

University Senate Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2019
3:00-5:00 pm
EMU – Crater Lake Rooms

1. Call to order: 3:05pm

1.1 Remarks – University President Schill

For full discussion, please watch the video of the meeting:
<https://media.uoregon.edu/channel/archives/13234>

Highlights:

UO is facing a budget problem.

- Expenses are rising. This year is a “PERS year.” (PERS expenses increase biennially.)
- Enrollment has declined, particularly among international students.
- The state government did not follow through with funding increases Schill had hoped for.
- Cuts will be made based on certain values and priorities.
- Looking at 3% cuts in administrative units, and an aggregate of 1.8% cuts across schools and colleges.
- There will be additional layoffs.
- Schill hopes to rehire some individuals who are laid off into other university job openings, though some budget cuts will be completed using attrition by not filling several roles when persons retire or leave voluntarily.

Provost Banavar is stepping down at end of the academic year.

Schill said he wanted to thank him. There was a round of applause for Banavar.

Schill invited people with thoughts about who should be the interim provost, or with thoughts about the process used for hiring a permanent replacement, to contact him.

Q&A including a question about the state legislature.

1.2 Introductory remarks – Senate President Bill Harbaugh

Highlights:

Over spring break the regional board that accredits UO proposed changes to their accreditation policies, including removal of language on academic freedom, and weakening the mandate for shared governance.

The University Liaison failed to tell anyone, but Harbaugh found through another channel. They have now backed down from the changes, and promised that the liaisons will do a better communicating to universities.

Harbaugh imagines senators might want to discuss budget cuts.

Senate Vice President Elizabeth Skowron is the incoming Senate President. At a later meeting they will talk about process for electing the next President and Vice President.

2. Approval of Minutes: 3:33pm

Motion to approve minutes from [March 13, 2019](#).

Motion passes unanimously by a show of hands.

3. Business & Reports: 3:33

3.1 Discussion: US18/19-14: Phase out Current Student “Course Evaluations” and Replace with Learning-Focused “Student Experience Survey”; Bill Harbaugh (Senate), Sierra Dawson (OtP), Lee Rumbarger (TEP). (Possible vote on April 24th)

Introduction of committee members and timeline of work they have done.

- Explanation of Student Experience Survey.
- Demonstration of what it looks like from the students’ end.
- Designed to hopefully get more actionable feedback.
- Demonstration of what it looks like from instructors’ side.
- Other schools have heard about it, liked it, and even asked to use it.

Harbaugh talked about the motion.

Built into the motion is flexibility for the committee to make changes year to year.

Harbaugh took questions.

- How well the Survey worked with international students
- How it would/could/should be used for instructor evaluations
- How students responded to the new survey
- When during the term students would complete the Survey
- How it dealt with race and gender discrimination

Motion to suspend senate rules to allow voting on the Survey.

Motion passes unanimously by a show of hands.

Concern that it doesn’t address gender and racial biases.

Motion to amend by adding, “The committee will continue to study the issue of biases in student evaluations.” to 2.8

Passes unanimously by a show of hands.

Motion to close debate

Passes unanimously by a show of hands.

Vote on motion to phase out current student “course evaluations” and replace with learning-focused “student experience survey.”

Motion passes unanimously by a show of hands.

applause

3.2 Discussion and Vote: US18/19-10: Academic Continuity Plan policy proposal (REDLINE and CLEAN drafts); Frances White (CoC).

Comments by University President Schill:

- Schill plans to within the next couple of days put something in writing about whether he has the authority in an emergency to enter grades if the Academic Council doesn’t enter grades.
- Harbaugh, used his power as Senate President to say there will not be a vote on the Academic Continuity Plan today.

4. Notice(s) of Motion: 4:48

[US18/19-15: New Program Proposal: Ph.D. in PPPM](#); Rich Margerum

5. Reports: 4:48

5.1 Legislative update, Melanie Muenzer (OtP)

- Update on State Bills concerning higher education, many of which died in committee.
- Request to make specific asks of specific legislators.
- Call script and email template provided.

6. Motion to adjourn: 4:56

Passes unanimously by a show of hands.