

Ohio University Faculty Senate
Monday, January 14, 2013
Room 235, Margaret M. Walter Hall, 7:10 p.m.
Minutes

Faculty Senate Chair **Elizabeth Sayrs** called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

In attendance:

College of Arts and Sciences: E. Ammarell, R. Boyd, C. Elster, S. Hays, P. Jones, L. Lybarger, G. Negash, R. Palmer, B. Quitslund, A. Rouzie, H. Sherrow, K. Uhalde

College of Business: K. Hartman, T. Stock

College of Fine Arts: C. Buchanan, V. Marchenkov, E. Sayrs, D. Thomas

College of Health Sciences and Professions: T. Basta, D. Bolon, D. Ries

Group II: RA Althaus, D. Duvert

Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine: H. Akbar, S. Inman, J. Wolf

Patton College of Education: G. Brooks, D. Carr, B. Vanderveer

Regional Campus—Chillicothe: N. Kiersey

Regional Campus—Eastern: J. Casebolt

Regional Campus—Lancaster: S. Doty

Regional Campus—Southern: D. Marinski

Regional Campus—Zanesville: A. White

Russ College of Engineering: B. Stuart

Scripps College of Communication: B. Bates, B. Debatin, J. Lee, J. Slade

Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs: A. Ruhil

Excused: J.M. Geringer, K. Hicks, G. Holcomb, H. Pasic

Absent: B. Branham, J. Farley, D. McDiarmid, S. Patterson, L. Rice

Overview of the Meeting:

- I. Carey Busch, Director of Disability Services & Regional Campus Accessibility Coordinator
- II. Executive Vice President & Provost Pam Benoit
- III. Roll Call and Approval of the December 10th, 2012 Minutes
- IV. Chair's Report
 - Updates and Announcements
 - Upcoming Senate Meeting: February 11th, Walter Hall 235
- V. Executive Committee and EPSA
 - Resolution to Establish a Bridge Committee between the Program Committee of the University Curriculum Council and the Curriculum Committee of the Graduate Council
- VI. Promotion & Tenure Committee—Joe Slade
- VII. Educational Policy & Student Affairs Committee—Ruth Palmer
- VIII. Finance & Facilities Committee—Judith Lee

- IX. Professional Relations Committee—Ben Bates
 - X. New Business
 - XI. Adjournment
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I. **Carey Busch, Director of Disability Services and Regional Campus Accessibility Coordinator**

Associate Provost and Dean of University College **David Descutner** introduced Busch by praising her leadership in recent changes to Disability Services. In the past three years, student disability services have been separated from employee accommodations and accessibility and moved under the umbrella of Student Affairs; in addition, the services have been moved from the (inaccessible) Crewson House to the third floor of Baker. Descutner also congratulated Institutional Equity Executive Director **Laura Myers** and thanked EVPP **Pam Benoit** for her support in these improvements.

Busch explained that further improvement in disability services for students requires looking to how the office helps faculty implement accommodations. On 7 January, a survey went out over email to all faculty, intended to gather crucial feedback on what faculty need from the office. The survey can be reached here:

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1116631/The-Office-of-Disability-Services-ODS-at-Ohio-University-Faculty-Questionnaire>. It will remain open for 30 days. Please respond!

Joe Slade suggested that it would be very helpful if the Office of Disability Services could arrange for pickup of exams that would be proctored there; the current options are for the instructor to trek across campus each time or to take a chance on campus mail. Busch thanked him for the input, and noted that the office coordinated just under 1,100 exams in all last fall.

II. **Executive Vice President & Provost Pam Benoit**

- Dean search updates: **Scott Titsworth** has been appointed Dean of Scripps College, and **Marty Tuck** will be the permanent Dean at Chillicothe. An announcement regarding the Dean of the College of Fine Arts should come soon.
- General Education Task Force: This task force, designed to build on the work of the 1804 Task Force submitted last academic year, will be co-chaired by Dean **Bob Frank** (Arts & Sciences) and **Greg Kremer** (Mechanical Engineering). It is charged with developing recommendations for General Education, vetting them with stakeholders, and revising the recommendations accordingly. Invitations to task force members have been issued.
- RCM: VP for Finance Steve Golding and Associate Provost John Day, along with the Huron Group, have been building budget projections for FY14. To facilitate communication between the Senate Finance & Facilities Committee and the office of the VP, Interim Budget Director **Chad Mitchell** will serve as a liaison between the two bodies.
- Scholarship revamp: OU is in the opening stages of working on a new model for financial aid in an effort to improve both accessibility and recruiting. Data suggest that some students do not apply out of a perception that they cannot afford tuition, and others need to receive significantly more scholarship support than they currently do. Matching donations may be leveraged to support this initiative.

- The Parental Leave Pilot Program website is live. Benoit extended thanks to task force chair **Betty Sindelar** and to **Ann Fidler**.

Questions and Discussion:

James Casebolt requested and received that there will be an RHE representative on the General Education Task Force. Responding to **Amy White**, the Provost said that her office is working on a timeline for the Zanesville Dean search. **Joe Slade** applauded improving scholarships and asked how our financial aid is publicized. Benoit described traveling recruiting efforts that include workshops for multi-cultural students and one-on-one discussions of financial aid (including how to apply for it) with students and families. When **Steve Hays** asked for more information on matching funds, she explained that colleges could show donors their contributions going further if their donation was matched by central dollars. She will be taking this idea to the Campaign Steering Committee for consultation on January 25.

A longer discussion centered on the academic calendar and scheduling. When **Eugene Ammarell** asked if there is a campus-wide way to collect suggestions on tweaking the semester calendar, the Provost responded that there is not but that having one is a good idea. She added that we already know we need to coordinate better with the regional campuses as well as with the local school system. Ammarell suggested that the broken-up weeks around Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving could be better handled (perhaps with a single week-long break), and also that while Friday teaching has been emphasized, there are many empty classrooms in the evening. The Provost replied that efficiency in facilities use is a topic very much under discussion, with the Deans currently engaged in exploration of ways to use the summer more effectively as well. Would year-round scheduling and trimesters be possible? Complications include the absence of some financial aid for summer, graduate program issues, and managing faculty service, but the idea is on the table. Lower tuition could be offered to encourage summer attendance. **Charlotte Elster** commented that regularizing the summer term would give more flexibility for research and seminar attendance. **Judith Lee** noted that her graduate institution ran on a year-round calendar, with summer-only chairs to allow the regular chair a period of research; graduate students took their exams with whomever was available in the correct term. The Provost asked faculty to send ideas for making a trimester calendar workable to her.

III. Roll Call and Approval of the December 10th, 2012 Minutes

Slade moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **Casebolt**. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

IV. Chair's Report—Elizabeth Sayrs

- Sayrs welcomed **Sharon Inman** as the new senator from OU-HCOM, replacing Michael Tomc.
- The handbook now stipulates elections for new senators in the first week of March; as this is spring break, they will happen the following week. The form for nominations will go out before the February meeting, so senators were asked to please consider whom to nominate (and/or whom Sayrs should attempt to persuade).

- Sayrs will soon be interviewing for an intern to help with Senate communications strategies. The Executive Committee would in particular like to gather questions more widely for the Provost to address. The website, too, is due to be worked on soon.
- Sayrs will speak to the Board of Trustees in February, on the assigned topic of “What is on faculties’ minds.” In addition to tracking representative schedules of faculty members, she will be focusing on what an academic quality dashboard designed by faculty would look like. Send ideas for what to include to saysr@ohio.edu.
- Upcoming Senate Meeting: February 11th, Walter Hall 235

V. Executive Committee and EPSA—Sayrs

- **Resolution to Establish a Bridge Committee between the Program Committee of the University Curriculum Council and the Curriculum Committee of the Graduate Council—First reading**

This resolution is intended to end duplicative processes that can delay the start of graduate programs by up to a year. It is the product of discussions that included VPR & Graduate Dean Joe Shields, Graduate Council Chair Christine Mattley, EPSA Chair Ruth Palmer, UCC Chair David Thomas, Sayrs, and other stakeholders, and aims to replace the parallel—but independent—review of graduate programs by UCC and its Program Committee on the one hand and Graduate Council and its Curriculum Committee on the other. The resolution would cross-appoint the members of the Graduate Curriculum Committee to the Program Committee of the UCC and task them with communication between Grad Council and UCC. Current UCC processes would allow 6-8 weeks for consultation, and final approval of graduate programs would then happen only in UCC. The “Bridge Committee” is thus a way of referring to these joint committee members’ role, and *not* a new committee requiring any new staffing. This process has been approved unanimously by UCC and the Graduate Council, and has the endorsement of Dean Shields.

The resolution would also (at subpoint VII.C) end some confusion about where programs are initiated (the department) and which body has the authority to eliminate graduate programs (UCC).

A senator from Health Sciences and Professions suggested, to general approval, that several garbled versions of his college’s name be corrected in the second reading. Sayrs noted that the Handbook has pervasive errors regarding college names, and that an omnibus resolution would probably be introduced in the fall to amend those references.

VI. Promotion & Tenure Committee—Joe Slade

The Committee has no current appeals.

VII. Educational Policy & Student Affairs Committee—Ruth Palmer

EPSA is moving forward with further questions about bilateral articulation agreements.

IX. Professional Relations Committee—Ben Bates

Bates has received only two comments thus far on the pending Resolution on the Establishment of a Professional Name and Possibility for Promotion for Group II. He asked all faculty to weigh in with any strong responses before the second reading at the February meeting: batesb@ohio.edu.

VIII. Finance & Facilities Committee—Judith Lee

- The Committee plans to bring a resolution on university governance and RCM to the Senate for the February meeting. Given that the Handbook vests the Senate with representing faculty on questions of finance and resources, John Day's presentation in December exposed serious issues with faculty consultation in a budgeting structure that places resources decisions largely in the hands of colleges. The F&F Subcommittee on RCM is headed by **Steve Patterson**, and includes **Bernhard Debatin**, **Sandy Doty**, **Charlotte Elster**, and **Steve Hays**. After the Subcommittee has drafted the resolution, it will go to the whole Committee for review. Lee asked that any comments be sent to any of the Subcommittee members.
- As noted by the Provost, Chad Mitchell is now serving as a liaison between F&F and the Office of the VP for Finance. This is very helpful, and the Committee has already referred a question arising from the Parking Committee to him.

X. New Business

- Sayers thanked Secretary **Beth Quitslund** for clearly summarizing John Day's RCM presentation at the December meeting.
- The question of whether to have January Senate meetings in future was discussed. Some senators thought that an extra, short meeting some years was an acceptable price for having the meeting on the calendar when it is needed, and that December to February is a long enough time between meetings that momentum on issues could be lost. Another pointed out the visibly lower attendance than at the December meeting (although the actual number of *senators* present was not smaller this month). Another suggestion was to move the day of the week and/or week of the month, not just for January—which is tricky, given the mid-month start of classes followed by Martin Luther King, Jr Day—but for all Senate meetings.

XI. Adjournment

Slade moved to adjourn, seconded by a **loud chorus** of approval. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.