

**College of Arts and Sciences
Assembly Meeting
Minutes
November 18, 2008
Oakland Center, Oakland Room**

Members present: Bekele, Berven, D., Berven K., Clason, Cole, Connery, Eis, Evans, Gooren, Grossman, Hansen, Kerrigan, Khain, Levinson, McDonald, Nixon, Ostergaard, Purcell, Schmidt, Spagnuolo, Stamps, Stoffan, Youngquist

Ex-Officio present: Michelle Piskulich, Kathy Moore, Ron Sudol

1. Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the October 21, 2008 meeting were approved.

2. Information items: (Non-degree) Undergraduate Performance Certificate in Piano, and (Non-degree) Graduate Performance Certificate in Piano

Jackie Wiggins (chair, Music, Theatre and Dance) was present to explain and take questions concerning the non-degree Undergraduate Performance Certificate in Piano and the non-degree Graduate Performance Certificate in Piano. These certificate programs are aimed primarily, although not exclusively, at foreign students whose piano skills are at a very high level but whose English skills are as yet undeveloped. The certificate would create opportunities for excellent musicians to come to OU to study who would have been unable to enter as regular students because of their lack of English. The idea would be that they could be admitted to the program with a slightly lesser TOEFL score than OU's normal minimum. After obtaining the two-year certificate, the assumption—based upon experience with similar programs in other countries—would be that their language skills would soon improve. And after two years, they should be able to enter a regular degree program, either at OU or elsewhere. The required courses in the certificate programs would not require a high level of English. Furthermore, these students would not be allowed to take classes in other departments, where their lack of facility with English would be a problem. Ms. Wiggins pointed out that there would be many advantages to having these musicians on our campus. For example, it would be extremely motivational for American students, who would benefit by being able to observe the practice routines of performers of this high caliber. Also, there would be opportunities for collaboration in many ways and opportunities for the OU community to hear performances of their music. Richard Stamps asked if the department had enough good pianos to accommodate the pianists, and Ms. Wiggins affirmed that they do. Mr. Stamps then proposed a resolution of support for the undergraduate and graduate certificate programs, and there was a unanimous voice of support among Assembly members.

3. College Update

- Dean Sudol summarized President Russi's leadership talk that had taken place earlier that day. He said that the university's strategy for dealing with the world-wide economic crisis will not be to follow a corporate model (making cuts) because we are on a growth

mode. Instead, OU's approach will be to meet the revenue challenge. We will proceed with the 2020 plan but with a tightening of budgets to meet the economic pressures. To this end, the university will energetically promote the image of a high quality education at an affordable price. Karen Miller (History) added that there will be discussion of how to improve financial aid to help students attend OU. Chris Clason (MLL) pointed out that if students do their first two years at a community college, we need to get them to come to OU for their last two years. Richard Stamps (Sociology and Anthropology) said that we need to evaluate ourselves to make sure we are as good as we say we are, and to make sure teaching and engaging students is a top priority. Keith Berven (Biology) pointed out that at other universities with graduate programs, they have graduate faculty who only teach graduate programs. This is a key factor in the quality of graduate programs. Associate Dean Kathy Moore said there will be a follow-up email and letter from the president asking all faculty members for suggestions and ideas, and she encouraged everyone to respond.

- Dean Sudol distributed a leaflet entitled *Liberal Education & America's Promise* from the Association of American Colleges and Universities. He expressed his appreciation at their success in finding a common vocabulary for what we do. He encouraged CAS Assembly members to observe how the leaflet highlights the shift from faculty output to student learning outcomes that has occurred in education since the 1950's, and shows what the CAS enables and prepares students to do across the majors and disciplines within the College. He observed that the ideas outlined in the leaflet should be a part of the present College discussion involving distribution requirements and will be a regular subject of discussion throughout the rest of the year.
- Associate Dean Michelle Piskulich talked about efforts being made at the University Senate level to shorten the length of new-program proposals, which have recently become so long that only the most diligent committee members actually read them. The proposals need to be shorter and more focused. Also, a significant problem that has arisen affecting the ability to move proposals efficiently through the Senate Review committees is that meetings routinely do not have a quorum. This causes delays in getting work done. Karen Miller observed that meeting times should be established ahead of time so that faculty members who volunteer for these committees can know in advance of volunteering if the meeting will take place at a time when they can actually attend. Richard Stamps supported this idea and observed that it used to be this way, but for some reason that tradition had ended.
- George Stoffan (Music, Theatre and Dance) updated the Assembly on his efforts at recruiting musicians in area high schools. He has found that OU is generally not in their stream of consciousness and believes that we need to do a better job of advertising our programs and marketing ourselves. Dean Sudol said that there is a big effort to do this in Utica but agreed that community orientation could be improved. He pointed out that the new Art Center in Rochester will be an excellent way for OU to be observed by Rochester in a brand new light. Fay Hansen (Biology) expressed concern that in the community there are still people who do not know the difference between OU and OCC. Natalie Cole (English) said we could do a better job at getting secondary education teachers here for continuing education credits. We need to get high school teachers to spread the word about us when they come to OU for continuing education courses. Chris

Clason suggested that we need a program that gets faculty into the schools where students can meet them because this might encourage the students to attend OU.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven