University Senate Meeting
Wednesday, April 25, 2018
3:00-5:00 pm
EMU – Crater Lake Rooms

Attendance can be found at the end of the minutes.

1. Call to Order: 3:03 pm

1.1 Introductory Remarks – Senate President Chris Sinclair

President Sinclair reminded everyone that there would be an executive session starting around 4 pm to review nominees for honorary degrees. At that point, only senators, ex officio members, and Senate staff will be allowed to remain in the room. There will be a secret ballot vote on each candidate individually with results announced at the close of the executive session. Sinclair stated that the Senate will conduct no other business once it goes into executive session and would not need to reconvene in public session. In response to a question, he noted that substitute senators have the right to take part in the executive session and to vote on the nominees.

Sinclair also reported that the university administration has concluded that its Conflict of Interest policy is indeed an academic matter and that any revisions would need to go through the University Senate. He said President Schill and Provost Banavar have agreed that there will be a joint task force to receive input from all affected constituencies and develop proposed revisions. It is expected that the task force will meet and make its proposals next academic year.

2. Approval of Minutes:

2.1 April 11, 2018 – Senators offered no objections to or corrections of the minutes as currently posted, so President Sinclair declared them approved.

3. State of the University: No presentation

4. New Business and Reports

4.1 Report: Update on Knight Campus – Patrick Phillips, Acting Executive Director, Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact

Patrick Phillips thanked the Senate for its support of the Knight Campus. He noted that the university has hired Bob Guldebarg from the Georgia Institute of Technology to be the regular Executive Director of the campus beginning in August. Phillips will conclude his stint as Interim Executive Director in September. Phillips said the university recently hired a vendor to work with UO researchers to identify the focal areas for research that will be pursued on the Knight Campus. The vendor will begin meeting with stakeholders on and off campus beginning this summer and should be issuing a report in early 2019.
Phillips reported that the construction timeline is tight but on schedule. The site has been prepared and excavation work should begin in June. The first two buildings are scheduled to open in 2020. Phillips said he and others have been doing a great deal of community outreach and noted that a recent talk at the Shedd Institute had attracted a crowd of 700 people.

Ed Davis said that the Museum of Natural and Cultural History has a fossil collection from all excavations on the UO campus and asked if they would be given access to the Knight Campus site this summer to add to their collection. Phillips said they would definitely be given access, but he would need to be reminded.

Greg Bryant asked about the impacts of construction and the new buildings on the Millrace. Phillips said their goal is to enhance the Millrace and that the design is sensitive to nearby buildings and users. He said the designers are working with the Urban Farm to minimize the buildings’ effect on sunlight. It appears that most of the impact will be during winter and not the growing season.

John Bonine asked if traffic studies had been done to determine what impact the Knight Campus will have on pedestrians crossing Franklin Boulevard. Phillips said they’ve put a great deal of emphasis on this and are convinced that the covered pedestrian bridge will resolve most concerns. He said since all the science buildings on both sides of the street will be connected that it will only take about a 6-7 minute walk to go from any place to any other location in the complex.

Bill Harbaugh asked how shared governance will work in the Knight Campus and if the Senate will have a role. Phillips said the university will follow the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) on issues like faculty tenure and promotion and that the Senate will definitely be included in any academic issues.

4.2 Discussion and Vote: US 17/18-17: “Learning Goals for Methods of Inquiry” – Chris Sinclair, Chair of the Core Education Task Force

President Sinclair gave the gavel to Vice President Harbaugh to conduct the discussion on this motion.

Motion to adopt the motion as revised based on discussion at the previous Senate meeting. Presented by: Chris Sinclair. Second: Greg Bryant.

Sinclair explained that the motion now contained new language specifically mentioning logical thinking, as requested by Chris Phillips, and that the grammatical and stylistic changes requested by Colin Koopman had been incorporated.

Motion to refer US 17/18–17 to the Committee on Courses to ensure that there are no unintended negative impacts on the inclusion of science courses in the core education curriculum. Presented by: Chris Phillips. Second: Frances White.
Sinclair said he had sent the motion text to White for review. White said she supports the concept of the motion, but wants the Committee on Courses to take a close look at the language of the motion, since they will be charged with implementing it.

Phillips explained his concern by pointing toward the freshman-oriented General Chemistry course which qualifies under the current general education requirements. He feels there needs to be greater clarity that the course would continue to qualify under the proposed Methods of Inquiry learning goals. As he understands the proposal, this would mean satisfying at least half of the criteria under both Critical Thinking and Creative Thinking and it doesn’t appear to him that the course does that. Phillips said he knows that is not the intent, which is why he wants the Committee on Courses to do a careful review of the motion. Phillips asked Tom Greenbowe from the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department and a member of the Committee on Courses if he thought the chemistry course in question would meet half of the five criteria listed under the Critical Thinking learning goal. Greenbowe said he did not and he was concerned that other science-based courses wouldn’t either. He urged that the motion be rewritten to remove this potential problem. White said she thought the Committee on Courses could make the necessary revisions in one meeting and get the motion back in time for Senate passage this term, if the Senate was willing to suspend its usual procedural rules.

Colin Koopman noted that the motion had been discussed at the Senate meeting two weeks ago and said he thought the issues raised then had been addressed. He was concerned that last-minute objections were being raised that could have been worked on during the interim. Phillips said the issue he had raised two weeks ago wasn’t fully addressed. While language on logical thinking had been added to the Critical Thinking learning goal, Phillips pointed out that the promised bullet-point for logical thinking had not been added to the five listed criteria under that learning goal. Unless there are six criteria for Critical Thinking and logical thinking is one of them, Phillips feels that many science-based courses will only be able to satisfy two of the criteria, not half or more, and thus won’t qualify as core education courses. White said the Committee on Courses encountered a similar issue when it reviewed the proposed new Multicultural Requirement and was able to easily find a successful solution.

Harbaugh called the question and there were no objections.

**Vote on motion to refer US 17/18–17 to the Committee on Courses for further review. Overwhelmingly – Yes. Moved/Seconded/Carried.**


Sinclair introduced Lee Rumbarger and noted that today’s presentation is intended as an update and discussion on US 17/18 – 18 with a vote to take place at the next Senate meeting in two weeks.
Rumbarger reminded senators that this motion is the result of nearly two years of work by various task forces. She reported that both the Undergraduate Council and the Committee on Courses have carefully reviewed and approved the proposed changes to the UO’s multicultural requirement. The main change involves moving from three categories of required courses to two which better align with faculty preferences and will result in a more targeted student learning experience. Those categories are: “US: Difference, Inequality, Agency” and “Global Perspectives”. The new Core Education Council, Rumbarger said, will be able to update the new program periodically, as needed. Several other members of the Multicultural Requirement Task Force spoke about different aspects of the new program, including Alison Gash, Avinnash Tiwari, and Michael Hames-Garcia.

Lowell Bowditch asked how courses that don’t automatically fit into one of the new categories, such as those dealing with ancient civilizations, will be dealt with. Both Rumbarger and White indicated that all currently-approved multicultural courses would be placed into one of the two new categories and then reviewed over time by the Committee on Courses. White added that if the Committee on Courses runs into a group of courses that they can’t make fit, they will likely come to the Senate and ask that the criteria be revised.

Arian Mobasser asked what had been done to secure student involvement in developing the new program, since this effort had all started with the Black Student Task Force. Tiwari said the task force had listened carefully to what students wanted to see changed and now it was up to the faculty to make those changes. Gash added that the task force had gathered information informally from students, especially in some multicultural classes. Hames-Garcia added that Rumbarger had actively emailed student groups seeking their input.

Jack Boss asked whether the current approach to multicultural courses in the School of Music and Dance where other cultures are often studied through playing original instruments would be continued under the new program. White said those courses would easily fit into the Global Perspectives category.

5. Open Discussion: None

6. Reports: None

7. Notice(s) of Motion:

Keegan Williams-Thomas announced that ASUO President Amy Schenk will be presenting a motion dealing with differential tuition.

8. Other Business: None
Executive Session: The Senate recessed around 4:10 pm to hold an executive session for the purpose of considering four nominees advanced by the Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Service Awards Committee for placement in the pool of approved candidates for honorary doctorate degrees according to UO Policy II.08.03 Granting of Honorary Degrees. An executive session for the purpose of considering honorary degree nominees is authorized by Article 3.10 of the Senate Bylaws.

After considering and voting on each nominee individually, the Senate referred four nominees to the UO President for consideration for honorary degrees.

9. Adjournment: 5:22 pm

Attendance:

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**Guests:** Hannah Kanik, Scott Pratt, Kevin Reed, Melanie Muenzer, Melina Pastos, Ivan Chen, Alison Schmitke, Elizabeth Skowron, Ed Teague, Jason Schreiner, Jason Stone, Lee Rumbarger, Avinnash Tiwari, Alison Gash, Michael Hames-Garcia, Michael Copperman, Patrick Phillips, Ron Bramhall, Aviva Kaye-Diamond, and Amira Borders.