

Oakland University Senate Minutes

September 18, 2014

Members present: *Aloi, Andersen, Andrews, Berven, D., Cheng, Corcoran, Corso, Dulio, Eis, Epstein, Estes, Folberg, Goldberg, Grimm, Groomes, Guessous, Iwanski, Johnson, Knox, Latcha, Lee, Licker, Long, Maxfield, McEneaney, Meinberg, Miller, Mitchell, Moore, Pelfrey, Penprase, Ragheb, Rawashdeh, Rigstad, Roth, Rozek, Schartman, Spagnuolo, Thompson, Tiegs, Tracy, Westergaard, Williams, Wood, Wren*

Members absent: *Awbrey, Barber, Bulgarelli, Buzzo, Chamra, Chapman, Cole, Dereski, Giblin, Hankin, Hansen, Leibert, Mazzeo, Meehan, Polis, Sifonis, Singhal, Switzer, Wells, Wharton*

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

Summary of Information and Action Items:

Information Items:

Appointment of Senate Parliamentarian

Appointment of Senate Elections Committee Member

Final Undergraduate Graduate List for June 25, 2014

Program Modification Approved by the Graduate Council—Graduate Certificate
Emotional Impairment:

Basic and Advanced

Program Modifications Approved by the Graduate Council—Graduate Certificate in
Specific Learning Disabilities:

Basic and Advanced

Provost's Updates and Presidential remarks by George Hynd

ACTION ITEMS

New Business: Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Provost Lentini appointed Kevin Andrews to serve as Senate Parliamentarian.
- He appointed Ann Switzer to the Senate Elections Committee.
- He updated the Senate that the final undergraduate graduation list for June 25, 2014 had been approved by the Senate Steering Committee.
- He reported on two program modifications that the Graduate Council had approved: a Certificate in Emotional Impairment: Basic and Advanced; and a Graduate Certificate in Specific Learning Disabilities: Basic and Advanced.
- Provost's Updates: Mr. Lentini expressed his excitement about all the new construction projects on campus this year. He reported that there are ongoing discussions about the Strategic Plan which will be distributed so that there can be continuing input. He reminded Senate members to check the Senate website for relevant documents.
- Provost Lentini then welcomed President George Hynd to the Senate.

President Hynd expressed his appreciation to the Senate and to everyone for their role in governance. He said that he had been attracted to come to Oakland University because he was familiar with OU through his research, he was impressed with the faculty, and he appreciates the role of faculty members who mentor student research which he said helps individuals to take full advantage of the opportunity that their education offers them. He said he believes student research is the beauty of higher education because the university is a place for personal transformation, and personal transformation is the draw of higher education. He said that when the opportunity arose for him to be considered for the job of president of Oakland University, he was attracted because he wanted to go to a research institution and he was happy about the public process of the search. Also, he said that has read a document given to him by Karen Miller based upon a survey of faculty members about what they want to see in leadership, which include such matters as transparency, collegiality, value placed on research and paying attention to the consequences of the rapid growth, among others.

Mr. Hynd thanked Betty Youngblood for her role as Interim President last year, observing that she took an institution that was facing challenges and moved it forward towards a planning process, and towards creating a strategic plan that would express the university's aspirations and values. He said he will be looking towards a mission statement through the planning process that has begun. He indicated that he would like to have some town hall meetings to forward this process, and that the goal for finalizing a Strategic Plan would be the end of this academic year in March or April. He said that he would like to see both faculty and staff members provide input to this process. When the plan is ready, he will take it to the Board of Trustees. He would like to move ahead with a concrete master plan for the university, and he said it is a wonderful time for this process to be taking place, because there are new Deans and a new Provost.

Mr. Hynd then invited questions from Senate members.

Q&A

- Mr. Andrews asked Mr. Hynd what would be going on as far as planning and addressing infrastructure, and what might be next in terms of asking the State legislature for a building. Mr. Hynd replied that he and Provost Lentini will be headed next week to Lansing to a capital outlay meeting, and that the number one priority will be \$98,000,000 for Varner Hall which will be our capital project.
- Ms. Thompson asked if Mr. Hynd also sees student involvement in the strategic planning process. Mr. Hynd replied that he does want to involve students and added that we are a very large community that includes faculty, students and staff and he wants to include everyone in the process.
- Ms. Groomes asked if Mr. Hynd was close to meeting his goal of memorizing 180 names in his first days, and he chuckled that he is getting a lot of faces and names memorized, and now his goal is to connect them.
- Ms. Wood asked how we can better encourage and reward the achievements of our students, observing that the Wilson Award winners do not get a tangible reward although it is the most prestigious award for students. She said that students do get intangibles such as a pat on the back, congratulations and also a certificate but she does not think that is enough. She observed that there is a lot of money put into the infrastructure of the university, but she asked if there can be some cash awards for students in the future. She observed that since 2009, we are not supposed to give cash awards to students, but she said she thinks that this policy should be changed. Mr. Hynd replied that we need to make sure we are investing our resources where they should be invested, and we need to look at how they are being used.
- Ms. Miller asked what Mr. Hynd hopes to see as far as the relationship between the Board of Trustees and the faculty, because she noted that there has been a history of aloofness. She was interested to know if he sees the relationship with the Board as a positive, a negative, or a mixed bag. Mr. Hynd acknowledged that Oakland University has been through a tough spot but he said that is all behind us now. He pointed out that there is a new Chair of the OU Board of Trustees, and that he is looking for a respectful relationship. Mr. Hynd said he wants to encourage the Board to reach out to faculty, and to be patient with how academics works, and he also wants faculty members to reach out to the Board as well and be patient with how they work. He added that the job of the Board is oversight, not management, and that there is an incredible opportunity now to move on now to a new future.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of April 17, 2014

The minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2014 were approved.

B. NEW BUSINESS

I. Procedural motion to staff Senate Standing Committees

***MOVED** that persons listed be appointed to the committees or positions designated (Andrews, Johnson)*

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Academic Conduct Committee

Law-Sullivan, Jennifer, 2014-2015 (replacing Beth Zou 2013-2015)

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Academic Standing and Honors Committee

Hastings, Derek (CAS) Fall 2014 (replacing Mark Navin on sabbatical Fall 2014)

Black, Beth (SHS) 2014-2016 (replacing Monahan, Janean (SON) 2014-2016)

Assessment Committee

Olawoyin, Richard (SHS) 2014-2017 (was appointed initially as at-large for 2014-2017)

Landis-Piwowar (At-Large) 2014-2016 (replacing Austin Murphy)

Singhal, Rajeev (At-Large) 2014-2017

Joyce, Barbara, **CHAIR** (replacing Barbara Joyce, CO-CHAIR and Rob Nehmer CO-CHAIR)

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Athletics Committee

Hajj-Hussein, Inaya (SOM) 2014-2015 (Replacing Dorothy Hawthorne-Burdine)

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Budget Review Committee

Chaudhry, Rasul (CAS) 2014-2017

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Campus Development and Environment Committee

Herold, Niels (CAS) Winter 2015 (replacing Scott Tiegs on Sabbatical Winter 2015)

Library Committee

McCann, Shawn (KL) 2014-2015 (replacing Katie Greer 2013-2015)

Research Committee

Lu, Lunjin (SECS) 2014-2015 (replacing Xia Wang SECS 2013-2015)

Buch, Carrie (SON) 2014-2015 (replacing Chris Clason 2013-2015)

Goslin, Brian (SHS) 2014-2015 (replacing Darlene Groomes)

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Teaching and Learning Committee

Holka, Kim (SON) 2013-2015 appoint as **CO-CHAIR**

Cheezum, Rebecca (SHS) 2013-2016 appoint as **CO-CHAIR**

University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction

Ferrari, Thomas (SOM) 2012-2015

Williams, Lynne (SHS) 2013-2016

The motion was approved unanimously.

C. GOOD AND WELFARE

Ms. Piskulich announced that the Honorary Degree committee was accepting nominations. She directed Senate members to the website for further information, and also expressed her willingness to answer questions about this process.

Mr. Maxfield reported that OU now has a partnership with the Autism Alliance. He said it is an outreach project whose goal is employment. He indicated that there is a very high unemployment among people with autism, and this project aims to improve that statistic by providing people with autism the experience of having a job, in this case, working in a laundry. He encouraged the campus community to take advantage of the services, and said that there is a great incentive because the first bag of laundry would be free. Mr. Lentini added that Oakland University has received \$500,000 for its autism programs.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dikka Berven (secretary)