



University Senate Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2020

3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

Zoom

Attendance can be found at the bottom of the page.

Call to Order: 3:03 P.M.

Land Acknowledgment; **Elliot Berkman**

"Kalapuya Ilihi:

The University of Oregon is located within the traditional homelands of the Southern Kalapuya. Following the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855, Kalapuya people were forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. Today, descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon."

Introductory Remarks:

Elliot Berkman, Senate President

- Senate's Anti-Racism work is continuing. Will roll out self-study academy in January 2021. Will include discussion groups. All materials will be shared so units can adapt and follow along at their own pace. Will be inviting the Board of Trustees to participate as well.
- During 2019-2020 year, Senate was charged with reviewing the Senate Bylaws. Suggestions will be rolled out as a series of motions in coming months. First one will address the rules for changing the Bylaws, changing voting requirements from 1/2 to 2/3.
- Minor agenda updates – UOPD discussion will be postponed until a future meeting.

Claire O'Connor, ASUO Senate President

- Prepared statement from ASUO leadership and ASUO Senate:

"Dear University Senate,

As representatives from the ASUO Senate, and members of the University Senate, we want to amplify the priorities of Disarm UOPD, BIPOC Liberation Collective, and the ASUO Executive and ASUO Senate:

We have read President Schill's recent statement on police reform, and oppose the broad, general statement that there is "no scenario" where the university would disband the UOPD or shift to an unarmed security force. We are asking the members of the University Senate to think outside of the two options that President Schill has posed for public safety. We believe there are more options than just relying on UOPD or Eugene PD.



In this statement, President Schill states there is a need for an armed police force because “on a regular basis, our police officers confront criminals or face serious situations on or near campus that require them to have the full array of law enforcement tools at their disposal to protect the community”. This is unfounded, and as shown by the ASUO Executive Memorandum released this October, according to “UOPD’s own 2018 statistics, only 16 out of 1,344 reported campus crimes were violent crimes or weapons arrests—less than 1.2%.”

To say that there is no way to protect the safety of students without armed patrols that threaten students, in particular BIPOC, LGBTQ and differently-abled students, is unimaginative and harmful, and lacks a drive for real change that UO administrators have continually promised. Currently, in our local area, of a school of similar size, and in an even larger city, has started the process of disarming their officers. Portland State University’s President Percy has begun the change to disarm their police officers on campus. The University of Oregon should follow their lead.

Closing the window to disarmament *fully diminishes and invalidates the concerns* of Disarm UOPD, BIPOC Liberation Collective, ASUO Executive, ASUO Senate and many other Eugene and UO student groups that the UO serves and has communal ties with. We believe that UO’s angle for public safety should not center an armed police force and should not come from the angle of violence, control, and reaction. We ask that the priority is instead of community care, prevention, and centers historically underserved groups.

As students living in Eugene, students hearing the concerns of multiple community and student groups and as ASUO representatives, we ask that the University Senate joins us in demanding that UO disarms UOPD, UO divests from prison labor, UO cuts all ties with Eugene PD, and that UO expands relationships with CAHOOTS and other non-police community safety measures.

Signed,

ASUO-Appointed Senate Members to the University Senate”

Will return as discussion topic when UOPD personnel are able to attend.

State of the University:

UO Provost Patrick Phillips

- Official opening of Knight Campus building to occur at 5:30 P.M. Will be virtual and folks are invited to join us. Success in hiring of several new faculty. Senate has recently approved several new programs that will be housed in Knight Campus. Value of new campus has become quite valuable during pandemic for testing as primary site for new state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.



- Over last year and a half, initiatives underway:
 - environment (open Qualtrics survey for people to provide feedback), visioning workshops. Early 2021 will put together list of priorities and create an advisory group to oversee next steps.
 - Diversity Center and campus conversations – early in new year. Already had broad conversations with sports and wellness units on campus.
 - We are going to hire new faculty via the Institutional Hiring Plan process.
- Congratulations to Doneka Scott’s new Vice Provost position in North Carolina. We will miss her leadership and contributions here at UO, but we celebrate her success and wish her well. Kimberly Johnson, currently director of advising center, has agreed to serve as the Interim Vice Provost for Student Success. Note: are part of our Common Reading Program we are reading Kimberly’s book this year. We are pleased to have her expertise and experience in this role as we continue innovating in the area of student success.
- We anticipate some additional restrictions on class sizes as we move into winter term. We appreciate faculty and staff remaining calm and continuing to move forward deliberately during these hard times and we appreciate the burden and impact on everyone involved, including the increased mental health challenges particularly for students.
- No new information on vaccines, but we will let you know as soon as we have any new details. We anticipate we will serve a role in the distribution to the local Lane County community as we have the specialized freezers needed to store the vaccines.
- Spring 2021 instruction will likely continue with mostly remote instruction, with the expansion of in-person delivery as it becomes safer to do so. We anticipate a different model for fall as more and more folks become vaccinated.
- We anticipate a smallish budget cut, but we are doing pretty well at the moment. More information will be provided as new details are shared with us from the Governor’s office.
- Question regarding changes in tenure/promotion processes. Answer: Gabe Paquette and Janet Woodruff-Borden will be attending a future senate meeting to provide more information on this subject. UO tends to endorse all files for approval, - is that the way that institutions operation generally? There are equity issues – 30% extra space given for scholarly activity. Is that time well-spent among our faculty? Lower-paid faculty asked to spend their full time teaching, should they be given more time for scholarly activity. Important to look at why tenure exists. We will have a more in-depth discussion at a future meeting where we can dig deeper into these and other issues.

Approval of the Minutes:

- November 4, 2020

The minutes stand as approved.

New Business:



- **US20/21-02: Approval of Curriculum Report, Fall Term 2020**

Minor tweak to report submitted. Will provide an updated pdf shortly.

Vote: M/C – approved by acclamation.

- **US20/21-01: New Program Proposal – BFA in Dance**

New degree has been considered internally for about a decade. Dance department have been on campus for more than a century now, with notable faculty and students.

Department looking to provide the first BFA in Dance program in the state of Oregon. We are losing students to other institutions due to this gap. Will be only program in the U.S. to offer equal emphasis on dances of the African diaspora and those of European roots. Looking to double number of Dance majors by AY 2024, as well as more diverse students and faculty.

No need for additional resources other than hiring a replacement for a retiring faculty member. No additional financial support or studio space needed.

Looking to welcome first BFA class by Fall 2021.

Vote: M/S/C – 41 in favor, 0 in opposition, 0 abstentions.

- **COVID updates; Andre Le Duc**

State has taken on color-coded risk level system and will be sunsetting their phase/reopening model as of tomorrow, alleviating the UO need to maintain such a system. Higher Ed still under Exec Order 2028 and Oregon Health Authority guidance of June 12th. We're waiting to see if they make any adjustments to how we are allowed to operate within our health and safety plan.

Major impacts we will see are sector/subsector specific guidance for things like daycare, museums, etc. that do not tie directly to the instructional aspect. Lane County will be in the "extreme" category starting tomorrow, meaning our rec center, museums and other centers will remain closed for a while.

Initial big wave of cases among off- campus students has largely tapered off, whereas local community case load continues to go up. Have recently done 16,500 tests of students in past 8 weeks, with 8 positive results. We have never gone over 1% positive rates.

Open Discussion:

- UOPD; Chief Carmichael, Jamie Moffitt, Andre Le Duc

***Discussion postponed due to family emergency of one of the presenters.

- Enrollment updates; Roger Thompson, Admissions ([link slides for folks](#))



- Students and parents expressing frustration and dissatisfaction with recorded lectures.
- Hard term for freshmen in particular. Admissions hope university will be more lenient and forgiving this term.
- Record numbers of mental health needs.
- Incoming class number for Fall 2020 nearly identical to Fall 2017.
- Massive impacts on community college enrollments from COVID, which is going to impact our transfer numbers for the next couple of years.
- See slides for additional details.
- Faculty Trustee Endorsement Process; Laura Lee McIntyre
 - Bring back to senate to review what we're looking for in candidates – early Feb mtg.
 - Trustee should be highly committed and engaged with all aspects of the University of Oregon. The Trustee is a fiduciary for the institution and does not make decisions for the unit or discipline, but for university as a whole, deep commitment that goes beyond serving ones' own interests. Really helpful to have previous university-wide experience like UO Senate and university/admin committees with far-reaching campus impact (gives you some of the background and experience needed to understand how things at UO work).
 - Both faculty trustees thus far have come from the Professional Schools (Law, Education). Terms are 2 years, with an opportunity to be reappointed.
 - Workload: quarterly meetings (well structured), small group prep calls, prep reading materials (posted on Board website), office hours with campus personnel, one-on-one meetings with interested parties, optional opportunities (such as InsideOut program in Oregon prisons).
 - Timeline is a bit fluid: deadline for application materials might be sometime in March.

Reports: None

Notice of Motion:

- Ph.D. in Spanish
- Bylaws updates
- CIET teaching evaluation criteria

Other Business:

Adjournment: 5:02 P.M.

Attendance:

Present: Randy Sullivan, Sandy Weintraub (Parliamentarian), Josh Razink, Raul Patel, Hans Dreyer, Irisa Mehta, Michelle Wood, Betina Lynn (Senate Executive Coordinator), Jenna Travers, Tom Greenbowe,



Tina Ching, Beth Harn, Alejandro Vallega, Sylvan Lionni, Allen Malony, N. Chris Phillips, Becky Girvan, Frances White, Jay Butler, Stephanie Prentiss, Robin Clement, Ella Meloy, Elliot Berkman (Senate President), Stephanie Majewski, Michael Schill (UO President), Don Daniels, Melissa Brunkan, Colin Koopman, Anthony Hornof, Kelly Sutherland, Jessica Cronce, Annika Mayne, Edward Davis, Gina Biancarosa, Suzie Stadelman, Josh Skov, Autumn Shafer, Jason Silveira, Zhuo Jing-Schmidt, Johnny Earl (in for Theo Ko Thompson), Samantha Hopkins, Gabriele Hayden, Gerardo Sandoval, Sam Stroich, Jen Reynolds, Nico Larco, Renee Irvin, Matthew Norton

Excused: Craig Kauffman

Absent:

Guests: Melanie Muenzer, Jesse Summers, Joanna Mann, Keith Frazee, Janet Woodruff-Borden, Ron Bramhall, Elizabeth Radcliff, Angela Wilhelms, Marcella Buser, Patrick Phillips, Sarah Strickler, Tim Inman, Greg Stripp, Brad Garner, Zach Hermens, Andre Le Duc, Roger Thompson, Laura Lee McIntyre, Eileen Otis, Kevin Reed