

**University Senate Meeting
Wednesday, March 1, 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

Harbaugh noted that applications closed yesterday for the faculty seat on the UO Board of Trustees. According to University Secretary Angela Wilhelms, the applicants included Joe Sventek (Computer and Information Science), Laura Lee McIntyre (School Psychology – COE), Barbara Mossberg (Honors College), Lillian Duran (Special Education and Clinical Services) and Marina Guenza (Chemistry and Biochemistry). Harbaugh said he will be soliciting feedback from senators on these applicants, so the Senate can make a recommendation to the governor on whom to appoint.

1.2 Senate & Committee Elections – Senate Vice President Chris Sinclair

Sinclair said he is redoing the candidate/interest survey that precedes Senate and committee elections. It will be sent to members of all non-student constituencies early in Spring Term. Those taking the survey, he said, will be asked to answer a few questions in order to identify their constituency. The survey will then display a list of the exact positions for which the person is eligible to run, so they can simply mark those for which they want to be a candidate. Sinclair added that there will be a place on the survey where respondents can also indicate any committees or appointed positions they are interested in. The actual online election will take place sometime around the middle of Spring Term. Sinclair reminded senators that this year University Secretary Wilhelms, not Senate Executive Coordinator Betina Lynn, will be in charge of conducting the Senate election, as the UO Constitution provides. He also noted that the Senate will elect a Vice President/President-Elect at the last meeting in June and asked that anyone interested in the position contact him to learn more about what is involved.

2. Approval of Minutes:

2.1 February 15, 2017 – Senators voted unanimously to accept the minutes as currently posted.

6. Report:

6.1 Common Reading Program – Vice Provost Lisa Freinkel

Freinkel described the evolution of the common reading program from early efforts starting in 2006 to get students to read books written by convocation speakers to an

ongoing program in the Honors College that began in 2009 to encourage students there to read books by speakers the Honors College was bringing to campus to the establishment of the current university-wide common reading program for incoming freshmen in 2014. The program now resides in Undergraduate Studies, has an executive committee that provides coordination, and works with a variety of on- and off-campus partners to purchase the books, distribute them at Orientation, bring the authors to campus, and encourage departments to use the books in their programming. Freinkel said she knows of about 10 other public AAU universities that have similar programs.

Freinkel explained that a group of about 20 faculty, students, and administrators solicits recommendations each year on what books to select for the program, reviews them, and then chooses one. The current criteria are: something that would interest a wide range of first year students; timely relevance; strong intellectual content; and accessibility (e.g. in print and not over 300 pages). Freinkel invited the Senate to help promote the program, suggest book titles, and have someone join the book selection committee. In response to a question, Freinkel said the executive committee is looking for ways to more precisely evaluate the program, so they can understand how many students are doing the reading, learn more about their reactions, and demonstrate the program's value.

3. State of the University:

3.1 Budgets & Budget Planning – UO President Mike Schill

Schill said a recent article in the Register-Guard which stated that 75 NTTF faculty would not have their contracts renewed next year is “very speculative” and that the layoffs are “not real” at this point. He noted that there are three separate but related budget processes currently going on at the university:

1) Balancing college and school budgets: This has been ongoing for over a year. The biggest problem is in the College of Arts and Sciences. CAS racked up an \$11 million shortfall largely due to the movement of students away from the Humanities and into the professional schools. This problem was compounded by unplanned expenses related to the collective bargaining agreement between the university and the faculty union, as well as the college's decision to continue hiring faculty despite the deficit. In response, the UO added \$7 million on a recurring basis to the CAS budget, but required CAS to cut \$4 million in expenses. That's why CAS eliminated nearly 100 NTTF and OA positions last year. Schill expects the CAS budget to be back in balance by the end of FY18.

Now, he said, the administration is looking at other schools and colleges with budget problems. They must report to him this month on how they will balance their budgets within three years. This may involve laying off NTTFs, cutting programs, or starting programs that will generate revenue. Schill said the affected deans will decide how to

balance their budgets, not central administration. He feels this aspect of budgeting is what the R-G story was about.

2) New Budget Model: The university's current budget model for allocating academic resources was developed a number of years ago by Provost Jim Bean. It's known as "responsibility-centered budgeting" and essentially sends revenue to departments and programs based on student enrollment. The system has not worked well, Schill said, and this "has wreaked havoc on the university". Student preferences on courses of study have changed rapidly which has seriously hurt funding for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Those areas have retained the expenses associated with tenured faculty, but lost revenue due to lower enrollments. The university managed for a while, Schill noted, by increasing enrollment overall, but now that enrollment has leveled off, the problems in these areas have become obvious. Schill also criticized the current budget model for taking responsibility for the academic direction of the university away from the president and provost and putting it "in the hands of 18-22 year-olds".

Over the next two fiscal years, Schill stated, the UO will implement a new budget model. The general idea is that the central administration will take over responsibility for funding tenured faculty lines. This should create financial stability for schools and colleges. The trade-off, though, will be that the schools and colleges will no longer "own" those faculty lines. When a tenured faculty position becomes vacant, the provost will determine whether the position remains with the department with the vacancy or gets assigned to another department more in line with the university's strategic mission.

Senior Vice Provost Brad Shelton explained how the new model is expected to function. The university will develop an institutional hiring plan with faculty input that will be "owned" by the provost, clarify the UO's academic strategy, and be posted online. Shelton said the deans have been directed to report by April 1 on any openings and searches they expect to conduct next year. When Jayanth Banavar, the new provost, arrives, he will turn this information into a preliminary hiring plan. That plan will be reviewed by the Dean's Council and a small, select group of senior faculty, adjusted as needed by the provost, and then published. Future hiring of tenured and tenure-track faculty will be based on this plan.

3) Funding from State Budget: Schill reviewed the funding difficulties the university likely faces at the state level. He said we are expecting flat funding for higher education, which means slightly less money for the UO than last year, because of the way funding is allocated. Ongoing costs are projected to rise about \$25 million next year, so the UO Board of Trustees will be approving tuition increases tomorrow of 10.6% for resident undergraduates and 3% for nonresident undergraduates and adding a \$50 per term technology fee. Even with these increases, Schill said, we'll be short about \$8.8 million on next year's budget. He has formed a special budget committee that includes faculty, students, staff, and administrators, as well as the entire Senate Budget Committee, to recommend ways to cut costs and generate additional revenue. Schill noted that the 2% administrative cuts last year were very painful, but involved far less cutting (\$3 million) than will likely occur this year. He said that even though the university is "thinly staffed"

he wants to protect academic units and make the cuts in ways that preserve our central educational mission. Schill concluded by saying that these budget challenges “won’t impede our progress in making this a better and better university.”

In response to questions from senators, Schill said:

- Diversity will play a key role in the hiring plan. Deans are currently submitting their diversity plans and the provost will be responsible for coordinating them.
- Deans will be responsible for hiring and retaining NTTFs and for persuading the provost about the need to retain any vacant tenure lines.
- The select faculty committee that reviews the provost’s hiring plan will have access to all the information that goes into formation of the plan. It won’t just be reacting to the proposed plan.
- There will clearly be a transition period with the new budget model where programs established under the current model will need to be evaluated using the new criteria. That’s why he’s established a budget metrics sub-group to ensure that we are improving academic quality.
- The UO will continue to address the needs of low-income Oregonians through the Pathway Oregon program which currently pays the full tuition costs for 20% of resident undergraduates. To qualify, students must have a 3.4 GPA and be Pell-eligible.

4. New Business:

4.1 Honorary Degrees and Naming Academic Units Policies – University Secretary Angela Wilhelms

Wilhelms provided senators with a preliminary look at a proposed new policy on naming academic units and a proposed revised policy on awarding honorary degrees. The honorary degrees policy would modify the composition and name of the Distinguished Service Awards and Honorary Degrees Committee, clarify that the UO president is its chair, describe the criteria for awarding honorary doctorates more precisely, and clean up some holdover OUS references. The naming academic units policy would establish criteria for the university to follow when naming a unit after an individual or organization, such as the Clark Honors College or the Lundquist College of Business. Wilhelms said the proposal is modeled after the existing policy on naming facilities. Harbaugh asked if senators would be comfortable reviewing and voting on these policies at the next Senate meeting on March 15 or if they would prefer more time. Senators overwhelmingly opted for voting on March 15.

6. Reports (continued):

6.2 Student Evaluations Task Force – Senate President Bill Harbaugh

Harbaugh reported that the task force is forming and had an initial meeting last week. It currently includes Ed Davis, Beata Stawarska, Ed Pederson, Sanjay Srivastava, and himself, but he is looking to recruit students and administrators, as well. Harbaugh said he will be providing the full text of the group’s charge, as promised two weeks ago when

the Senate decided to form the task force. He also noted that the task force has secured a copy of the university's contract with the vendor that tabulates the evaluations and is looking into whether Canvas can be used to do the tabulation instead.

7. Notice(s) of Motion: None.

8. Other Business: None.

9. Adjournment: 4:44 pm

Attendance:

University Senate Members – 2016-17				Date: March 1, 2017			
Senators	Pres	Abs	Exc	Senators	Pres	Abs	Exc
CAS – Natural Sciences				School of Music and Dance			
N. Christopher Phillips (Arkady Berenshtein)			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(David Woken)			X
Eileen Otis	X						
Mike Urbancic	X			Officers of Administration			
Craig Parsons	X			Amanda Hatch	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	X		
Pedro Garcia-Caro	X			Blair Toy	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 (Jay Butler)			X
Jack Ryan	X			Jimmy Murray	X		

Laura Leete	X						
Kate Mondloch	X			Career NTTF Research			
Richard Margerum	X			Greg Bryant	X		
College of Education				Academic Council Chair			
Deanna Linville	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	X			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, Larissa Ennis, Nicholas Gioia, Ron Bramhall, Mariann Hyland, Chuck Triplett, Brad Shelton, Lisa Freinkel, and Kurt Willcox.