

Senate Minutes WEBEX MEETING April 16, 2020

Members present: Aloï, AlSalman, Ball, Barclay, Battle, Berven, K., Berven, D., Bradley, Campoy-Cubillo, Cesmelioglu, Chamra, Cheng, Corcoran, Corso, Cortes, Dean, Debnath, Didion, Dinda, Discenna, Doherty, Edrisinha, ElSayed, Epstein, Estes, Gajewski, Garfinkle, Giblin, Gooren, Guessous, Havstad, Hristova, Jankowski, Knox, Landolt, Iatcha, Law-Sullivan, Leibert, Lentini, Liptak, Margerum-Leys, Massoud, Mazzeo, McMillon, Meldrum, Meyers, Mezwa, Miller, Parkash, Paul, Petrescu, Reger, Roach, Rodriguez, Rutledge, Tracy, Van Til, Wadsworth, Wels, Wood, Zhang

Members absent: Alexander, Craig, Knutson, Roumani

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

(13 program modifications approved by UCUI or Grad Council are listed on the agenda)

ACTION ITEMS

Old Business

All three motions listed on the agenda were approved unanimously

New Business

Motion passed to approve an updated Excused Absence Policy

Motion passed to approve a new standing committee on Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Motion to approve a new committee on Gen Ed Assessment

Motion to approve a revised charge for the Gen Ed Committee

Motion from the Gen Ed committee to extend the Pilot Assessment program through May 2021

Motion to add information on mental health resources to the recommended syllabus

Procedural motion passed to staff Senate Committees

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

The numbered information items below are as they were numbered on the agenda for this meeting.

1: Ms Landis-Piwar explained that there will be 8 0-credit courses for the program that spans all 4 years. She said the program is built for transfer students and to allow students to hone their skills to learn inter-professional education.

2a,b,c: Ms. Lucraelli explained that the reason for removing Physics from the list of requirements was because most graduate programs are not requiring a second semester of Physics. Mr. Garfinkle pointed out that Physics is the basis for Chemistry and Biology which are in turn a basis for Health Sciences. He expressed concern that removing Physics would water down the program and prevent graduates from

having an underlying understanding of the work they would be doing. Ms. Lucarelli replied that the majority of their graduates are not going to Medical School, but rather into programs that do not require a second semester. The change in the program would provide more flexibility for students to take something else more relevant to their degree pathway. Mr. Garfinkle renewed his objection. Mr. Corso expressed concern that the change removes the cornerstone of the Liberal Arts education. Ms. Lucarelli said that students are being encouraged to explore interdisciplinary studies to bridge gaps. Mr. Debnath said that if the program is accredited and the second semester was not required, then one semester of Physics should be enough. Ms. Lucarelli said that the program is not accredited but they looked at all the pathways students might take, and the second semester of Physics is only required for the traditional Medical School programs. Mr. Dinda said that Pre-Pharmacy does not require Physics II and Osteopathic Schools do not require a second semester of Physics. Mr. Garfinkle observed that the two Physics courses have different content (Mechanics/ Electricity, magnetism, optics, radioactivity) and so the students will not have an understanding of the basic underpinnings for the devices they would be using in their work which he found to be a problem for an educational institution.

2d-f: Ms. Eis said they were moving towards the creation of a department separate from English but that is on hold due to the present coronavirus situation, for which reason they are moving ahead with the modifications listed.

3a-d: Mr. Garfinkle expressed concern about the 100% delivery to online of the MS in Systems Engineering with regards to the vulnerability in testing and asked if in a 100% online program the exams are also online. Mr. Van Til said that faculty have a lot of experience with online, and added that there is potential cheating when the exams are on campus as well. He noted that they have not had a problem so far. Mr. Chamra observed that the potential for cheating is an issue for all science and engineering classes and he said the university needs to think about services that exist which provide answers to students.

4,5: No comment

6: Mr. Lentini stated that the suspension of academic dismissals in Winter 2020 in response to COVID-19 is in line with nearly every institution in the country.

7: Ms. Hitt said there will be optional S/U grading for Winter 2020. She noted that grades are due on April 28 when they will roll, and on April 29 the option will roll. She said that the hope is that most students will keep their letter grades because although some students might benefit from taking an 'S' or 'U' grade, some will not. She stated that faculty should be aware that an 'I' grade should only be assigned with student input. She added that there will be no options for S/U in subsequent semesters.

8: Provost's Updates:

Provost Lentini said he hoped everyone would stay healthy during this crisis, and he commented on the big challenges being faced now in business, higher education, K-12, and noted that things change very quickly.

He updated Senators on the items below.

- ✓ South Foundation Hall: He said that the proposal was vetoed by Whitmer, going to her desk right when the pandemic started. There may still be a chance for this supplemental project and he will know more in July.
- ✓ He said that in these unprecedented times, the challenge is to figure out how to decide a fair, equitable and auditable way to get a one-time funding pot to go 50% to students. He noted that the university had given back \$4,000,000 in housing to students. He said the state is going to be way under budget so there could be a hit to OU's budget. He noted that it is still not known what will happen with tuition, and we do not know what the enrollment is going to look like although Summer I looks pretty good at this point whereas Summer II does not look as good. He said that the virtual visits for potential students are down and they are generally a marker and so this is a volatile situation
- ✓ There will be a test optional status in which ACT and SAT will not be required. The tests will not be available until October.
- ✓ He said that the peer institutions have moved to all online for the entire summer sessions and he said that OU would probably be online for Summer II as well. He observed that it is already known that in some institutions in the USA the Fall semester will be online but he said OU is not ready to do that.
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B. Approval of the minutes of February 20, 2020

The minutes of the meeting of February 20, 2020 were approved.

C. OLD BUSINESS

All three motions listed on the agenda were approved unanimously.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Excused Absence Policy to approve an updated Excused Absence Policy

MOVED that the Senate approve a revised excused absence policy (Aloi, McMillon)

Mr. Stiller said that some issues have come up as to what is equitable and what is representative. He said that this policy is not just about athletes but rather many students whose absence should be excused because of activities related to their campus roles. He noted that this is not a new policy but what it does is better define and explain the existing policy which would standardize how students are handled.

Ms. Doherty moved to waive the second reading (Reger seconded).

In response to concerns expressed about whether this would put an undue burden on Special Lecturers who do not have the space for make-up exams, Mr. Lentini pointed out that the Wilson Center project

has a testing center as part of it. Ms. Hitt said that in cooperation with the Registrar's office, they had identified empty rooms that faculty members could use but nobody had taken advantage of that option.

The motion to waive the second reading carried. (35 yes, 14 no)

The motion carried. (38 yes, 8 no).

2. Motion from the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to create a permanent standing committee on Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

MOVED that the Senate approve a new standing committee on Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and approved the proposed charge and membership (Jankowski, Tracy)

Ms. Miree said that the AdHoc committee has been meeting since last year, working with diversity advocate programs to create a safe environment and auditing policies to make sure the policies are friendly, and how they might impact hiring and retention. She said there is a lot of work to do and the committee should be permanent.

Ms. Meyrs moved to waive the second reading (McMillon seconded)

Ms. Reger asked how this committee works with the Council on DEI and how does this committee not duplicate their work. Ms. Miree said that they work to support the council's faculty arm. Mr. Cortes asked what this change would have to do with leadership positions which should be mentioned in the charge. Mr. Ball agreed that the charge should go beyond retention and advancement, to leadership positions.

The motion to waive the second reading passed (36 yes, 5 no)

Ms McMillon moved to amend the original motion to add specific opportunities for leadership (Reger seconded)

The motion to amend the motion passed (45 yes, 0 no)

The motion carried (45 yes, 0 no)

3. Motion from the General Education Committee to approve a new committee on General Education Assessment

MOVED that the Senate approve a new standing committee on General Education Assessment and approve its charge and membership (Rodriguez, Aloj)

Ms. Ostergard explained that the level of work of the gen Ed committee is unsustainable at the present time, and so the reason for the new committee will be to split up the work which would allow both committees to get their work done, and do more outreach. Mr. Tracy agreed that there is a need to separate the committees but said that the Gen Ed Committee would not need to be as big as it is when the new committee is created. Ms. Guessous said it would be important to make sure that the Gen Ed committee interacts with the Gen Ed Assessment committee. Mr. Tern said he has served on the University Assessment committee which reviews between 20-30 proposals per year, and he said that if the Gen Ed committee is also reviewing the same number of proposals, the workload is too heavy.

4. Motion from the General Education Committee to revise the General Education Committee Charge
MOVED that the Senate approve a revised charge for the General Education Committee (Jankowski, Tracy)

5. Motion from the General Education Committee to extend the Pilot Assessment Program through May 2021.

MOVED that the Senate approve the extension of the General Education Pilot Assessment program through May 2021 (Meyers, Tracy)

Ms Ostergard said they are using the University Education Outcomes instead of the General Education Outcomes. The request to extend the charge of the committee one more year is because of the pandemic.

6. Motion from the Student Academic Success Committee to add syllabus language on Mental Health Resources

MOVED that the Senate approve addition of information on mental health resources to the recommended syllabus (Aloi, Meyers)

Ms. Benz said that the language is based upon recommendations by the Graham Health Center.

7. Procedural Motion to staff Senate Committees

MOVED that the persons listed be appointed to the committees or positions designated (Rodriguez, Meyers).

The committee appointments are outlined in detail on the agenda.

The motion carried (57 yes, 0 no)

E. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mr. Tracy moved *that there should be a May meeting for the 3 Gen Ed items and the Mental Health item. (Tracy, Aloi)*

The motion carried (41 yes)

Ms. Hitt noted that last year 94 'I' grades were not resolved and she said that the Registrar will reach out because the deadline will be extended to the end of Summer II because of the pandemic.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (Senate secretary)

