

Senate minutes

October 19, 2023

Members present: *Al Shabrawey, Aloj, Arnold, Ball, Battles, Baxa, Bennett, Boruff-Jones, Carey, Carpenter, Carver, Coleman, Craig, Daniel, Demsky, Dinda, Edrisinha, Eis, Eldredge, Eskander, Farooqi, Ferguson, Gemechu, Glover, Goble, Golinski, Guessous, Hartmus, Hosch, Insko, Kiefer, Kies, Knox, Kobus, Kondratek, Ligocki, Margerum-Leys, McMillon, Merchant, Miller, Mitton, Olawoyin, ostergaard, Rios-Ellis, Rutledge, Shesko, Stanton, Tilashalski, Trivedi, Wadsworth, Wasserman, Williams, Zhu*

Members absent: *Barry, Chamra, Hansen, Hay, Landolt, Latcha, Mezwa, Naus, Pierce, Qian, Rawashdeh, Reger, Tiegs*

Provost Rios-Ellis called the hybrid meeting to order at 3:10 P.M.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Graduate Program Submissions
- b. Undergraduate Program Submissions
 - i. **Academic Dismissal Policy for undergraduate students revision** to change the language to align with student success objectives to provide clear, positive language in student communication. The term Academic Dismissal Status (ADS) will change to Returning Probation Status (RPS) to be reflected in the 2024-25 undergraduate catalog.
 - ii. **Interdisciplinary Healthcare Studies B.S. modification to update a course and prefix from WHP to PH**; Department of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, School of Health Sciences
 - iii. **Nutrition B.S. modification to update a course and prefix from WHP to PH**; Department of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, School of Health Sciences
 - iv. **Computer Science B.S., Specialization in Cybersecurity, new specialization**; Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science
 - v. **Information Technology B.S., Specialization in Cybersecurity, new specialization**; Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science
 - vi. **Biological Sciences B.A./B.S. Secondary Teacher Education Program (STEP), discontinued program** as it was replaced with Integrated Science B.A. to be inline with new Michigan Department

- of Education requirements; Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences
- vii. **Chemistry B.A./B.S. Secondary Teacher Education Program (STEP), discontinued program** as it was replaced with Integrated Science B.A. to be inline with new Michigan Department of Education requirements; Department of Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences
 - viii. **Physics B.A./B.S. Secondary Teacher Education Program (STEP), discontinued program** as it was replaced with Integrated Science, B.A. to be inline with new Michigan Department of Education requirements; Department of Physics, College of Arts and Sciences
- c. Combined Graduate School and Undergraduate Submissions
 - i. **Official OU Academic Digital Badges Policy revision** to rename Level 1 and Level 2
 - d. **Finance and Administration: Budget Overview Update**

Please review the senate presentation from 3-16-23 which was updated per the Senate Steering Committee request. This can be found in the meeting materials in eSpace for today's meeting. Vice President Mackey will extend his update from this presentation.
 - e. **Strategic Planning Process**
 - f. **Community Engagement Update**
 - g. **FDEI Committee Recommendation to Update Policies**
 - i. Policy 714: Workplace Bullying
 - ii. Policy 840: Preferred Name
 - h. **Update the Senate Committee (Co)Chairs for the Senate Record (Amy Banes-Berceli)**
- Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
George Sanders (CAS)
- Budget Review Committee
Chaturi Edrisinha
- i. **Provost's Updates**
 - i. Note: Link for OU Faculty and Staff Paying for College Presentation on Senate e-Space agenda

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees: Updates and Changes

- j. **Senate Resolution to amend the existing Student Code of Conduct -**

A. INFORMATION ITEMS

- Provost Rios-Ellis provided Senators with the opportunity to ask questions or make comments on the Information Items b i-viii above. There were no questions or comments.
- Steve Mackey was present to provide a budget overview. He said that now that we are coming out of the pandemic, the OU budget situation at Oakland University is stabilizing. He noted that the 50% budget cuts across the board have been effective. He recapped the outlook and status of the FY 23 and FY 24 General Fund Budget. For FY 23 he said there was a total revenue of \$259,000,000 which he said was good, with tuition being 72% of that amount. He said there is an amount of \$202,000,000 in reserve of which approximately \$133,000,000 are already designated. He said the reserves would cover a period of 1.75 months although ideally there should be three months in reserve. For FY 24 he said the updated revenue budget projections indicate a budget surplus of \$6,041,800 which he said is also good. He indicated that the university is finishing the cuts. He predicted that in the future, headwinds are projecting a 15% loss of high school graduates in Michigan which will amount to \$22,800,000 of lost tuition revenue so at that point, things will begin to erode again even though they are stabilized now. He said there are revenue growth opportunities that they are looking at, of which the most important is student retention. If retention increases by 4%, he stated that would be \$1,200,000 per year. He observed that there is also sustainability with regard to the energy systems, such as funding for sustainable solar projects to get us independent from DTE which would save \$8,000,000 over 5 years. He expressed his belief that it is important for the university to be purposeful about these matters. He said the strategic priorities will be the budget process which will use an all funds model instead of general funds which will be a 3-year project with FY 2025 as the starting date. He also mentioned the procure to pay cycle, the travel and p-card processing platform that will be coming, and said there will be a campus Master Plan update. Provost Rios-Ellis thanked him for his presentation. Mr. Dinda then said that there is a problem for Department chairpersons because they do not know how much money is in their departmental account. He said that in order to find out how much money is in his departmental account, he has to go to the Dean which he said is inefficient and complicated, and he asked why it has to be this way at OU. Mr. Mackey said that with the new plan, this information will be available and updated every day, with ANAPLAN, and it will be designed down to the department level, so that situation should be improved.
- Josh Merchant was present to provide an update on the Strategic Planning process. He said there has been a meeting several weeks ago with their team to kick off the planning, and the committees have been created. They will meet again in November.
- Dave Dulio was present to provide an update on the Community Engagement committee. He said last year was their first year as a committee, and so they essentially spent a year of planning. During that time they defined what their charge will be and defined what engagement is. He said that they will move forward this year with their plan.
- George Sanders and Adena Schneeweis were present to talk about the faculty DEI committee which wants to add a sentence to the 714 Workplace Bullying Policy. They propose adding that the university will make every effort to protect the confidentiality of anyone making a complaint. Also, they want to create an appendix that will list

examples of what workplace bullying is. In addition, they are proposing to add examples to the 840 Preferred Name Policy. In response to a question about whether there is a mechanism for a person to change his/her email address, Shaun Moore said he thought UTS does have a process for that.

- Associate Provost Amy Banes-Berceli explained the reason for the changes (1h above) to the Senate committees.

Provost's Updates:

- Provost Rios-Ellis said that the Registrar had discovered a mistake about when grades are due. This has been corrected. Grades should be done by December 19.
- She said she was happy to announce that voting had concluded, and all of the proposed changes to the Senate constitution had been approved. She said that this is the first time in 46 years that the constitution has been updated and so next time the process will be easier. She noted that the next step is for the BOT to vote on the changes.
- She said that on November 15 she will attend talks about financial aid and resources that are available for students
- She thanked everyone who had attended Ruth Zembrana's presentation, and she encouraged everyone to attend an upcoming talk on the effects of racism on African Americans.
- Provost Rio-Ellis then announced that there will be an upcoming series of NIH faculty training for statistical models.

B. APPROVAL of the minutes of September 19, 2023

The minutes of the Senate meeting of September 29, 2023 were approved.

C. NEW BUSINESS

a. Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees: Updates and Changes
MOVED that the persons listed by appointed to the committees or positions designated:
(Olawoyin, Kiefer)

Undergraduate Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI)

Nancy Bulgarelli (UL) for Emily Spunaugle (UL) for Winter 2024 Sabbatical leave

General Education Program Revision Ad Hoc Committee

Amanda Lynch (SHS)

Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo (CAS)

Elizabeth Kattner (CAS) WI 2024 for Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo (CAS) Sabbatical

John McCulloch (SBA)

General Education Committee

Elizabeth Kattner (CAS) WI 2024 for Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo (CAS) Sabbatical

Mental Health Ad Hoc Committee

Annie Gilson (CAS)

The motion was approved (46 yes, 0 no).

b. Senate Resolution to amend the existing Student Code of Conduct

RESOLUTION: *The Oakland University Senate resolves to adopt the recommendations to amend the Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the Statement of Support of Reform of University Student Code of Conduct (OU Student Congress. (Farooqi, Ferguson)*

Ms. Farooqi presented the Resolution to reform the Student Code of Conduct. The resolution in essence aims to provide medical amnesty for students seeking help with drug or alcohol-related problems. She explained that the Student Congress is trying to make sure that students who seek help are not punished if they come forward. She said that it is appropriate that students who seek help for using alcohol or drugs should not be disciplined by the university. She noted that it is a different situation if a student is caught as opposed to coming forward. She said this resolution would be in line with state law. Ms. Ferguson added that after talking to many faculty and students, the Student Congress realized that this is a real problem and there is a huge call for reform because people are often afraid to seek help because they are afraid they might be disciplined.

Ms. Eis made the motion to move directly to second reading of the resolution (Carver seconded).

The motion was approved (46 yes, 0 no).

The original motion was then approved (46 yes, 0 no).

Provost Rios-Ellis congratulated the students for taking action on this problem by working to make sure students can get students the help they need.

D. GOOD AND WELFARE

Ms. Tilashakski (OU Bookstore) said that the bookstore would like faculty to let them know if they have issues or problems because the bookstore doesn't know what the book-related issues are like from the faculty perspective.

Mr. Dinda pointed out that an elevator has been out of service for two months in MSC which he observed is bad for students with difficulty handling the stairs who have to go far in the building to get to another elevator. Ms. Banes-Berceli said that the delay is due to the fact that parts for the elevator repair need to be manufactured because it is actually quite an old elevator and there are no parts available for it. She said everything is being done to get the elevator repaired as soon as possible. Mr. Trivedi said that if anyone needs a space, his department's conference room can be accessed from the elevator in Hannah Hall.

Provost Rios-Ellis encouraged Senators to consider heading from the Senate meeting to the Habatat area in the OC to hear the singer Vanessa Ruben who would be performing immediately after the meeting.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (Senate Secretary)