

Senate Minutes

May 19, 2022

Members present: *Aloi, Ball, Barclay, Barry, Berven, D., Berven, K., Blumer-Schuttee, Boruff-Jones, Carver, Chamra, Clark, Cortes, Craig, Debnath, Didion, Eis, ElSayed, Goble, Guessous, Hartmus, Knox, Latcha, Law-Sullivan, Lerchenfeldt, Leibert, Margerum-Leys, Mazzeo, Merchant, Meyers, Mezwa, Miller, K., Miller, J., Mitton, Nichols Hess, Ostergaard, Parkash, Poly-Droulard, Reger, Rios-Ellis, Roumani, Rutledge, Southward, Tiegs, Wadsworth, Wendell, Zhu*

Members absent: *Al-Shabrawey, Carey, Edrisinha, Farooqi, Fouladbakhsh, Graves, Hansen, Hay, Kobus, Kondratek, Lewis, Long, McMillon, Naus, Rawashdeh, Romano, Shesko, Tolbert, Tracy*

Provost Rios-Ellis called the first Hybrid meeting of the year to order at 3:10 P.M., and welcomed everyone who was physically present as well as those who were attending on the Zoom link.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

Graduate School Modifications

Modification to the Doctoral Dissertation Defense Policy

Modification to allow exceptions to application materials required for admission to the
Graduate School

Modification to the Preliminary/Comprehensive Examination and Candidacy Policy

Modification to the Masters of Arts in English Curriculum

Modification to the Graduate Certificate in Lead Leadership

Undergraduate Studies Modifications

Modification to the Bachelor of Integrative Studies program

Modification to the Actuarial Science, B.S. Program

Combined Graduate and Undergraduate Studies Modifications

Final Exam Policy

Ad Hoc General Education Review Senate Committee

East Campus Development Conversation

Enrollment Management presentation about the Start Date of Summer I

Provost's updates

ACTION ITEMS

Old Business

Motions approved:

From the General Education Assessment Committee to change its charge and membership

From the School of Education and Human Services to amend the Constitution of the School of
Education and Human Services

From the Senate Steering Committee to modify the definition of Service Learning

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

From the Senate Steering Committee to establish a new Service Learning Senate Committee

From the Senate Steering Committee to establish a new Community Engagement Senate Committee

From the Graduate Council to modify the English Language Proficiency Policy for the Graduate School

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

Provost Rios-Ellis provided the opportunity for Senators to comment on the following information items, and she welcomed the individuals who had come to the meeting to summarize the relevant topics, as follows:

Modification to the Doctoral Dissertation Defense Policy; Graduate School: Meaghan Harris was present to explain that revisions had been made to the policy concerning details such as the oral defense deadlines and other deadlines.

Modification to allow exceptions to application materials required for admission to the Graduate School: Meaghan Harris explained that the Graduate School recognizes that there are some circumstances, such as complexities involved with applications of international students, that would allow some documents in the application process to be waived. Ms. ElSayed offered her opinion that this will be a good thing, but asked why this waiver didn't exist before now. She noted that if it is because of the war happening in Ukraine at the present time, there have been other wars where this would have been an advantage as well. Provost Rios-Ellis observed that there are other circumstances now also, such as COVID, which create complex circumstances that the university is addressing with these exceptions for application materials.

Modification to the Preliminary/Comprehensive Examination and Candidacy Policy to clarify the requirements for the defense for transfer students coming with a new faculty hire.

Modification to the Masters of Arts in English Curriculum, Department of English, CAS: Joanne Lipson Freed was present to explain that they haven't modified this program for some time and are updating it to match the state of the discipline and bring it into alignment with the B.A. in their department. She explained that the update results in the same number of credits, but expands offerings at the 5000-level, and replaces the exit portfolio with a Master's project.

Modification to the Graduate Certificate in Lead Leadership to add a HyFlex delivery option effective Fall 2022: Shannon Flumerfeldt was present to explain that this is a change from HyBrid to HyFlex, meaning that some students would be in the room and some students would be virtual for classes delivered in this way. She said the students are starting to ask for this method of delivery. Mr. Aloï noted that they want to make sure it's the same kind of learning experience for students as the in-person experience. Ms. Hartmus asked about the impact with technology and whether there would be technical problems in these classes. Ms. Flumerfeldt replied that every class taught using HyFlex comes with the choice for students to attend in person or online, and there are no additional technological requirements. Ms. K. Miller asked whether a faculty member teaching this way if he/she did not like this delivery method. She

pointed out that nobody should be required to teach using this option if they don't want to, according to the contract. Ms. Flumerfeldt replied that the courses that are designated as HyFlex have to be taught using this option because it is the designation. Ms. Miller asked if there would be a graduate student monitoring the technology, to which Ms. Flumerfeldt replied that this would probably not be needed but it wasn't impossible to do that. Mr. Cortes asked whether they expected an effect on engagement with the students. Ms. Flumerfeldt responded that students online are very connected. She emphasized that engagement is critically important and works well with HyFlex. Mr. Ball asked if the HyFlex option will be built into HLC and accreditation. Mr. Debnath asked if this option is consistent with the faculty contract if faculty cannot opt out of it. Ms. Flumerfeldt said that faculty members are not required to teach in the program, but if a class is designated HyFlex, that is how it has to be taught. Ms. Miller re-iterated that the union contract says that teaching online is voluntary, and she stated that a faculty member cannot be coerced to teach using this format. Provost Rios-Ellis provided assurance that nearly all classrooms will have the capability for HyFlex classes so the technological aspect should not be a problem. Ms. Gibson added that she is using HyFlex now, and not being able to see the students does create a problem with engagement.

Modification to the Undergraduate Bachelor of Integrative Studies program: Sarah Jahimiak was present to explain that they are changing the name of the Bachelor of Integrative Studies program to the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies. She said that this change has been pondered for years, and the main reason is to match up with the Association of Interdisciplinary Studies. Also, she indicated that the new name would help with better understanding for students from outside Oakland University.

Modification to the Actuarial Science, B.S. program to add a required course and remove a course that is no longer offered: Youngjin Lu was present to explain that this change will help students to gain a deeper understanding of the insurance/health care industry to prepare them for jobs after they graduate.

Final Exam Policy: Kristin Landis-Piowar was present to explain that they are clarifying the existing language regarding the situation for students with three exams in one calendar day during final exam week.

East Campus Development Conversation: Mike Westfall was present to provide an update on the OU East Campus development process that has begun. He said that his role is to share information and facilitate conversation and feedback to the Board of Trustees with various entities. He said that the present project is concerned only with the corner of Adams Road and Walton Boulevard. He referred to the Master Plan which is a conceptual plan for land use that has been in place since 2016. He explained that there are stages to the process for which he provided an overview, the first stages of which include studying the Master Plan, doing a market study, and doing due diligence with conceptual development plans, as well as getting the feedback from and providing information to the stakeholders involved. He said that the goal of the project overall is to leverage the use of underutilized land owned by the university, to

support future campus investments, and deliver value for the university while remaining true to the university's mission. He explained that the recommended uses could be a Boutique Hotel (100-200 keys), Cultural or Performing Arts Center (800-1200 seats), or Housing (up to 1000 units), all with supportive uses such as parking. He showed a sample plan. He said that the second stage would be the solicitation and review of proposals which would be for the end of May. In June-August publicity would be posted nationally, and proposals would be evaluated and scored for their design. In September-December there would be proposal review, potential selection, and a decision by the Board of Trustees. Mr. Margerum-Leys said that these projects in the county are exciting, and he asked if anything can be done to promote projects submitted by minorities. Mr. Tieg asked how the process is being slowed. Ms. J. Miller asked what will happen to Tree Runner located near this site. Mr. Westfall replied that the owner of Tree Runner is excited about the development of the site, and he added that he wants to make sure all of the other questions are answered. He emphasized that the university will not be selling the land, but rather leasing the property. He also provided a list of the entities that have already been involved in the discussions (OU work group, BOT work group, campus committees (including Senate committees), and regional entities). He provided the following website which explains the site itself, has updates as the process moves forward, and shows potential ideas that have come in from developers so far for the use of this land. He encouraged Senators to click onto the website to follow the progress of this project. The link is:

<https://www.oakland.edu/EastCampus/> and he asked that questions should be directed to cornerquestions@oakland.edu.

Enrollment Management presentation about the Start date of Summer I: Dawn Aubry and Tricia Westergaard were present to discuss the enrollment situation, and to explain the possibility of a change of the start date of Summer I which would be more in sync with local community colleges so as to make it easier for students from other colleges to enroll in a class at Oakland University in Summer I. Ms. Aubry explained that presently, there is an overlap between our start date for summer classes and the end date of the semesters at other colleges that may be discouraging to some students who would not be able to start OU's Summer I session on time. Ms. Aubry informed the Senate members that there are presently a million students missing who didn't re-enroll at universities in the USA after COVID. She said there is a decline and shift in attitudes towards higher education in general, such that students are delaying making decisions or deciding not to continue. In addition, she said that older students are deciding to stop out, all of which is something we haven't seen before. She stated that we need to increase enrollments in all of the semesters, because summer is down (6368 in 2021, 5711 in 2022 for Summer I; for Summer II, there were 3753 in 2021 compared to 2127 in 2022, and currently for fall 2022 there are 9427 enrolled which is a significant decline). She expressed the greatest concern about returning undergraduates whose numbers are down 12%. As far as what can be done, she said that we need to target new freshmen and transfer students, we can have year-round registration, we should make sure there is strategic course scheduling, and she emphasized the importance of engagement of students. Ms. Westergaard noted that the reasons students take summer courses are that students like accelerated formats, they like to

complete challenging courses during a semester when they can really focus on that one course, they like retake a course if necessary in the summer, they like more interaction with the faculty, and they can study abroad which also plays a role. She observed that attract guest students in the summer classes because if their families live in the area, students can take classes closer to home during those months. She added that OU students do not have a break between semesters due to our calendar which is not in line with community colleges and other universities. She stated she would like to add an option of 2 6-week sessions that start later and end earlier for courses that would be a good fit for this module. She said she will be sending a survey to department chairs to get started working with faculty on this idea.

Provost's Updates: Provost Rios-Ellis said that she has been having meetings with the Mexican consulate with a goal to facilitate more enrollments of Latino students at Oakland University. She expressed her excitement about meeting the honorary degree recipients this year. With regard to the pandemic, she said that they are watching the COVID situation very closely while thinking about the upcoming fall semester.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of April 21, 2022 and April 28, 2022

There was a motion to approve the minutes from April 21 (Lynda Poly-Droulard).

The motion was approved (45 yes, 0 no).

There was a motion to approve the minutes from the April 28 meeting (Erin Myers).

The motion was approved (44 yes, 0 no).

C. OLD BUSINESS

1. 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*

The motion was approved (43 yes, 0 no).

2. 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*

The motion was approved (45 yes, 0 no).

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

***MOVED** that the modifications to the Service Learning definition be approved*

The motion was approved (44 yes, 0 no).

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

***MOVED** that the changes to charge and membership recommended by the Academic Standing and Honors Committee be approved*

The motion was approved (37 yes, 1 no)

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

***MOVED** that the proposal to establish a new Service Learning Senate Committee be approved*

The motion was approved (40 yes, 2 no).

Michele Knox added that she would like to see an AP on this committee, and Associate Provost Banes-Berceli replied that this could be done.

6. 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.*

The motion was approved (41 yes, 3 no).

There was a comment that an AP should be added to this committee as well.

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

***MOVED** that the modification to the English Language Proficiency Policy be approved.*

The motion was approved (44 yes, 0 no).

D. GOOD AND WELFARE

Provost Rios-Ellis thanked Senators for their time today and throughout the year, and encouraged everyone to stay after for the first annual End of the Year Happy Hour immediately following the Senate meeting.

E. ADJOURNMENT

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting (Rutledge, Myers). This motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was subsequently adjourned at 5:07.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (Senate secretary)

