

SENATE MINUTES SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

Members present: Al-Shabraway, Arnold, Ball, Barclay, Barry, Berven, D., Berven, K., Blumer-Schuttee, Boruff-Jones, Carey, Chamra, Clark, Cortes, Craig, Debnath, Edrisinha, Eis, ElSayed, Farooqui, Goble, Guessous, Hansen, Hartmus, Hay, Knox, Kobus, Kondratek, Kridli, Landolt, Latcha, Law-sullivan, Lerchenfeldt, Lewis, Leibert, Merchant, Meyers, Mezwa, Miller, Mitton, Ostergaard, Parkash, Rios-Ellis, Rivard, Rodriguez, Romano, Roumani, Rutledge, Shesko, Tilashalski, Tolbert, Wadsworth, Wells, Wendell, Zhu

Members absent: Aloï, Fouladbakhsh, Long, Margerum-Leys, McMillon, Naus, Nichols-Hess, Pierce, Poly-Droulard, Rawashdeh, Reger, Sifonis, Tieg, Tracy

Provost Rios-Ellis called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M. and welcomed Senators to a new academic year. She emphasized the crucial role of the Senate to shared governance at OU and expressed her appreciation to Senators for their service. She urged Senators to take the information that they gained at the meetings back to their departments.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

- ADA Compliance and University Senate e-Space
- Academic Sustainability Update
- SBRC + SPRC Update
- Faculty Tenure and Promotion Update
- OU Advance Update
- Graduate School Modifications
 - OUWB School of Medicine grades
- Undergraduate Program Modifications
 - Communications minor (CAS Communication & Journalism)
 - Chinese Modified Major (CAS DMLL)

ACTION ITEMS

- Procedural Motions
 - Staff Senate Standing Committees
 - Replace position of DIS with General Chairperson of the Faculty Council for Interdisciplinary Studies on UCUI
- From CDEC to add Associate Provost for Operations as Ex-Officio member
- From SASC to add representative from e-LIS as Ex-Officio member
- From ASHC to replace Associate Provost for Student Success to Associate Provost or designee
- From ASHC to change Readmission policy

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **ADA Compliance:** Dan Arnold was present to explain the updates to the Senate e-Space to be done in order to comply with the standards set by the ADA (American Disability Act). These include such changes as color of text, size of type, high contrasts, clear sequencing, and certain font styles. He noted that Christina Moore, Nick Bongers and Kathy Dailey were also involved in this project.

2. **Academic Sustainability:** Lily Mendoza was present to explain that OU is looking to be measured in the STARS system which involve designating courses that can be included to be considered as incorporating sustainability into their content. The goal is to achieve a continuously deepening capacity for sustainability thinking, living and vision. She said that there will be a survey for faculty to fill out regarding their courses with the sustainability features in mind.

3. **SBRC + SPRC:** Chaturi Edrisinha and Lori Burrington were present from SBRC and SPRC, respectively, to update the Senate on their efforts to streamline the processes of these committees because they had found redundancies in their workloads. In the future, one meeting per month will be done jointly to expedite the programs coming through. They also plan to have an open forum hosted by the two committees. They hope to demystify the processes of these two committees, and they look forward to working together.

4. **Faculty Tenure and Promotion:** Nividita Mukherji was present to explain that there is a new work flow process for tenure reviews, using Watermark. She noted that faculty will have the option to use e-Space this year, but this will be a transition period to the following year when everyone will use Watermark.

5. **OU Advance:** Brandy Randall gave a progress report observing that Phase 1 was to establish the working groups and phase 2 is to identify the Steering Committee. She suggested that Senators should look for the OU Advance website to follow their activities. Ms. Miller asked where OU Advance is going, and Ms. Randall replied that the goal is to have a better appeal to transfer students, adult learners, with possible 8-week courses, badges, credit for prior learning with support for adult learning and creativity. She said there would be credit and non-credit courses, and Ms. Miller suggested that the union should be consulted to work with them on this. Ms. Battles suggested that department chairs should be contacted to see if they already have initiatives that apply to this initiative.

6. **Graduate School Modification:** The grading system modifications involve 'Pass on first attempt', 'Pass on second attempt'. The transcript will explain how the grading is done instead of using the words 'on first attempt' and 'on second attempt'.

7. **Undergraduate Program Modifications**

Communications Minor Program: Ms. Battles was present to explain that the Department of Communications & Journalism proposal will replace the courses entitled 'Competitive Speaking' with 'Performance Communication' instead.

Modified Major in Chinese: Mr. Filler was present to update the Senate that there will be a Modified Major in Chinese in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the May 19, 2022 meeting were approved (49 yes).

C. NEW BUSINESS

1.1 PROCEDURAL MOTION to staff Senate Standing Committees

MOVED that persons listed and indicated in blue print be appointed to the committees or positions designated (Mitton, Meyers)

1.2 Motion from UCUI to change its charge

MOVED that UCUI change its charge to replace the position of Director of Integrative Studies from the membership due to the university dissolution of this position with the General Chairperson of the Faculty Council for Interdisciplinary Studies (Eis, Meyers)

1.3 Motion from the University Senate Campus Development and Environment Committee (CDEC) to change its charge

MOVED that the Senate approve the changes to the Campus Development Environment Committee charge to add the Associate Provost for Operations as an Ex-Officio and non-voting member to this committee (Meyers, Guessous)

1.4. Motion from the University Senate Student Academic Support Committee (SASC) to change its charge

MOVED that the Senate approve the changes to the SASC charge to add a representative from e-Learning and Instruction (e-LIS) as an Ex-Officio and non-voting member (Eis, Meyers)

1.5 Motion from the University Senate Academic Standing and Honors Committee to change its membership

MOVED that the Senate approve the changes to the ASHC Committee to change its membership to replace the Associate Provost for Student Success to Associate Provost or designee (Mitton, Rutledge)

1.6 Motion from the University Senate Academic Standing and Honors Committee to change the readmission policy

MOVED that the Senate approve the recommendation of the Academic Standing Honors Committee to change the Readmission Policy allowing Readmissions to assume jurisdiction for all readmission applications since the Office of Student Success no longer exists to support this process (Guessous, Rutledge)

Mr. Wendell moved to proceed directly to the second reading. The motion was seconded (Wendell, Meyers). Mr. Latcha asked what the pressing need was to proceed. Mr. Wendell replied that this was an incredibly straightforward matter and so why not do it now. Mr. Latcha said that there are things that are not so trivial that there might not be ramifications. Ms. Rios-Ellis asked what these ramifications might be. Mr. Latcha indicated that he could not say what they might be.

The motion to proceed directly to the second reading failed (35 yes, 15 no) due to the lack of a super majority.

D. GOOD AND WELFARE

1. Provost Rios-Ellis requested Senators to RSVP to President Pescovitz's invitation for the fall celebration at Sunset Terrace. She said that Majority Whip of the U.S. Congress James Clyburn would be a special guest at this event, arriving at 3:30.

She noted that the Kresge Library is having their 60th anniversary.

She announced that this was the beginning of Hispanic Heritage month and faculty should check the calendar for the activities related to Hispanic celebration.

2. Ms. Hansen Smith said that the campus farm stand is back and will be going through the first of October. She added that they have developed Grizz Greens to be able to give to the Pantry which normally only provides staples to those in need.

3. Mr. Wendell asked if the Senate Constitution is being reviewed. Associate Provost Banes-Bercelli said it is being reviewed and she added that this is a long process. Mr. Dinda said in view of the fact that the constitution was being reviewed, he would like to see a change to have more seats for the professional Schools on the Senate. Mr. Mitton stated that the apportionment is updated regularly using the Adams system of apportionment.

E. ADJOURNMENT

There was a motion to adjourn (Guessous, Rutledge). The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (Senate Secretary)