Faculty Senate Chair Elizabeth Sayrs called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

I. President McDavis and Executive Vice President & Provost Benoit
   • After welcoming the faculty back for fall semester, President McDavis presented
     updates on six topics:
     o The Obama Plan for Higher Education: This agenda for making college more
       affordable ties funding to outcome measures. The Department of Education will have
       public hearings on the proposed ratings, with a final set developed by fall 2015 to be
       sent to Congress for legislative action. The ratings described to date resemble the new
       SSI measures for Ohio, and by which criteria OU is currently the third best institution
       in the state. OU’s leadership will be lobbying for more quality indicators in the
       federal rating system.
     o Guaranteed Tuition Initiative: Guaranteeing the same tuition for a student’s four years
       is meant to improve predictability for families, increase the value of their financial
       aid, and rework OU’s budget in response to state funding trends. The state biennial
       budget included language making this possible, and the Implementation Team has
       recommended a fall 2015 start date to accommodate the systems and communications
       challenges. The President said that he thinks it will lower the cost to students.
     o STRS Changes: As of July 1, member contributions for all retirement plans went
       from 10% to 11%. The employer contribution to defined-benefit and combined plans
       will remain steady at 14%, while contributions to employee defined-contribution and ARP
       accounts will drop 1% (to 9.5%), because the mitigating rate (paid by the employer to offset
       negative consequences to STRS from defined-contribution and ARP enrollment) increased
       from 3.5% to 4.5%. There is question about the legal status of the change to the
       mitigating rate for ARP members, but until that is resolved all institutions in the
       STRS system have implemented it.
     o Economic Impact Study: This recently-released report documents OU’s value for the
       economies of the community, region, and state. OU generated about $1.5 billion of
       economic impact in Ohio in 2012, and about $104 million in taxes at local and state
       levels. OU spending supports more than 14,300 full- and part-time jobs, while in
       2012 alone, the University community volunteered about 1.4 million hours. The
       University will continue to develop service learning and think strategically about how
       to invest scarce resources for the good of the greater community.
     o Ohio House Higher Education Study Committee: Under the chairmanship of Cliff
       Rosenberger, this committee has been conducting hearings while traveling to
       institutions of higher education, with the goal of reporting back to the House in
       January. Issues raised by the Committee are likely to be debated in the next session.
     o $75 Million Endowed Scholarship Program: All academic units will help with efforts
       to raise $50 million from donors, matching $25 million invested by the University.
       Research suggests that alumni are inclined to give to matching scholarship programs.
• EVPP Benoit updated the Senate on three topics.
  o Preliminary Enrollment Numbers are compilation of record highs: new students are at 4,209, with 563 out-of-state and 686 Appalachian County students, as well as increases in international and multi-cultural students. The Athens undergraduate population may break the record; eLearning will probably surpass 6,000; RHE is likely to surpass 10,100; and the total number of enrolled students for the whole University is likely to be over 39,000. Academic quality measures are also constant or up, with an ACT for new Athens students of 24 and high school G.P.A. of 3.42. The Provost thanked Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Craig Cornell and his staff and also faculty for their recruitment efforts. She emphasized the returns on high-touch recruiting.
  o Administrative Searches: Many open positions have been recently filled. The new Dean of Eastern Campus is Paul Abraham. Howard Dewald has begun to serve as Associate Provost for Faculty and Academic Planning. The new post of Vice Provost for Global Affairs has gone to Lorna Jean Edwards. Laura Myers is serving as Interim Chief of Staff to Benoit; taking her place at Institutional Equity as the Interim Executive Director is Dianne Bouvier. The Interim University Ombudsman is Judy Piercy.
    Searches still open include that for the Deans of Zanesville (application deadline 9/30) and Southern (deadline 10/1). Airport interviews are imminent for the Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion position.
  o Accreditation: Mike Williford is serving as Associate Provost for Institutional Accreditation to guide the reaccreditation process through the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) of the Higher Learning Commission. Benoit emphasized the necessity of maintaining accreditation. The University’s portfolio will be submitted on Nov. 1, and we will get feedback from that later in the AY. In AY 2014-15, there will be AQIP campus visits, which will include conversations with randomly chosen faculty members, who will be expected to know about and understand the process. An accreditation decision will be issued the following AY. Faculty are asked to be aware of AQIP and to participate in demonstrating how we help students succeed.

Questions and Discussion:
  There were several questions asking for clarification. In response to a question from a regional campus senator, the EVPP confirmed that the accreditation review would include RHE, eLearning, and anyone else teaching students. Another senator wanted additional information about the endowed scholarship campaign. Guidelines for scholarships available through colleges have been distributed to colleges; those for targeted populations (e.g., Appalachian Scholars) are still under development. All are too new to be posted on web sites yet, but anyone with fundraising leads or ideas should contact their college development officer. Finally, a senator shared dissatisfaction from her college about ARP subsidizing STRS, and wondered what discussions were going on about the relationship between the two. McDavis said that while he could not answer specifically, there are behind-the-scenes discussions that include state legislators, and that the perception that ARP members are contributing to STRS benefits is widespread; on the other hand, STRS has to maintain its
commitments to members. OU’s Director of Government Relations is tracking the wrangling, but OU can’t make policy at the institutional level.

A senator mentioned the Trimester Implementation Committee and wondered whether a decision had been made that OU would go to a trimester calendar. Benoit replied that no decision had been taken, but that she was strongly in favor of trimesters and that the idea had momentum. The Committee itself is not planning implementation but considering what implementation would require.

Both the Senate and the administrative executives glanced at last year’s successes. While promising future remonstration, a senator expressed satisfaction at joint accomplishments by the Senate and the Provost’s office, especially Group II long-term contracts. The President cited faculty and staff participation in the Promise Lives campaign, with $768,000 donated by 965 employees. He also thanked the faculty for participation in recruitment and retention efforts, as well as building relationships with students that help make a real difference in their lives.

II. General Education update: Dean Bob Frank

Dean Frank reported on the process of General Education reform. A task force funded by an 1804 grant and chaired by David Thomas and first Dean Ben Ogles (A&S) and then Dean Hugh Sherman (COB) evaluated the need for Gen Ed changes at OU and looked at outside institutions for models. Its report was issued in March, 2012. A new General Education Task Force, chaired by Dean Frank and Greg Kremer (Mechanical Engineering), was charged last spring to take the results to the University as a whole and, if given a mandate for changing our current program, propose ways of implementing new approaches. Members of the task force met with each dean over the summer and gained enthusiastic support for the process from them. The next step is for each college to have a conversation about the draft learning objectives (see attached); these have a high degree of overlap with General Education programs nationally. After collecting the resulting feedback, the task force plans to bring a final set to the Senate for endorsement.

In response to a question about the role of the regional campuses in the Gen Ed reform process, Dean Frank noted that Matt Wanat (English, Lancaster) is on the task force and that he himself would be meeting later in the week with RHE Executive Dean Bill Willan. The entire project is more complex, the dean conceded, when it has to encompass regional and eLearning students as well as 18-year-olds in Athens.

III. Roll Call and Approval of the May 6, 2013 Minutes

The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

IV. Chair’s Report—Elizabeth Sayrs

- Athletic Department Meet-and-Greet: Betty Sindelar reminded faculty that they could meet and ask questions of Athletics Department staff from 12-1:30 p.m. on Thursday, 9/26 in Baker 240.
- Associate Provost for Faculty and Academic Planning Howard Dewald was introduced; he is now the main contact for faculty in the Provost’s office.
- Group II promotion guidelines update: The deadline for Group II promotion guidelines is OCTOBER 15, 2013. All departments, schools, and regional campus divisions, even those currently without Group II faculty, are responsible for adopting
guidelines. Assoc. Provost Dewald will develop a set of default promotion guidelines for departments and schools that choose to use them rather than starting from scratch; they will be sent to deans, chairs and directors, division chairs, and all faculty senators. Sayrs clarified that Group II promotion guidelines must not include a research component. Service components of up to 20% are permitted by the Handbook, but criteria applied to an individual faculty member must match the assignments actually given to that instructor. (Deans, chairs, and directors were sent templates for Group II contracts in the spring that require percentages for teaching and service to be filled in.)

- **Standing Committees update:** For the first time in recent memory, these were staffed and approved before the start of classes, which might help prevent the overflow of too much committee business into the spring. Sayrs thanked the President’s office and Jennifer Kirksey in particular.

- **Semesters feedback action plan:** The administration and Faculty Senate together solicited feedback on the new calendar last spring. Some issues raised may not have a plausible solution, but items are being parceled out to appropriate groups for action, including the Friday Group (was Q2S Steering Committee), the Provost’s office, and UCC.

- **Nominations for college ethics committees and dean evaluation committees:** College ethics committee members have three-year terms. Many of these committees never need to meet, but it is important to have them available with ethics problems arise. Some colleges will not need their own dean evaluation committees this year (due to new or interim deans), but all colleges need to have nominations to help staff the comprehensive evaluations for the deans of HTC and the Libraries.

- **RCM liaisons update:** A resolution passed last spring established faculty senators as liaisons to their colleges for RCM issues. Colleges without volunteers will face a draft.

- **Faculty/staff survey update:** A potential instrument has been identified. If it meets the approval of Institutional Research, it will go to all the senates for endorsement.

- **Website update:** The Website That Cried Wolf is really, truly finally almost ready to go live. Delay resulted from a necessary feature unexpectedly failing (it has been fixed). In other web news, the Faculty Senate Facebook page now has more likes than senators. Faculty interested in issues in higher education and shared governance should take a look.

- **The Handbook resolution update:** As allowed in a resolution last spring, errors and inconsistencies in the Faculty Handbook are being corrected. All will be posted with track changes, and any senator uncomfortable with a change may ask for the change to be approved in a resolution.

- **Board of Trustees visit:** The Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees will visit the Senate in October. If they allow, Sayrs will solicit questions for them ahead of time.

- **Board of Trustees update—Ben Stuart and David Thomas**
  - Finance Committee update (Stuart): VP for Finance Steve Golding presented a very positive balance sheet, which means that F&F has scope to make suggestions about expenditures. The Board has said it will prioritize compensation and managing the debt load for capital expenses.
  - Academics Committee Update (Thomas): The Committee heard reports on retention and enrollment; questions about maintaining student quality during increasing enrollment made it clear that the Enrollment Management office is committed to quality as well as quantity in recruitment. Further reports showed a decrease in the number of student conduct cases and a new set of Student Affairs strategic priorities.
The Tobacco-Free Task Force recommends a three-year phase in for a tobacco-free campus. The initiative is strongly encouraged by the Board of Regents, despite the improbability of effective enforcement. The name of the School of Art was changed to The School of Art + Design.

- **Senate processes review:** The Faculty Senate follows the Sturgis code of parliamentary procedure. While most discussion is relatively informal, parliamentary procedure is useful for protecting the rights of all members during debate over contentious topics. Senators are encouraged to familiarize themselves with and use the full set of motions when necessary. Sayrs also reminded everyone that debate is properly limited to the motion or resolution at hand, not ancillary issues.
- **Upcoming Senate Meeting:** Monday, October 14th

V. **Educational Policy & Student Affairs Committee—Ruth Palmer**

- **Resolution to Alter EPSA Member Obligations—First reading**

  This resolution concerns the committee workload of EPSA members. Currently, they serve not only on EPSA but on UCC and also one of UCC’s committees: the Individual Course Committee (ICC), Programs, or Program Review. Program Review is vital but also unevenly spread over the year, with a workload that is either very light or crushing. At the end of last year, EPSA decided to experiment with splitting the workload of members between regular EPSA issues and UCC service. At full strength, EPSA has 12 members; under this resolution, 4 would serve on UCC (2 on the Programs Committee, 2 on ICC), and the EPSA Chair would also attend UCC meetings. (The specific division of labor is not specified in the resolution, as it is still experimental.) The remainder will work on outstanding issues and sit on related committees, e.g., the Trimester Implementation Committee, a committee for a new sexual assault education program, copyright and patent issues, and more work on transfer credits.

VI. **Professional Relations Committee—Ben Bates**

PRC has been waiting to take up new issues until after the deadline for Group II promotion procedures has passed, in case it is needed for that process. After that, the Committee will be working with the Provost’s office and other campus constituents on rationalizing the faculty Groups and their names.

VII. **Promotion & Tenure Committee—Ani Ruhl for Joe Slade**

Over the summer, the P&T Committee granted a tenure clock extension. One appeal is before the Committee now, and at least one more is expected.

VIII. **Finance & Facilities Committee—Ben Stuart**

F&F will be interested in the two financial priorities of the Board of Trustees, compensation and debt service management. It will also continue to monitor implementation problems and effects of BobcatBuy and ComDoc. Complaints about the retirement system changes have been articulated to the Committee, but it can’t affect those.

Asked if the Committee had taken a position on the distribution of the additional 1% raise for FY14, Stuart said that there had been an email poll of members. While there was a good deal of sentiment in favor of an across-the-board raise for all, the Handbook clearly says that all raises will be distributed in accordance with departmental evaluations. Assoc. Provost
John Day noted that the Provost’s office had determined that the raise would be merit based; Sayrs added that there had been no additional restrictions on the meaning of “merit” (e.g., the percentage of faculty who could be given additional raises).

IX. New Business
    There was none.

X. Adjournment
    The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.
General Education Discussion with Deans

The General Education Taskforce is seeking help from the colleges in its efforts to evaluate and revise the general education curriculum at Ohio University. We are seeking responses to the three items listed below.

1. What essential skills and knowledge should all students derive from an Ohio University education?

This question has received considerable attention at OU and other universities. A good example of essential learning outcomes can be found at http://www.aacu.org/leap/vision.cfm. A list of learning outcomes generated by the OU 1804 Taskforce on General Education in 2012 is provided at the end of this document. These lists can be used as a starting point for discussion within your college.

2. List the most significant ways in which the current general education program contributes to the essential skills and knowledge you have identified.

3. What are the most significant shortcomings of the current general education program with respect to achieving our goals for essential skill and knowledge development?

We are hoping to receiving feedback from the colleges by the end of Fall Semester. Once we have the feedback, the General Education Taskforce will (1) begin the process of crafting a statement of general education learning outcomes for faculty endorsement, (2) identify the elements of the current general education system that should be retained, (3) identify problem areas for additional work and (4) if necessary, develop proposals for dealing with substantive differences among the colleges with respect to the manner in which students acquire the essential skills and knowledge we expect.
OU 1804 Taskforce on General Education List of Essential Learning Outcomes

Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World through:

- Study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, and the arts
- Diversity and cultural awareness

Intellectual and Practical Skills

- Critical inquiry and analysis
- Complex problem-solving
- Creativity and innovation
- Written and oral communication competencies
- Quantitative literacy
- Information literacy
- Teamwork and problem solving
- Intellectual curiosity as a foundation for lifelong learning

Personal and Social Responsibility

- Civic knowledge and engagement at local, national, and global levels
- Intercultural knowledge and competence
- Ethical reasoning and action
- Foundations and skills for lifelong learning

Knowledge Application and Integrative Learning

- Active engagement with real-life problems from multiple perspectives related to significant social issues
- Advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies through original research and/or creative activity, education abroad, community service projects, peer education projects, internships, and co-ops