

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE FACULTY SENATE**

**NOVEMBER 6, 2013**

**PRESENT:** Boboc, Delatte, Duffy, Ekelman, Genovese, Goodell, Gross, Henry, D. Jackson, Jayanti, M. D. Jones, Kalafatis, Karem, S. Kaufman, Kent, Kosteas, Krebs, Lehfeldt, J. Lieske, Liggett, Little, Majette, Margolius, Marino, Meier, Nawalaniec, Resnick, Rickett, Sridhar, Steinberg, Welfel, Wolf.



yet another expedited project. The State-

respects and the state of our laboratory spaces. Students have come from high schools with laboratories that are better equipped and with more modern laboratories than what they encounter when they come to the university. So, we focused on bringing those laboratories, not just up to step, but also bringing those laboratories into a configuration



Provost Deirdre Mageean said that she would like to spend most of her time talking about the transition that Senate President Goodell mentioned. We are particularly focused on guidelines and principles as well as the transition. As she mentioned at the last Faculty Senate meeting, a Transition Team has been formed to devise this and that team is comprised of Dr. Goodell, President of Faculty Senate, Dr. Nigamanth Sridhar, Vice President of Faculty Senate, Bill Kosteas, chair, University Curriculum Committee, Jim Marino, chair, University Admissions and Standards Committee, Janet Stimple, University Registrar and Kevin Neal, Associate Registrar, Teresa LaGrange, Vice Provost, Peter Meiksins, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and herself. Provost Mageean noted that they have met four times. They will be working every other week to advise us. In addition to the team meeting to look at all of these issues, there may be conversations with various bodies to help inform our decision-making. Provost Mageean said that they have spoken to the Deans, to the Associate Deans and, this morning, Peter Meiksins and Teresa LaGrange were speaking to the counseling advisors because they are after all the troops in the transition dealing with these issues most. Provost Mageean stated that they will also be getting the appropriate feedback from the Admissions and Standards Committee and the University Curriculum Committee. When we have most of that feedback, we will be working to finalize the Transformation Team's principles so we will be setting up document summing along the lines of preparing students for curriculum conversion. We will actually be giving the different kinds of transition guides that apply to students in various disciplines and then some examples of cases that may present themselves.

Provost Mageean noted that they understand that the process is different in every college and Business Administration has a big central advising office and other colleges do as well but we only will be working in coordination and collaboration on this. Clearly, whatever the advice, the principles and guidelines are pretty direct. It is hoped that there will not be too much deviation from these general principles because this is something that has to be set for the whole university. A survey was sent out to each department to help them further with this transition. The survey takes all of five minutes to fill in and that survey should give them information to help them on what additional resources they will need in their departments and colleges to get work done and move the students through on their transition. They recognize that this is going to be a lot of work. In many cases, it will be up to the faculty who know what is best. They understand that for some departments this is particularly onerous. At this point in time, two-thirds of the departments have responded but unfortunately some of them haven't responded yet. Those with the largest numbers of majors, who have the greatest need for resources, have not yet responded to the survey. Really, for five minutes work, we can get you the resources and identify those resources. So it is in the interest of those departments to get those spread sheets filled in and sent back to the Transition Team as soon as possible. Those guidelines that will go out will have the resources that departments need. So

Provost Mageean stated that one group, adjunct faculty, will be affected by this process. There is a difference in how we compensate adjunct faculty – some may be by

parallel. She added that this also means that similar things should be done to other parts of the house. We might be looking at academic resources, looking at efficiencies there, looking at whether there is any possible growth. The President has asked that whatever parts of the university where we can derive efficiencies or savings and then of course we take a look at the university as a whole in understanding how the budget flows and what we do and how we move forward strategically. She stated that her good colleague, Dr. George Walker, is the key point person and he is helping us certainly to move the agenda along and to help coordinate all of those different parts. So, it is not just the academic sector of the house and any and all things, btake a l





Dr. Goodell then stated that the University Curriculum Committee had proposed Undergraduate Program Revisions to the OSM Major and Minor and asked Senators to vote. The proposed Undergraduate Revisions to the OSM Major and Minor were approved unanimously by voice vote.

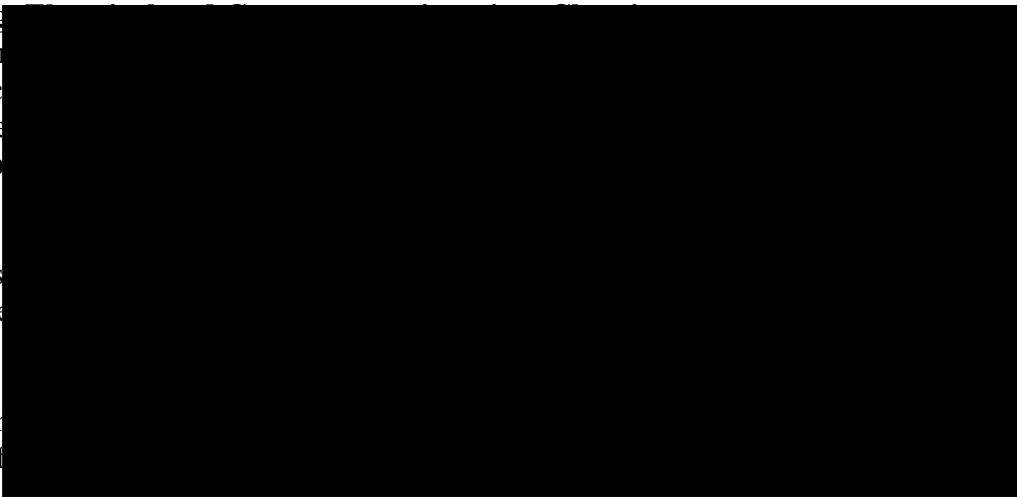
**B. For Informational Purposes Only (Report No. 23, 2013-2014)**

Dr. Kosteas noted that he has also listed “For Informational Purposes Only” items. He stated that the first two items included several hundred undergraduate course revisions and proposals that were approved and a couple of Graduate course revision proposals that were approved. Also the Pre-Development Plan for the Master of Taxation Program was approved.

- 1. Undergraduate Course Revisions as part of the 4 to 3 conversion:  
Biology, Civil Engineering, Engineering Technology, Mechanical  
engineering  
Geology, E**
- 2. Graduate c  
Biology, Ge**
- 3. Other prop  
Program**

There were no ques  
Only” items and Faculty Se  
Curriculum Committee.

Dr. Kosteas stated h  
course program proposals f  
additional course proposal



colleges' proposals are not coming through, the reason is how the UCC prioritizes their agendas – the most time sensitive material is dealt with first.

Finally, Dr. Kosteas wanted to comment on the perception that the UCC is undoing the efforts of the college Curriculum Committees. He added that some people are using the UCC as the scape goat here and that is not always true. He appreciates all of the work the college Curriculum Committees have been doing especially how they have been able to filter out some of the problems with proposals before they make it to the UCC.

Senator Beth Ekelman commented that the details are just mind-boggling so good luck. She said she doesn't know how the UCC is going to do it.

Dr. Kosteas responded that he isn't sure either. He added that to be honest, he knows that faculty have had conversations with their colleagues. This is coming at the expense of our research agendas and he is personally very concerned about that because he sees the prospect of research being put on hold. Given the recent changes that we've had to workload guidelines, he personally wonders how we are



different way in accord with debt service which we place basically in an institutional or non-academic section of the university, the record, say debt service on the College of Education building and place that in the academic area and break out utilities which we have and basically the plant operation of maintenance, then the picture of the percentages would appear in a different way. The presentation that we have here is by these accounting codes so there are some expenditures that would be classified as institutional but really benefit and support things in the academic area. Now we could cut that a different way and give a different presentation of this. We have done it this way for years, not that this is the best way, but at least accounting wise as they come out of our system we use these standard classifications. He noted that it is a little bit misleading and he just needs to point that out for this could be cut and arranged in a little bit of a different way. But, by this measurement, yes, those percentages do exhibit the trend that Dr. Karem is bringing up.

Senator Sanda Kaufman commented that this is very interesting, precisely these trends where all these years are the same.

Mr. Tim Long responded that one of the things you need to keep in mind is that the whole issue of the debt service obligation we've taken on the past five or six years at the university, we are in this presentation, we have the debt service classified as a non-academic for the institution expenditure. He added that has done a lot to basically amplify those percentage differences. He stated Dr. Kaufman's point is well taken on the trends she is seeing, and he wanted to let everyone know that there are significant expenditures and where we classified them on this chart has an effect on that trend.

President Ronald Berkman noted that he wanted to add just one other piece and that also is the recollection in 09 that we took a 15% budget cut from the State which impacted lots of operations. He said that it caused us to move some additional money into scholarship dollars as PELL changed and as the Federal line programs and summer PELL dried up, but we tried to protect all of the PELL students. We didn't have enough



while to ramp up but, Joseph Han and his team have already prepared the project identification list. One of the items on the project list is over by the Main Classroom building at East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. This is the issue with the falling concrete and that project was already underway. We repaired that whole section there which has been not only an eye sore but a safety hazard for a number of years. But we have to prioritize by way of a safety criteria. That process has already started.

Senate Secretary Stephen Duffy said that he would follow up on a previous statement. He noted that at the last PBAC meeting, wasn't it reported that there would be a report from the administrative side of the house on the sense of where the projects are at?

Mr. Long replied that a report would be given at the November 21<sup>st</sup> PBAC meeting.

Dr. Duffy commented, "So there is going to be a PBAC meeting on this question."

Dr. Duffy stated that another question he had relates to not having all of the positions filled. That money is part of the proposed operations budget and it is not getting spent. Dr. Duffy asked, "At the end of the year when you close out the books, where does that money go? Does it move outside the academic side of the books and into reserves?" Dr. Duffy questioned whether the percentages just discussed would be affected by not filling those positions.

Mr. Long responded, "No, because then they are not actual expenditures." President Berkman said that it would affect the percentages discussed if these were actual expenditures. Dr. Duffy stated that his question is

obligation is about \$17million out of our operating budget. It goes to service and the money that we borrowed paying off principal and paying the lender for the use of the money.

President Berkman added that one of the incentives for borrowing the money at that time obviously was the interest rates. He said he believed that we saved \$11 million or \$14 million in the refinancing of the debt. Mr. Long confirmed that it was \$14 million in the refinancing of the debt. President Berkman said that the University was taking advantage of historically low market rates to refinance \$93 million of debt that had been here and had accumulated.

There being no further discussion, the Faculty Senate received the Budget and Finance Committee “For Informational Purposes Only” report on the FY 08 Actual Operating Budget and FY 2014 Budget.

### **VIII. Open Question Time**

Senator Barbara Margolius stated that she had a question for Provost Deirdre Mageean about the effects of the Affordable Care Act on our adjuncts. She said that she is concerned that there are going to be bad decisions with some of our better adjuncts by reducing their work load so we don't have to pay for their health insurance. Dr. Margolius asked, “What is our thinking on that?”

President Berkman replied that what he said to HR and what he will say now is that we are not going to follow the Akron example and move faculty from thirty hours to twenty-nine hours. That is a disadvantage to adjuncts in terms of benefits and we will do wherever we can, remembering that it costs money. The University will respect those who have given service to the University and continue to provide benefits through the Affordable Care Act.

Senator Margolius asked, “How do we compute the hours of the adjuncts who are working?”

Provost Deirdre Mageean responded that she was speaking to Jesse Drucker, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources, and they were talking about that today in light of a report they were reading.



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