

University Senate Meeting
Wednesday, February 15, 2017
3:00-5:00 pm
EMU – Crater Lake Rooms

Attendance can be found at the bottom of the page.

1. Call to Order: 3:05 pm

1.1 Introductory Remarks – Senate President Bill Harbaugh

Acceptable Use Policy: Harbaugh praised Provost Scott Coltrane's decision to withdraw the proposed AUP policy and have the new Chief Information Officer (CIO) develop a better one. He also thanked Greg Bryant, John Bonine, and Colin Koopman for their work with Will Laney to try to improve the original proposal.

Time, Place, and Manner Policy: Harbaugh praised UO President Michael Schill's decision to withdraw the proposed TPM policy. He also thanked the members of the Senate Free Speech Restrictions Task Force for helping the administration see the problems the proposed policy created. Members included Chris Sinclair, Chris Chavez, Jennifer Freyd, Jason Wade, Rick Haught, Michael Dreiling, Ofer Raban, John Bonine, Ben Kitoko, Augustine Beard, and Sahalee McFarland. Harbaugh also thanked Luke Kuzava for the comparative research he provided.

Harbaugh said the task force is compiling a report that will be posted on the Senate website, which should be a useful resource if/when there is another effort to develop a similar policy. He also noted that the existing Facilities Scheduling Policy will continue to define how UO facilities can be scheduled for speech and protest activities. John Bonine explained that the Facilities Scheduling Policy and the Freedom of Inquiry and Free Speech Policy came into being in 2010 in response to presentations by a neo-Nazi group in UO facilities. He praised those policies as robust and strongly supportive of free speech.

Sexual Violence Reporting Policy: Harbaugh reported that the Senate's Responsible Reporting Work Group had met last week with consulting attorneys from Pepper Hamilton whom the UO had hired to provide expert advice on the legality and advisability of adopting the policy on sexual violence that the Senate had passed in November. Harbaugh said the work group had agreed to accept the university's request that their discussions with the consultants remain confidential, so there is little he can report. He noted that the work group's goal remains to severely limit the number of people who will be classified as mandatory reporters. If any decision is made to modify the Senate's policy, the revised version will return to the Senate for discussion and a vote.

Proposed Motion - “Condemnation of the university’s findings regarding political expression by faculty members”: Harbaugh reported that Ofer Raban (Law) is redrafting this motion and will present it to the Senate soon.

Senate Transparency Committee Emails: Harbaugh mentioned that there had been a story in the Chronicle of Higher Education about General Counsel Kevin Reed’s request that Harbaugh provide copies of all his emails regarding the committee and its discussions about problems student journalists were having with the Athletics Department. Harbaugh said he submitted all requested material to the OGC on February 6.

2. Approval of Minutes:

2.1 February 1, 2017 – Senators voted unanimously to accept the minutes as currently posted.

4. New Business:

4.1 Temporary, Non-Emergency Policies: Harbaugh reported that he and the Senate Executive Committee are now leaning away from calling a Faculty Assembly to amend the UO Constitution and make it consistent with Board of Trustees policy on this topic. He said there is real concern that not enough faculty will consider the issue important enough to vote on, which would result in failure to reach the minimum vote threshold for passing constitutional amendments. Harbaugh said the plan now is to add a notation to the constitution explaining that its provision granting the UO president the authority to issue temporary policies only in emergency situations is superseded by authority granted legislatively to the Board of Trustees, which they have delegated to the president. Chris Phillips suggested holding on to this issue and adding it to a future Faculty Assembly agenda, if a situation comes up that will generate greater interest.

4.2 Vote: US 16/17-14 Repeal of US12/13-38: Term Limits for Senate Committees, (Senate Executive Committee). Chris Sinclair reminded senators that this legislation would simply remove the “umbrella” term limits that were placed on all Senate committees in 2013. It would not affect any term limits that individual committees have over time placed on themselves with Senate approval through their 17-point charts. There are, he said, 22 committees and administrative advisory groups with such individual term limits and they would all remain in force if the Senate passes US 16/17-14. A list of these committees is posted on the Senate website.

Sinclair said that once the Senate has acted on this repeal motion, he will contact those committees with individual term limits, in his capacity as chair of the Committee on Committees, and ask if they want to retain or modify those limits. Depending on the response, Sinclair expects there would be follow-up legislation incorporating any changes those committees want to make. In response to a suggestion from Eric Pederson, Sinclair said he would contact all committees to see if they want anything done in the way of individual committee term limits.

Motion to substitute: Retain overall term limits and amend US 12/13-38 to allow committee members to serve up to four (4) terms instead of two (2). Presented by: Christopher Phillips. Second: Huaxin Lin.

Phillips said allowing longer service might accomplish the same purpose of creating committee turnover without making it more difficult to recruit people to serve on committees, especially those that have a lengthy learning curve. Eric Pederson said he could support such a proposal if there were any data to back it up, but he hadn't heard any hard evidence this would be the likely result of the substitute motion.

Vote on substitute motion: Overwhelmingly - No. Substitute motion fails.

Vote on original motion to repeal term limits: Overwhelmingly – Yes. Moved/Seconded/Carried.

4.3 Discussion: US 16/17-15 Student Misconduct and Teaching Evaluations;

Robert Lipshitz (Mathematics) and Huaxin Lin (Mathematics), Senator. Sinclair explained that this motion is intended to address the situation where a faculty member reports a student for cheating and the student then has an opportunity to retaliate against the teacher when filling out their teaching evaluation. Lipshitz is asking that such students be prevented from evaluating the teacher, because their ratings can unfairly impact promotion and tenure decisions. Registrar Sue Eveland has taken the position, Sinclair reported, that the UO is unable to do this for technical reasons. Teaching evaluations are compiled by a third party vendor that strips all identifying information from the evaluations as soon as they are received as a means of protecting privacy. Sinclair suggested there may be ways around this technical problem, such as a) having the Registrar's office hold onto the data and remove the targeted evaluations before submitting anything to the vendor or b) making two copies of the evaluation data, conducting an immediate initial review using one copy, and then running another review using the second copy after removing the targeted evaluations.

Several senators objected to the fact that the motion would apply to students "accused" of cheating. They want the adjudication process to run its course before any evaluations are withheld and urged changing the language to "held responsible" or "found responsible" for cheating. Nicholas Gioia, substituting for Blair Toy, supported this approach and stated that as chair of the University Appeals Board, he has seen numerous allegations of student cheating overturned. He also noted that such cases are typically adjudicated in 30 days or less.

Several senators thought withholding the evaluations of students who cheat is unnecessary. One argued that the impact of negative evaluations from a small number of cheating students would be negligible. Another expressed concern about taking away a student's right to evaluate a teacher and said there seems to be little hard data suggesting that faculty and graduate employees are deterred from reporting cheating for fear of what students will put in their evaluations.

Harbaugh asked if senators saw a need to set up a task force to look at this issue and numerous other evaluations problems, such as implicit bias and less than useful results. Ed Davis said the university needs a more professional way to evaluate teaching and mentioned the presentation at a previous Senate meeting by the leaders of the Wabash Center of Inquiry who encouraged greater use of peer evaluations.

Motion: Direct the Senate President to set up a working group that will research how to best develop a system of teacher evaluation for the UO that includes student evaluations, professional evaluations, and peer evaluations. Presented by: John Bonine. Second: Eric Pederson.

Vote on motion: Overwhelmingly – Yes. Moved/Seconded/Carried.

Beata Stawarska asked that the task force be diverse and inclusive in terms of race and gender. Harbaugh said it would be. Chris Phillips asked if research data from the Wabash Center would be available to the task force. Harbaugh expressed confidence that it would be. Numerous senators expressed interest in serving on such a task force, including Mike Urbancic, Eric Pederson, Rich Margerum, Huaxin Lin, Chris Phillips, and Chris Sinclair.

Huaxin Lin expressed concern about what would happen to the original motion now that a task force was in the works to address much broader evaluation issues. Harbaugh assured him that he and Lipshitz were well within their rights to formally present their motion or a modified version of it to the Senate for consideration, now that it had been discussed.

6. Reports: None.

7. Notice(s) of Motion: None.

8. Other Business: Harbaugh reminded senators that he had recently sent out an email encouraging faculty members to apply for the upcoming vacancy on the Board of Trustees. The deadline is February 28 and directions on how to apply can be found on the BOT website. Harbaugh also announced that the Senate and committee elections survey would be coming out in about four weeks. Randy Sullivan described how much his Senate service has meant to him and urged senators to recruit colleagues to volunteer for open positions.

9. Adjournment: 4:13 pm

Attendance:

University Senate Members – 2016-17				Date: February 15, 2017			
Senators	Pres	Abs	Exc	Senators	Pres	Abs	Exc
CAS – Natural Sciences				School of Music and Dance			
N. Christopher Phillips	X			Alexandre Dossin	X		

John Conery	X			Idit Shner (Jack Boss)			X
Dejing Dou	X						
Jennifer Freyd			X	Clark Honors College			
Elliot Berkman			X	Monique Balbuena	X		
Huaxin Lin	X						
Christopher Minson	X			Other Academic Units			
Hans Dreyer	X			Edward Davis	X		
Ilya Bindeman	X						
				Librarians			
CAS – Social Sciences				Lori Robare	X		
Jane Cramer			X	Edward Teague	X		
Eileen Otis			X				
Mike Urbancic	X			Officers of Administration			
Craig Parsons	X			Amanda Hatch (J. LaBelle)			X
Peter Walker	X			Keith Frazee	X		
				Stephanie McGee	X		
CAS – Humanities							
Jane Averill			X	Students			
Lowell Bowditch	X			Hassan Almumen	X		
Cristina Calhoon	X			Lisa Smith			
Pedro Garcia-Caro	X			Blair Toy (Nicholas Gioia)			X
Alison Groppe	X			Hao Tan	X		
Beata Stawarska	X			Hannah Thompson	X		
Daniela Vallega-Neu	X						
Eric Pederson	X			Classified Staff			
				Valerie Mickelson	X		
Architecture and Allied Arts				Theodora Ko Thompson			E
Jack Ryan	X			Jimmy Murray	X		
Laura Leete			X				
TBD				Career NTF Research			
Richard Margerum	X			Greg Bryant	X		
College of Education				Academic Council Chair			
Deanna Linville (J. Todahl)			X	Frances White	X		
Laura Lee McIntyre	X						
Beth Harn	X			Ex-Officio			
				Bill Harbaugh, President	X		
Journalism and Comm.				Chris Sinclair, Vice President	X		
Christopher Chavez				Randy Sullivan, Past President	X		
				Michael Schill, UO President		X	
School of Law				Scott Coltrane, Provost		X	
John Bonine	X			Quinn Haaga, ASUO President	X		
				Betina Lynn, Sen. Exec. Coord.	X		
College of Business				Paul Simonds, Parliamentarian	X		
Ali Emami	X			Angela Wilhelms, St.Fac.Ex.Crd		X	
Jennifer Ellis	X						

Guests: Will Campbell, Andrew Dunn, Evan Roth, Missy Matella, and Kurt Willcox.