented the proposal to move to a co-chair model for the GEAC. One co-chair would also serve on the GEC (ex-officio); the chairs would each serve for two years on staggered terms, to have an experienced person working with a new person.

No questions/discussion.

D2. Motion from the School of Education and Human Services to amend the Constitution of the School of Education and Human Services.

MOVED that the amendment to the Constitution of the School of Education and Human Services be approved (Poly-Droulard, Meyers)

Cynthia Carver presented. The Elementary Education Committee is written into the SEHS constitution. Due to the redesign of STEP over the years, they want to expand it

to a Teacher Education Committee that would cover both Elementary and Secondary program.

No questions/discussion.

D3. Motion from the Senate Steering Committee to modify the definition of Service Learning.

MOVED *that the modifications to the Service Learning definition be approved* (Guessous, Mitton)

Amy Banes-Berceli presented the proposal on behalf of Senate Steering. In preparation for the Carnegie Classification application by OU, it was discovered that our definition of Service Learning is out of alignment with that of the Carnegie Foundation. A document with a standard definition was sent to UCUI and Grad Council, and they both approved it. This is critical for the May 2023 application. It now includes social equity and tracks service hours.

- Mike Latcha asked how our current definition and the Carnegie definition do not align. Amy explained that our current definition does not have anything about social equity or about the length of the partnership. Carnegie does not want Service Learning to be “one-and-done” activities, but ones in which a relationship is developed with your community partner over a length of time. The revised version addresses both of these issues. Britt added that Carnegie doesn’t like the “helicopter” approach where people drop in for a brief time and then come out, but they are looking for sustained relationships from community engaged universities.

D4. Motion from the Academic Standing and Honors Committee Proposal to change its charge and membership.

MOVED *that the changes to charge and membership recommended by the Academic Standing and Honors Committee be approved* (Matthew, Mitton)

Nicole Matthew presented the three items: change the term from two years to three years for the faculty and professional adviser for more stability; allow the Registrar to select a designee instead of serving on the committee themselves; remove the Tutoring Center Director from the committee membership.

No questions/discussion.

D5. Motion from the Senate Steering Committee to establish a new Service Learning Senate Committee.

MOVED that the proposal to establish a new Service Learning Committee be approved (Poly-Droulard, Meyers)

Amy Banes-Berceli presented the proposal on behalf of Senate Steering. To move forward with the proposal to have courses designated as Service Learning courses, a pilot was run this semester. To continue this process, there needs to be a way to review those courses. Since the faculty own the curriculum, a Senate standing committee is the appropriate means to, similar to Gen Ed. It would review courses, respond to Petitions of Exception, and function as the assessment committee for these courses.

- Gwen McMillan asked if service learning courses already in existence have to go through this review process. Amy said that in order for a course to be designated as service learning on their transcript, the course would have to go through this committee. It would just mean submitting the syllabus.

D6. Motion from the Senate Steering Committee to establish a new Community Engagement Senate Committee.

MOVED that the proposal to establish a new Community Engagement Senate Committee be approved (Rutledge, McMillan)

Amy Banes-Berceli presented the proposal on behalf of Senate Steering. In preparation for the Carnegie Classification application by OU, it was discovered that there was a lack of infrastructure to record and manage our community engagement activities. A new senate committee will recommend policies and processes for gathering community engagement data; gather and report that data annually; work with other committees on using this data to inform decisions on metrics/needs; work with UCM to highlight community engagement activities; engage in the Carnegie community engagement report, and report annually to Senate.

No questions/discussion.

D7. Motion from the Graduate Council to modify the English Language Proficiency Policy for the Graduate School.

MOVED that the modifications to the English Language Proficiency Policy be approved (Poly-Droulard, Meyers)

Rosemary Max presented the proposal, which sets out the admission requirements for F1 international students whose first language is not English, based on the Pathway Designation designed by the government to allow these students to take an appropriate mix of ESL and academic classes their first one or two semesters. OU applied for that designation in 2019 and now has it, so this modification is now being incorporated into the language on admission to graduate programs. We already do this at the undergraduate level.

No questions/discussion.

E. GOOD AND WELFARE

There were no items for Good and Welfare.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P.M. (McMillon, Guessous)

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Eis (substitute Senate secretary)