

**Ohio University Faculty Senate**  
**Agenda for Monday, May 17, 2010**  
**Room 235, Margaret M. Walter Hall, 7:10 p.m.**  
 [Summary]

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate Chair Joe McLaughlin at 7:11 p.m.

**I. Executive Vice President and Provost Pam Benoit**

EVPP Benoit briefly addressed three issues: 1) current enrollment statistics; 2) the multi-year planning document disseminated Friday; and 3) the process for determining whether there will be money available for the additional \$750,000 merit raise pool.

1) Current enrollment figures are given below, with the change from this time last year indicated in parentheses.

	Apps	Admits	Final Admits	Average ACT	Average GPA
Undergraduate	13,263 (-812)	11,181 (-211)	3,724 (-129 )	24.11 (+.18)	3.36 (+.02)
Masters	2900 (+24)	1007 (-2)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Doctoral	512 (+29)	116 (+4)	n/a	n/a	n/a

2) Benoit asked faculty members to read the multi-year planning document available at the multi-year planning [web site](#). She emphasized that this process is not about re-doing VisionOhio, but was meant to collect and analyze information about: a) current University activities and how those activities are funded and staffed; b) projected assumptions concerning key expenditures and revenues for the next 3-5 years; and c) environmental challenges that the University will face in the next decade. Benoit also said that the work done in the summer when faculty are not on campus would be primarily research, which faculty typically would not be involved in, and that it was important to get this preliminary research done as soon as possible so that the multi-year planning process could begin. Benoit also announced the members of University Environmental Scan Team: Pam Benoit (Chair), Terry Conry (Associate VP, Finance and Administration), Ralph DiCaprio (Professor & Chair, Biological Sciences), Rich Greenlee (Dean, Eastern Campus), Christine Knisley (Executive Director, Research and Grants, Osteopathic Medicine), Randy Leite (Interim Dean, College of Health Sciences and Professions), Joe McLaughlin (Chair, Faculty Senate and Associate Professor, English), Kent Smith, (VP, Student Affairs), Scott Titsworth (Associate Professor and Chair, Communication Studies), and David Descutner (*Ex Officio*, Interim Executive Vice Provost).

3) Benoit asked John Day to address the possible \$750,000 merit pool. While it might seem that the merit pool cannot be funded if undergraduate enrollments are down this year, this is not the case because revenue from tuition and fees depends on more than simply the number of students enrolled. Day walked through the tuition model and budget, including expected undergraduate tuition and non-resident fees, as well as deductions for OPIE, education abroad, and expected declines in revenue over the year. Deductions are calculated at the end of each quarter, but we should have a rough estimate of the amount available for the raise pool by September. Day will return in September with these estimated numbers.

Day then addressed the data brought forward by Steve Hays/FutureOU a few months ago that showed a decline in A&S expenditures over the past several years. Day argued that budgeted rather than

actual expenditures should be used; budgeted expenditures show slight increases each year. Day argued that the reason Hays/FutureOU's data showed declines was a result of volatility in income from grants, outside research dollars, etc. that are not included in base budgets. Faculty Senate will continue to look at this data.

Benoit then took questions. Faculty clarified several aspects of the newly announced tightening of the hiring freeze: positions submitted before May 14th are exempt from the new tightening of the freeze; Group I faculty will not be hired except under very limited circumstances (e.g. to maintain program accreditation); and staff who leave should be replaced by temporary employees. Senators expressed concern that a Group I hiring freeze could cause the percentage of Group I faculty to continue to decline, and that Group I faculty lines could be permanently replaced with non-tenure-track faculty. Benoit said this was not the intent, and when asked she said that she did not have a target percentage for the number of credit hours taught by Group I faculty. Another Senator asked about the progress on workload policies. Benoit responded that these are working their ways through the colleges, and that discussions are ongoing.

## **II. Roll Call and Approval of the April 19, 2010 Minutes**

A quorum was present. The minutes of the April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting were approved by voice vote.

## **III. Chair's Report – Joe McLaughlin**

- McLaughlin welcomed and introduced new Senators.
- Nominations for standing committees have been sent out. Please urge your colleagues to participate and self-nominate.

- **Sense of the Senate Resolution to Commend Student Reporters**

McLaughlin introduced this resolution in recognition of the outstanding Faculty Senate coverage by student reporters Emily Grannis of *The Post* and Chelsea Toy of *The Athens News*. A motion to suspend the rules and move directly to second reading and vote approved by voice vote. A motion to approve the resolution passed unanimously by voice vote.

- **Upcoming Senate Meeting: June 7, 2010. 7:10 p.m., Walter Hall 235**

## **IV. Election of Faculty Senate Officers for 2010-2011**

The nominating committee consisted of Pete Coschigano, Tracy Leinbaugh, and Timothy Anderson. Coschigano reminded the Senate that the current officers were willing to stand for re-election, and announced that no other nominations were received. He then asked for nominations from the floor. None were made. A motion to dispense with the nominating speeches and vote by acclamation was approved by voice vote. The current officers were re-elected.

## **V. Professional Relations Committee (PRC)—Sherrie Gradin**

Gradin announced that the second reading of the "Resolution on Senate Representation for the Voinovich School" has been postponed; the resolution might require amending the Faculty Senate's constitution, and further research is required on procedure.

- **Resolution on Appropriate Creation of Academic Units—First Reading**

The resolution asks for faculty participation when creating independent academic units (such as centers and institutes) that have an independent curriculum, or grant degrees and certificates, or retain faculty.

Senators asked whether or not this should apply to research institutes. Gradin argued that even with research centers, there could be instances where faculty rights, responsibilities, and roles are involved. Other faculty suggested that Faculty Handbook language should be created to address this issue; that the resolution should be cross-referenced with the relevant policies and procedures related to the creation of centers and institutes; and that the resolution should account for the possibility of a center or institute transforming into an independent unit as well as the creation of new units.

**• Resolution to Update Handbook on Professional Ethics Committees—First Reading**

Gradin noted that the current Faculty Handbook does not cover faculty in the Voinovich School with respect to professional ethics. This resolution keeps intact the existing Faculty Handbook language related to professional ethics, but adds the Voinovich School.

Senators noted that every time an academic unit similar to Voinovich is created, we would have to change the Faculty Handbook again; Gradin responded that this was intentional, and that revisiting this issue regularly would help construct an institutional memory of these changes as well as a paper trail.

**VI. Educational Policy & Student Affairs Committee (EPSA)—Allyn Reilly**

Reilly announced that the "Resolution on Retakeable Courses" has been tabled for a month while discussions continue.

**• Resolution on Minors and Certificate Hours Under Semesters—Second Reading & Vote**

A friendly amendment to change the minimum credits for minors and undergraduate certificates from 16 to 15 was accepted. Reilly also clarified that departments could set their own minimums for minors and certificates. A motion to approve the resolution passed by voice vote.

**• Resolution to Change Full-Time Status for Undergraduates—First Reading**

The federal government defines full time status as 12 hours; OU currently defines full-time status as 11 hours. This resolution brings OU into line with the federal government. In this resolution, the term "credit hours" refers to either quarter or semester hours. Senators clarified that this change will have negligible or no budget impact.

A motion to suspend the rules and move directly to second reading and vote approved by voice vote. A motion to table the resolution until June 7, 2010 was passed by voice vote in order to clarify the effective date of the resolution.

**• Resolution on Undergraduate Probation Policy—First Reading**

Reilly explained that PeopleSoft cannot accommodate our current academic probation policy (deficiency points). In consultation with the Assistant Deans, a policy based on Auburn's probation policy has been proposed. Data analysis by Bob DeLong suggests that results of the proposed plan would be similar to our current probation policy. Reilly noted that the impact on part-time students would be more severe with the proposed policy.

Senators raised concerns that the proposed policy might allow for indefinite probation, while our current policy does not. Senators asked for more data, and for an outline of how the policy will function under semesters. The committee will continue to develop this.

## **VII. Promotion and Tenure Committee (P&T)—Pete Coschigano**

### **• Resolution on Addressing Interdisciplinary Concerns in P&T Guidelines—Second Reading & Vote**

The Interdisciplinary Council drafted this resolution by adapting part of a resolution passed last year by Faculty Senate but not signed by the Provost. Surveys four years ago of certificate and interdisciplinary programs found that one of the major problems was how interdisciplinary activities were recognized and valued in the P&T process. This resolution introduces handbook language that asks departments/schools to ensure that their P&T guidelines address how and to what extent interdisciplinary activities will be evaluated and included in annual faculty evaluations, and in P&T decisions. This resolution specifically excludes those who have joint appointments. Jerry Miller of the Interdisciplinary Council was also available for questions.

Senators raised concerns about how interdisciplinary work is defined. Faculty emphasized the need for all the work that a faculty member does for the university to be classified and evaluated as teaching, research, or service. Miller clarified that it is still up to the school or department to decide how interdisciplinary work is counted toward P & T; this resolution simply requires that this be made explicit to the candidate, and puts the burden on departments to clarify their guidelines. There was enough discussion about the specific language of the resolution, particularly how strong the language should be, that a motion to table the resolution until June 7, 2010 was passed by voice vote. Senators should send their recommendations to [Jerry Miller](#).

### **• Resolution on Promotion and Tenure Guidelines—First Reading**

Coschigano explained that this resolution is also based on the resolution that was passed last year by Faculty Senate but not signed by the Provost. This resolution addresses many of same concerns, but in more general terms to take into account the diversity of different units across the university. The resolution proposes that: 1) Faculty should know what the expectations are for P&T; 2) Annual progress toward tenure letters should be clear and cumulative; some departments may wish to do a mid-term review as well; 3) Criteria for P&T should be revisited every five years, and grace periods are established for changes to P&T criteria (this language will be moved from the appendix to the body of the Faculty Handbook); and 4) Faculty hired with credit toward tenure should be given credit for prior accomplishments.

Senate discussion focused mainly on clarifying language. Suggestions should be sent to [Coschigano](#).

## **VIII. Finance and Facilities Committee (F&F)—Scott Titsworth**

### **• Resolution on Shared Governance in Intercollegiate Athletics—Second Reading & Vote**

This resolution is based on a draft resolution [template](#) from the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), the UC Berkeley Faculty Senate, and The Drake Group. The template has been adapted for OU to work within the existing [Intercollegiate Athletics Committee \(IAC\)](#), which is a standing committee.

Changes from the first reading include the elimination of a section on the charge of the committee, and inclusion of that content in other areas; that the committee report concerns about travel and practice schedules, and concerns about the budget, to the President, rather than directly approve

these items; and the addition of another faculty member to the committee (rather than taking one committee slot away from classified senate).

In addition to clarifying some language, a friendly amendment that concerns about the budget be reported to the EVPP and VP for Finance and Administration as well as to the President was accepted. A proposal to add additional faculty members to the committee was not accepted as friendly. A motion to approve the resolution as amended passed by voice vote.

#### **• Sense-of-the-Senate Resolution on Sustainability of Intercollegiate Athletics—Second Reading & Vote**

After minimal discussion, a motion to approve the resolution passed by voice vote.

#### **• Resolution on Intercollegiate Athletic Funding Sustainability—First Reading**

Titsworth explained that approximately \$90.6 million goes toward supporting ICA across Ohio. The disparity between mid-size conferences and big programs will only be exacerbated as large conferences realign. This resolution asks that the President direct the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee to examine and prepare a report on the sustainability of Division I/FBS intercollegiate athletics at Ohio University; that the President begin discussions on the sustainability of intercollegiate athletics with Chancellor Fingerhut, officials of the Mid-American Conference and other FBS schools in the state; and that the President or an appointed representative provide a report to faculty senate detailing progress on these initiatives during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Suggestions should be sent to Titsworth.

#### **IX. New Business**

None.

#### **X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20.