

Oakland University Senate Minutes

January 15, 2015

Members present: *Aloi, Andersen, Andrews, Awbrey, Baxa, Berven, D., Berven, K., Bulgarelli, Cheng, Clark, Corcoran, Corso, Dvir, Eis, Estes, Folberg, Giblin, Goldberg, Grimm, Groomes, Guessous, Howell, Johnson, Knox, Latcha, Lee, Leibert, Lentini, Maxfield, McEneaney, Miller, Mitchell, Moore, Navin, Pelfrey, Penprase, Polis, Ragheb, Rawashedh, Rozek, Roth, Sifonis, Spagnuolo, Switzer, Thompson, Wells, Westergaard, Williams, Mazzeo, Meinberg*

Members absent: *Chamra, Cole, Dereski, Doman, Dulio, Hansen, Landolt, Licker, Meehan, Schartman, Singhal, Tracy, Wharton, Wood, Iwanski*

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

Summary of Information and Action Items

Information Items

Senate Budget Briefing

Provost's Updates

Action Items

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of motion that the Senate recommend to the President and Board of Trustees the Strategic Plan proposed by the Strategic Planning Committee

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Senate budget briefing: Mr. Beaghan was present to update the Senate on the budget, noting that his presentation was the same as that which he gave at the July Board of Trustees meeting. He explained that he provides a briefing annually to the SBRC, and this year to the Strategic Planning Committee as well. He outlined the guiding principles of the budget, which are always to maintain a commitment to the strategic vision of the university, to protect and strengthen the academic mission, to provide excellent services to students, and to minimize student costs. He observed that the funding of the university has changed over the last 30-40 years. In 1972, for example, we were primarily state-funded with a little money coming from tuition whereas now it is the opposite. He showed graphs that highlighted budget issues, such as state funding per school in Michigan, in terms of which Oakland University is in the middle, getting \$48,364,100 from the state in 2015. He pointed out that on a per student basis we are now second to last in the state of Michigan due to our rising enrollments, such that OU now gets only \$2896 per student compared to Wayne State University, as the number one university in this category, gets \$8176 per student. He outlined the funding formula process that was developed by the state, which was intended to be the same every year but which in reality has had different elements each year. His observations about the funding formula included that Oakland University supports an equitable and sustainable appropriation funding structure, but he thinks we should be evaluated against ourselves, and not the

universities that are used by the state. As an example, he gave those universities in the Carnegie category for research. He said that Oakland University has a robust financial aid program in which there is on average a 36% discount per student. As far as the general fund expenditures are concerned, he noted that we are second from the lowest in the state. He stated that there are pricing strategies under review, and outlined several categories of importance in the state of Michigan: tuition differentials, lower versus upper class status, resident versus non-resident, tuition by program or area, international tuition rates, financial aid, online tuition rates, graduate tuition rates, undergraduate tuition rates, ESL language rates, competency exam tuition rates, peer pricing models, bank card discount rates (which we accept but which other universities do not), and fees. Provost Lentini added that this list of tuition restraints needs to be considered very carefully in the Strategic Planning process, and he noted that OU has done very well during difficult economic times, but we are not being rewarded for enrollment growth. He said that we need more faculty and staff to achieve a quality education.

Provost's Updates

- Provost Lentini said that the number of candidates for the Graduate Studies/Graduate Education position has been whittled down. In SEHS, the search for a new Dean is ongoing. The search for a new Dean for the library has had a small pool of candidates but they are moving forward. He also noted that a search firm has been hired to begin the process of a search for a new Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES December 4, 2014

The minutes of December 4, 2014 were approved (Eis, Thompson).

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. MOTION that the Senate recommend to the President and Board of Trustees the Strategic Plan proposed by the Strategic Planning Committee

It was the second reading of the following motion:

MOVED that the Senate endorse the Strategic Plan proposed by the Strategic Planning Committee

Ms. Awbrey spoke on behalf of the chair of the Senate Review Committee, Ron Tracy, who could not be at the senate meeting. She passed along his message that SRC strongly supports the plan, but Senate Review committee members think that since the goals are so broad, the Strategic Planning Committee should come back with more information. President Hynd was present at the senate meeting, and he noted that it is important for everyone to realize that this is an

evolutionary process, that Strategic Planning Committee is really looking for an endorsement of the concept, and that they will continue their work to flesh out the goals and means. He further observed that there has been a stunning response so far for people volunteering to participate on the Goal Committee and the other task forces for this process. Ms. Eis asked if Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Hynd replied that the ideas will be presented but will not be prioritized. He said he wants to move forward quickly with the process so that all of the Schools and the College can make their own strategic plans as well.

The motion was approved unanimously.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dikka Berven (secretary)