

Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
April 24, 2026

**RESOLUTION FOR MODIFICATION OF OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S UNIVERSITY
COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE INSTRUCTION POLICY ON DEGREE
REQUIREMENTS**
A Recommendation

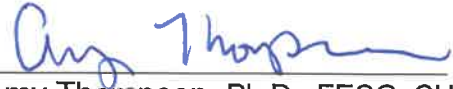
1. **Division and Department:** Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.
2. **Introduction:** Oakland University's University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) is proposing to change the Undergraduate Degree Requirements Policy. The modifications proposed impact the upper-level degree requirements in the Undergraduate catalog, in the following sections; (1) Undergraduate Degree Requirements, (2) Dual Degrees, (3) Post-Baccalaureate (PB) Students, and (4) University Honors changing from 32 credits in courses at the 3000 level or above to 30 credits in courses at the 3000 level or above, and if pursuing a Dual Degree, changing from 16 credits at the 3000 level to 15. This change is to create alignment in the catalog with the Undergraduate Residency Requirements approved at the November 20, 2025, University Senate Meeting.
3. **Previous Board Action:** None.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** None.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** UCUI and Senate.
8. **Recommendation:**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approve the Undergraduate Degree Requirement Policy, to become effective immediately.

**Modification of the Undergraduate Degree Requirement Policy
Oakland University
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Page 2**

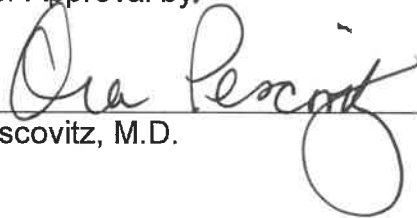
9. **Attachments:** Senate Meeting Minutes.

Submitted to the President
on April 7, 2026 by



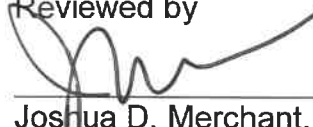
Amy Thompson, Ph.D., FESG, CHES
Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 4/9, 2026
to the Board for Approval by



Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Reviewed by



Joshua D. Merchant, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Senate Minutes
November 20, 2025

Members present: *Al-Shabrawey, Aloi, Arena, Ausloos, Ball, Bartley, Battles, Blumer-Schuette, Boruff-Jones, Carver, Chamra, Chapman, Coleman, Craig, Debnath, Dempsey, DeVore, Dinda, Discenna, Dunn, Dwyer, Edrisinha, Gilson, Govind, Grace, Guessous, Guest, Hartmus, Hoag, Hodge, Hurse (for Wadsworth), Jamieson, Johnson, Kttner, Kauric-Klein, Kies, Landis-Piwowar, Landolt, Kozak, Margerum-Leys, Mathew, Matthews, Mcculloch, Merchant, Naus, Mitton, Nielsen, Pierce, Piscotty, Pratt, Rohn, Shesko, Thompson, Tiegs, Tilashalski, VanLoon, Wasserman, Wendell, Westergaard*

Members absent: *Carpenter, Hansen, Knox, Olawoyin, Rawashdeh, Williams*

Provost Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS:

- Motion approved to change the Undergraduate Residency requirement to 30 credits.
- Motion approved to change the withdrawal from classes deadline to 12 weeks for a regular semester, and 6 weeks for the ½ semester classes.

1. INFORMATION ITEMS

1.1. Provost Updates

Provost Thompson thanked all who submitted midterm grades. She announced that the winner of midterm grade trophy plus lunch for the entire department was Dean Chamra. She stated that she wants to continue to build up participation in the midterm grade project in the Spring semester.

She announced that she wants to create a Faculty Advisory Committee, and to use the group to be an advisory board to her with bi-directional communication. She said she will be launching a monthly 'Breakfast with the Provost' with 15 to 20 people at once.

She said she wants to continue to improve communications on campus, and has launched a President Leadership Council which is made up of 125 people across the whole university and meeting quarterly as a way to push out information and improve communication.

With reference to the developments within the Department of Education at the national level, she asserted that this is the most significant re-organizaion in its 45-year history.

1.2. Graduate School Curriculum Submissions (none)

Provost Thompson provided the opportunity for questions or comments about the informational items listed below (1.3.1 – 1.5). There were no comments.

1.3. Undergraduate Curriculum Submissions

- 1.3.1. Certificate in Disability Awareness and Literacy, new 12-credit certificate created from existing Communication courses to provide a non-degree program that will complement other training, support applications for graduate programs, and/or potential employment in**

- the field; Department of Communication, Journalism and Public Relations, College of Arts and Sciences (Kathleen Battles)
- 1.3.2. **Certificate in French Competency, new** 12-credit language certificate program designed to provide students with a strong knowledge base and practical communicative skills in the French language, Department of Modern Languages, College of Arts and Sciences (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo)
 - 1.3.3. **Two Modern Languages, B.A., modification** to add Chinese courses to ensure consistency, and expands options for students with east Asian language interests, Department of Modern Languages, College of Arts and Sciences (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo)
 - 1.3.4. **Creative Writing Minor, modification** to reduce the number of credits in the minor from 24 to 16, Department of English, Creative Writing and Film, College of Arts and Sciences (Rob Anderson)
 - 1.3.5. **Film Minor, modification** to reduce the number of credits in the minor from 24 to 16, Department of English, Creative Writing and Film, College of Arts and Sciences (Rob Anderson)
 - 1.3.6. **Business Administration, Human Resource Management, B.S., modification** to change the modality, by adding partially online (Half or more of the program courses are delivered online) Department of Management and Marketing, School of Business Administration (Janell Townsend)
 - 1.3.7. **Business Administration, Management, B.S., modification** to change the modality, by adding partially online (Half or more of the program courses are delivered online) Department of Management and Marketing, School of Business Administration (Janell Townsend)
 - 1.3.8. **Business Administration, Marketing, B.S., modification** to change the modality, by adding partially online (Half or more of the program courses are delivered online) Department of Management and Marketing, School of Business Administration (Janell Townsend)
 - 1.3.9. **Business Minor (non-business students), modification** to add a management (MGT) course to the electives, Department of Management and Marketing, School of Business Administration (Janell Townsend)
 - 1.3.10. **Entrepreneurship Minor, modification** to add a management (MGT) course to the electives, Department of Management and Marketing, School of Business Administration (Janell Townsend)
 - 1.3.11. **Sport Management Minor, modification** to add a management (MGT) course to the electives, Department of Management and Marketing, School of Business Administration (Janell Townsend)
 - 1.3.12. **Anthropology, B.A., Concentration in Linguistics, discontinue the concentration** in Linguistics, due to low enrollment and based on suggestion of the external reviewer. Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)
 - 1.3.13. **Archaeology Concentration, discontinue the concentration** in order to streamline the curricular offerings and expedite students'

- progress to degree. Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)
- 1.3.14. **Sociology, B.A., Concentration in Linguistics, discontinue the concentration** in Linguistics, due to low enrollment and based on suggestion of the external reviewer. Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)
- 1.3.15. **Urban Studies Concentration, discontinue the concentration** due to low enrollment, an overly structured and highly demanding requirements, and lack of a director. Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)
- 1.3.16. **Urban and Regional Studies Minor, new minor** to fulfill Oakland University's third goal listed in its 2025 Strategic Plan which aims to become a leader in serving the needs and aspirations of our communities and region through expanded community relationships, institutional reputation and visibility, and engagement. Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)
- 1.3.17. **Gerontology Concentration, modification** to reduce the number of credits in the concentration from 28 to 20, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Maria Beam)
- 1.3.18. **Addiction Studies Concentration, modification** to reduce the number of credits in the concentration from 28 to 20, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Maria Beam)

1.4. Combined Graduate School and Undergraduate Curriculum Submissions
(None)

1.5. **Update the Senate Committee (Co)Chairs for the Senate Record - Amy Banes-Berceli .**

Classroom Use & Academic Scheduling Committee

Chris Goeth (Co-Chair)

Janelle Townsend (SBA) (Co-Chair)

Service Learning Committee

Deidre Hurse (SOM)

1.6. **Facilities Shutdown Update and Data Center Update (Steve Mackey, Penny Vigneau)**

Steve Mackey and Penny Vigneau were present to provide updates on 1) the campus facilities shutdown, and 2) the proposal being created for the construction of a Data Center on campus.

1) Campus closure: Mr. Mackey explained that there had been a leak in one of the main lines but that now everything was in place to start taking the system down on Friday, November 21 to do the repairs. He said the goal is to keep the buildings above the freeze point to make sure

nothing else freezes. He thanked everyone for rallying together during this abnormal situation to figure out how to get through with the least disruption to students. As far as how students will be taken care of who remain on campus, a student explained that Hillcrest will be open from 11:00-7:00 Monday through Wednesday.

2) OU Data Center: Mr. Mackey began by saying that his committee has been doing their shared governance presentations as they get ready to submit a proposal for a data center, and this visit to the Senate was the sixth presentation. He assured Senators that they are in the contracting phase in order to enter into due diligence. He clarified that now there is a plan to explore building a data center, but there is not a plan to build one yet. The target date to bring a plan to the BOT is April 2026. Penny Vigneau (Exec Dir for Economic Development) continued the update, saying that the idea of a Data Center came about as part of the Strategic Vision and wanting to find increased revenue for the university in order to be ready for uncertainties in the future. She said they will enter into Public-Private Partnership (P3) to share in project costs (capital and operating) as well as project revenues. She pointed out that there are already a number of P3s on campus. She explained that the Center would be built in the P35 parking lot which is near the DTE substation, chosen because that is already a paved space and thus would not use up green space. She said that a data center would free up space in Dodge Hall where there is already a data center—this space would be available for more research laboratories. She emphasized that the data center is NOT a huge one, with 3600 megawatts. She said it will be an edge data center focused on inference artificial intelligence. She pointed out that they may talk to hyper scale tenants but it is not a proposal for a hyper scale data center. She emphasized that they want to bring in tenants who will partner with OU on OU's initiatives. She said an advantage is that this would create an OU AI Institute, and provide technology and services to students of the future. She clarified that they are focused on sustainability—for example, waste-heat offtake, closed loop water cooling system, diesel for backup generators, all of which would be built at no cost to OU, though it would include a new OU data center with state of the art computing technology. She stated that they already went through an RFP process and four vendors have submitted bids. Of these, they have selected Fairmount Properties for several reasons. She provided their expected timeline starting in June 2025 to Summer/Fall 2026 at which time they would identify tenants, finalize programming and design, and begin construction. During the Winter semester, they expect to complete due diligence and develop a business plan. She said they will seek feedback as to who will be the best partners for OU. She explained what the pre-development design process provides the certifications needed such as the environmental impact studies that have to be done, among other steps. She acknowledged that there are concerns about this project on campus.

Q: Mr. Dinda asked about the impact on the power and the water system, noting that the OU water pipes are very old. A: Ms. Vigneau stated that OU has a closed loop system, with 40% of power coming from the outside. This site will not require hundreds of thousands of water every year via a closed loop system and she said that hopefully it will have nothing to do with the water grid. She added that data centers must be fed from municipal water but it is about what happens to the water going out, not so much about the water coming in. Q: Mr. Mitton asked if there are problems with the data center we have on campus now. A: Ms. Vigneau replied that part of the proposed project is to relocate that data center

because the current one is 125 kilowatts which is considered tiny, whereas the new center is expected to help our AI computer systems on campus. She noted that the present one is hard to cool. She said they are excited about the potential for creating a center with this much capacity on the OU campus.

1.7. Senate Mental Health Committee Update: REACH Update

Terry Dibble and Sara Beckett were present to provide an update on the Reach Project having to do with mental health on campus, and Sara Beckett provided the overview. Ms. Beckett explained that the project grew out of a grant and now they want to outlive the grant itself. They have created a student crisis triage map/suicide crisis map with explanations how to approach and create a universal campus-wide protocol. She said this was created by a committee of members from the office of the Dean of Students, OUCC, OUPD, ResLife, Graham Health Center, with an objective to come up with a protocol that is evidence-based. She went over the map to show how it would identify warning signs and what the warning signs look like (missing class, disturbing writing in assignments, changes in hygiene, etc). If a faculty or staff identify warning signs, they have provided a detailed map to explain how the situations should be approached in view of numerous possible scenarios. The goal is to make sure all the help is being given to students that is possible. She included a reminder that faculty and staff should keep track of their own mental health as well. She indicated that the next step is to present the triage map to faculty and staff across campus, roll out an e-Space course for training, and creating an easily accessible place for the map to be online.

1.8. Student Employment Experience

Wayne Thibodeau and Nicole Boelk were present to introduce a tool on campus to help students understand how to use competency feedback. This will help students to realize how knowledge obtained in student jobs can be transferred to jobs and careers after graduation. Mr. Thibodeau said students need to learn how to communicate transferable skills in their career opportunities and interviews. He indicated that this is a tool to use to measure career readiness competencies and measure growth at the end of employment. He announced that there would be workshops for students and supervisors for ongoing training.

2. APPROVAL of [Minutes from October 16, 2025](#)

The motion was made to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 16, 2025. (Guessous, Mitton)

The motion was approved. (54 yes, 0 no)

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1. SUBSTANTIVE MOTION from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) to change the Undergraduate Residency Requirement

Policy in the Undergraduate Catalog to reduce the undergraduate residency requirement from 45 credits to 30 credits in order to better align with the Michigan public institutions and to better support our students' academic progress. (Kristin Landis-Piwowar)

MOVED to reduce the undergraduate residency requirement from 45 credits to 30 credits as outlined.

The motion was approved. (49 yes, 2 no)

- 3.2. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** brought forward by The Committee on Academic Recovery and Success (CARS) proposing an updated University Dropping and Withdrawing from Classes Policy that extends the deadline to withdraw from a class and earn a W grade through the final day of classes (i.e., last day before final exams). The updated policy, which was approved by both UCUI and Graduate Council, is a student-centered policy aimed at enhancing student persistence and retention and decreasing negative academic and financial aid consequences for students who experience academic or personal challenges during the semester. (Neil Baumgartner, Rebecca Malesta, Nick Sanders, Audra Slocum)

MOVED to accept the revisions to the University Dropping and Withdrawing from Classes Policy as outlined.

Nick Sanders was present from CARS to summarize the notion that GPA at the end of the first year is a strong predictor of student success and graduation. He said that the idea with the new withdrawal proposal is to support an equity-based policy, especially in that first year for individuals who need flexible support.

Ms. Slocum (CARS committee member) said they are motivated by how to increase success for students, and opportunities for persistence, better grasp of initial concepts, help students recover from early struggles due to unforeseen personal circumstances to salvage a passing grade and have a better chance of success the second time they repeat a course. She stressed that not all struggles are academic in nature and challenges are not confined to the first half of the semester. She noted that this is also tied to whether students can get financial aid when retaking a class. Classes that are no longer needed are not covered by financial aid, so for a student changing major who was taking a course they failed, they will not get aid to retake the course and the F would stay on their record, if they can't afford to retake the course.

A very animated and lengthy discussion of this proposal/motion then took place. To hear the whole discussion, the recording of the Senate meeting is available in the archives. The following include highlights:

Ms. Mathew stepped up to provide results of research that she had done into the subject of withdrawal and she provided a summary of what she had learned. She then offered the following amendment to the motion:

Amendment: 'To strike the words "the last day of classes for each respective course length" in the motion, and insert: "the tenth week in a full semester and the fifth week of a half semester. Courses of other lengths have a withdrawal period based on their duration."' (Seonded by Govind)

Mr. Wasserman noted that for student transcripts, F's are just as harmful as W's. Ms. Catner stated that the tenth week is very tight and is not going to help students to graduate and is not much different from the motion.

The motion was approved. (32 yes, 21 no)

Ms. Tilashalski then told the tale of how badly she had done in math as an undergraduate, no matter how hard she tried. She said this proposed policy would have encouraged her to keep trying without risking her entire future back then, because she would have had time to keep trying.

Ms. Guessous said that one point to consider was impact of new financial aid rules that would affect the students being able to retake the class over again. She asked if there can be other remedies if, for example, a student changes majors and no longer needs a class that they were doing poorly in.

Ms. Boelk (Financial Aid) pointed out that the federal regulations cannot be changed by OU. But internally, they have tried to help students not to lose their financial aid eligibility.

Ms. Drummer said the Student Congress had passed a resolution to extend the withdraw policy to 12 weeks. She encouraged Senators to vote for the motion. Mr. Govind said he has done research that shows that every time students have a W on their transcript, this decreases chances of success. He was concerned that this policy would increase the number of Ws a student gets, which does not help student success.

Mr. Sanders said an F grade also does that also.

Ms. Westergaard (Registrar) suggested that Senators could consider 12 weeks as an option. She offered the following amendment:

Amendment: To move the deadline to the 12th week in a full semester, and the 6th in a half semester.

(Seconded by Gilson)

There was then a ***motion to end the debate on the amendment*** (Mathew, Ball)

However, this motion was not approved (26 yes, 24 no), the reason being that 2/3 of those voting is needed for this kind of a motion.

Ms. Catner asked for clarification on the data presented to UCUI in the spring.

Mr. Sanders noted that two or three other Michigan universities have policies similar to the proposal the CARS committee was making.

A student who has counseled others on whether or not to withdraw said that he thinks the 12 weeks is the best option. Ms. Drummer added that Macomb Community has a 12 week withdrawal deadline, and Oakland Community is about the 12 week as well. She noted that this is the point in the semester when the highest spike in mental health crises historically occurs.

Ms. Mathew then ***moved to adjourn the meeting*** (seconded by Mr. Wasserman)

This motion did not pass. (25 yes, 26 no)

The vote was then taken on the amendment (to extend the deadline to 12 weeks (regular semester) and 6 weeks (half semester)).

The motion was approved. (29 yes, 22 no)

The concern was expressed by a Senator that a deadline of six weeks could affect faculty evaluations in the short courses, and this was acknowledged by Mr. Sanders.

Ms. Westergaard noted that the date of withdrawal does vary by the academic calendar so the entire matter could reasonably be taken up by the Academic Development Committee.

Mr. Wasserman observed that since we have had multiple readings, arguments and analyses about this policy, and now we have the 12 week suggestion made at this meeting, he suggested that Senators need more time to think about the matter.

The original amended motion was then approved. (28 yes, 22 no)

At this point in the meeting, due to the extraordinarily lengthy discussion, we were well beyond the normal Senate meeting time of two hours, Provost Thompson said she would entertain a motion to adjourn. The motion was made to adjourn. (DeVore, Kies)

The motion was approved (41 yes, 3 no)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dikka Berven (Senate Secretary)

Appendix A (for February 19, 2026):

Oakland University Senate Agenda

Updated by the Senate Steering Committee
February 17, 2026 @ 5:00 pm

Meeting Details

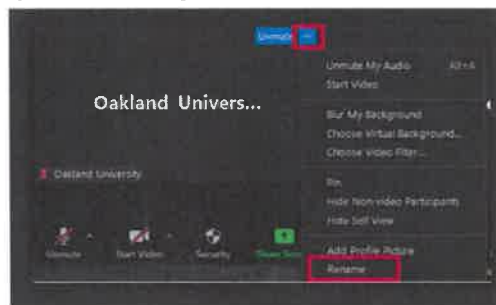
February 19, 2026

Meeting Time: 3:10 pm

Hyflex: Oakland Center - Banquet Room B or [ZOOM Registration Link](#)

Meeting Materials and Documents

- Only elected [senators](#) for the 2025-2027 term may vote
- Vote Yes (1) or No (2)
- If you wish to Abstain, simply do not vote
- If you are attending remotely, please rename yourself for voting purposes. To rename yourself-- hover over individual icon (2) click the 3 horizontal dots (3) click "rename" and rename yourself using SEN and first and last name (ie: SENKevinBall, SENKarenMiller)



-
- If senators leave the meeting, or join late, they are required to indicate *via* the Zoom chat for the minutes. Your departure or arrival may affect having a quorum that is necessary for a vote.
- If attending virtually and have a question or comment, please raise your virtual hand and turn on your camera.
- If attending virtually please have your camera turned on especially if you are speaking.

1. Informational Items

1.1. Provost Updates

1.2. Graduate School Curriculum Submissions

- 1.2.1. **Leadership, EdS, name change to Education Leadership, Ed.S and graduate program modification to begin Winter 2026;** reduce the number of required credits from 34 to 30 through the deletion of two courses each worth 2 credits, and modify the curriculum to merge two courses each worth two credits into a single course worth 4 credits; Department of Organizational Leadership, School of Education and Human Service (Eileen Johnson)
- 1.2.2. **Finance, MS, graduate program modification** to change the program description and reclassify FIN 5760 from an elective to a required course; Department of Accounting and Finance, School of Business Administration (Ranadeb Chaudhuri, Paul Trumbull)
- 1.2.3. **Human Movement Science, PhD, graduate program modification** to add credit for prior learning; Department of Human Movement Sciences, School of Health Science (Kristine Thompson)
- 1.2.4. **Graduate Transfer Credit, Graduate School Policy revision** to reduce the percentage of credits required to be earned at Oakland University for a graduate certificate, master's or doctoral degree from 51% to 50%; Graduate Council (Brandy Randall)
- 1.2.5. **Computer Science and Informatics, PhD, graduate program modification,** to modify the list of Foundational Courses, and remove CSI 7995 and CSI 7940 as required courses, add the requirement that students take 12 credits from one of the tracks that are offered, and clarify that a credit reduction for a master's would reduce the required number of electives; Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science (Guangzhi Qu, Lanyu Xu)
- 1.2.6. **Biomedical Sciences: Medical Physics, PhD, graduate program modification and name change to Biomedical Physics: Doctor of Philosophy and modification** to discontinue allowing students to take upper-level undergraduate courses, to allow interdisciplinary Directed Reading courses, and to shorten and strengthen the name, Department of Physics, College of Arts and Sciences (Andrei Slavin, Yang Xia)

1.3. Undergraduate Curriculum Submissions

- 1.3.1. **Creative Writing Minor, modification,** due to a clerical error, returning after going to the Senate on November 20, 2025 the upper division credits should read 6, not 8, per CAS. Department of English, Creative Writing and Film, College of Arts and Sciences (Rob Anderson)
- 1.3.2. **Child Welfare Minor, modification** to reduce the number of credits in the minor from 20 to 16, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)

- 1.3.3. **Human Resource Development Minor, modification** to reduce the credits from 24 to 20, Department of Organizational Leadership, School of Education and Human Services (Bill Solomonson)
- 1.3.4. **Lean Leadership Minor, discontinue** the minor due to low enrollment and inefficiency, Department of Organizational Leadership, School of Education and Human Services (Bill Solomonson)
- 1.3.5. **Learning and Development Minor, discontinue** the minor due to low enrollment and inefficiency, Department of Organizational Leadership, School of Education and Human Services (Bill Solomonson)
- 1.3.6. **Nutrition and Health Minor, modification** to the change the name to Nutrition Minor, to be more aligned with their major program, Department of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, School of Health Sciences (Amanda Lynch)
- 1.3.7. **Certificate in Global Digital Marketing - Chinese, new certificate** that prepares students to manage digital marketing projects targeting speakers of languages other than English, and to manage international teams, Department of Management and Marketing, School of Business Administration (Janell Townsend and Brandon Gustafson) and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, College of Arts and Sciences (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo)
- 1.3.8. **Certificate in Global Digital Marketing - French, new certificate** that prepares students to manage digital marketing projects targeting speakers of languages other than English, and to manage international teams, Department of Management and Marketing, School of Business Administration (Janell Townsend and Brandon Gustafson) and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, College of Arts and Sciences (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo)
- 1.3.9. **Certificate in Global Digital Marketing - German, new certificate** that prepares students to manage digital marketing projects targeting speakers of languages other than English, and to manage international teams, Department of Management and Marketing, School of Business Administration (Janell Townsend and Brandon Gustafson) and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, College of Arts and Sciences (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo)
- 1.3.10. **Certificate in Global Digital Marketing - Italian, new certificate** that prepares students to manage digital marketing projects targeting speakers of languages other than English, and to manage international teams, Department of Management and Marketing, School of Business Administration (Janell Townsend and Brandon Gustafson) and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, College of Arts and Sciences (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo)
- 1.3.11. **Certificate in Global Digital Marketing - Japanese, new certificate** that prepares students to manage digital marketing projects targeting speakers of languages other than English, and to manage international

- teams, Department of Management and Marketing, School of Business Administration (Janell Townsend and Brandon Gustafson) and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, College of Arts and Sciences (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo)
- 1.3.12. **Certificate in Global Digital Marketing - Spanish, new certificate** that prepares students to manage digital marketing projects targeting speakers of languages other than English, and to manage international teams, Department of Management and Marketing, School of Business Administration (Janell Townsend and Brandon Gustafson) and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, College of Arts and Sciences (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo)
- 1.3.13. **Artificial Intelligence, B.S., modification** to the program, adding 8 new credits to the offerings, updating the course list in the core, professional subjects and professional electives, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science (Guangzhi Qu)
- 1.3.14. **Linguistics - Modified, B.A., discontinue program** due to low enrollment, Department of Linguistics, College of Arts and Sciences (Samuel Rosenthal)
- 1.3.15. **Piano Performance, B.M. Concentration in Piano Pedagogy, new major dependent concentration** based on recommendations from NASM (National Association of Schools of Music) to create major dependent concentrations with specific disciplines; Department of Music, School of Music, Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences (Melissa Hoag)
- 1.3.16. **Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, B.S., Concentration in Pre-Physician Assistant, modification** to decrease the electives from 20 to 19 credits, to bring the total credits for this program from 121 to 120; Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, School of Health Sciences (Sumi Dinda)
- 1.3.17. **Health Sciences, B.S., Concentration in Pre-Health Professional Studies, modification** to concentration requirements to provide an additional option to allow for flexibility in meeting various professional school requirements, and added an additional elective HS 4300 Lifestyle Medicine; Department of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, School of Health Sciences (Amanda Lynch)
- 1.3.18. **Interdisciplinary Healthcare Studies, B.S., modification** to the requirements to provide additional options and structural changes to allow for a functional major that can graduate students. These changes will facilitate completion of the major while maintaining its rigor and intent. Changes will also allow greater opportunity for students to switch from one of our majors to another by bringing requirements between majors into closer alignment; Department of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, School of Health Sciences (Amanda Lynch)

- 1.3.19. **Applied Health Sciences, B.S., Concentration in Radiologic Technology Leadership, modification** to the concentration, replacing HS 3250 with EHS 2550; Department of Public and Environmental Wellness, School of Health Sciences (Flora Dallo)
- 1.3.20. **Public Health, B.S., modification** to the core, adding a required course PH 4750 Global Health and Social Issues, reducing the required electives credits from 25 to 21, and adding additional course options to the electives; Department of Public and Environmental Wellness, School of Health Sciences (Flora Dallo)
- 1.3.21. **Creative Writing, B.A., Specialization in Poetry, discontinue the B.A. with embedded specialization in Poetry**, to align with University decision to discontinue specializations; the redesigned Creative Writing, B.A. will eliminate separate specializations and instead offer a single, flexible degree path that includes core courses in fiction, poetry, and memoir/essay. This change streamlines the curriculum, reduces redundancy, and simplifies advising and enrollment; Department of English, Creative Writing and Film, College of Arts and Sciences (Jeff Chapman, Rob Anderson)
- 1.3.22. **Creative Writing, B.A., Specialization in Memoir and Essay, discontinue the B.A. with embedded specialization in Memoir and Essay**, to align with University decision to discontinue specializations; the redesigned Creative Writing, B.A. will eliminate separate specializations and instead offer a single, flexible degree path that includes core courses in fiction, poetry, and memoir/essay. This change streamlines the curriculum, reduces redundancy, and simplifies advising and enrollment; Department of English, Creative Writing and Film, College of Arts and Sciences (Jeff Chapman, Rob Anderson)
- 1.3.23. **Psychology, B.A., Concentration in Linguistics, discontinue** the concentration in Linguistics due to low enrollment; Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences (Todd Shackelford)
- 1.3.24. **English Modified with a Concentration in Linguistics B.A, discontinue the program** due to low enrollment; Department of English, Creative Writing and Film, College of Arts and Sciences (Rob Anderson)
- 1.3.25. **School of Business Administration Program (10) modification proposals to change the modality**, adding partially online (Half or more of the program courses are delivered online) for ten (10) programs as follows: (Liang Fu, Vijayan Sugumaran)
1. Business Administration, Management Information Systems, B.S., Conc in Business Analytics
 2. Business Administration, Management Information Systems, B.S.
 3. Business Administration, Management Information Systems, B.S., Conc in Cybersecurity Analytics and Management
 4. Business Administration, Operations Management, B.S.
 5. Business Administration, Operations Management, B.S., Conc in Project Management
 6. Business Administration, Operations Management, B.S., Conc in Supply

Chain Management

7. Business Administration, Accounting, B.S.

8. Business Administration, Finance, B.S.

9. Business Administration, Finance, B.S., Concentration in Wealth Management

10. Business Administration, Operations Management, B.S., Conc in Lean and Quality Mgmt

- 1.3.26. **Business Administration, Business Actuarial Science, B.S., modification** to (1) add a course to the required Business core courses and (2) add a course to the required Business Actuarial Science courses; Department of Economics, School of Business Administration (Tim Hodge/Zeina AlSalman)
- 1.3.27. **Dance for Musical Theatre Minor, modification** to (1) edit the language on what can count towards a BFA and minor, and (2) adding an additional core, Modern dance; Department of Theatre, School of Music, Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences (Jeremy Barnett, Greg Patterson)
- 1.3.28. **Exercise Science, B.S., Concentration in Applied Exercise Physiology, new major dependent concentration** in Applied Exercise Physiology would allow the program to demonstrate alignment of our curriculum with the CAAHEP accreditation Standards and Guidelines and would serve to streamline our pursuit of accreditation; Department of Human Movement Sciences, School of Health Sciences (John Krauss, Josh Haworth)
- 1.3.29. **Arabic Minor, new minor** that will develop advanced fluency, and add value to students working in majors that need to facilitate cross-cultural communication examples; Nursing, Pre-med, Social Work, and Criminal Justice; Department of Modern Languages, College of Arts and Sciences (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo)
- 1.3.30. **Proposal to change the College of Arts and Sciences minimum degree requirements for graduation, modification to reduce the number of required credits from 124 credits to 120 credits with updated language in the Undergraduate Catalog** to (1) the paragraph that begins each programs information section, and (2) The General College of Arts and Sciences requirements statement; The College of Arts and Sciences (Kristin Landis-Piwowar, Beth Dawson)

1.4. Combined Graduate School and Undergraduate Curriculum Submissions

- 1.4.1. **Mechanical Engineering, Combined B.S.E./M.S., combined degree program modification** to add a coursework only track option in addition to the thesis track, Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science (Sarah Beetham, Laila Guessous)

1.5. Senator Updates (Amy Banes-Berceli)

L.J. Lasecki, Vice President, OU Student Congress for Nia Matthews

Mathew Seidel, Oakland University Student Congress for resignation of Clover DeVore

Sarah Hosch (CAS) for Scott Tiegs Winter 2026 Sabbatical

Annie Gilson (CAS) for Bridget Kies Winter 2026 Sabbatical

Matt Fails (CAS) for Nicole Mathew Winter 2026 Sabbatical

Lori Ostergaard (CAS) for Tom Discenna Winter 2026 Teaching Conflict

- 1.6. CARS name change from Committee for Academic Recovery and Success to Committee for Academic Resilience and Success (Neil Baumgartner)
- 1.7. Undergraduate Enrollment Report (Dawn Aubry, Shane Lewis, Kelly Flemming, Nicole Boelk, Maegan Dennis)

2. Approval of [Minutes from December 11, 2025](#)

3. Unfinished Business

- 3.1. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** brought forward by the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) to modify the Undergraduate Degree Requirement Policy in the Undergraduate Catalog changing the credit hour requirements from “a minimum of 120 credit hours” to “a minimum threshold of 90 credit hours; in alignment with HLC policy.” (Kristin Landis-Piwowar)

MOVED to accept the language change to the Undergraduate Degree Requirement Policy as presented.

Second Reading: Amendable, debatable and eligible for a final vote at this meeting.

Comment: Rationale and proposed new language
UCUI Minutes October 14, 2025

4. New Business

- 4.1. **Procedural Motion** to staff Senate Standing Committees:

MOVED that the persons below be appointed to the designated committees for the indicated terms:

Academic Honors Committee

Elisabeth Deloreme-Axford (CAS) Winter 2026 for David Kidger (CAS) Winter 2026 Sabbatical

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Committee

Jonathan Cooper (CAS) Winter 2026 for Bridget Kies (CAS) Winter 2026 Sabbatical

Classroom Use and Academic Scheduling Committee

Scott Crabill (CAS) Winter 2026 for Jeffrey Heisler (CAS) Winter 2026 Leave

Disability and Literacy Awareness Committee

Emily Ruth Benoit (UL) for Mariela Hristova (UL) for Term 2023-2026

Experiential Learning Committee

Kareen Tonsing (CAS) Winter 2026 for Jennifer Law-Sullivan (CAS) Winter 2026 Sabbatical

Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Tian Tian (CAS) Winter 2026 for Angineh Djavadghazaryans (CAS) Winter 2026 Sabbatical

Senate Budget Review Committee

Eralda Caushaj Winter 2026 for Henry Aigbedo (SBA) Winter 2026 Sabbatical Leave

Senate Planning Review Committee

Lian Fu (SBA) Winter 2026 for Robert Nehmer (SBA) Winter 2026 Sabbatical Leave

Erica Ruegg (SEHS) Term 2025-2028

Mariela Hristova (UL) Term 2023-2026

Holly Franson (SON) Term 2024-2027 Term

Service Learning Committee

Kareen Tonsing (CAS) Winter 2026 for Jennifer Law-Sullivan (CAS) Winter 2026 Sabbatical

Teaching and Learning Committee

Fay Hansen (CAS) for Winter 2026 for Robert DeIGreco (CAS) Winter 2026 Sabbatical Leave

Haley Laurila (UL) Term 2025-2028

University Assessment Committee

Lindsey Brandt (SHS) Winter 2026 for Kelley Borton (SHS) Winter 2026 Leave

- 4.2. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the Senate Budget Review Committee (SBRC) to revise its charge and increase membership to ensure representation from all academic units creating equitable representation and increased membership to allow subcommittees to be formed to address the workload of the committee. (Chaturi Edrisinha - presenting virtually)

MOVED to accept the membership and charge change to the Senate Budget Review Committee as presented.

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for a final vote at this meeting.

Comment: Rationale and proposed changes
Presentation

- 4.3. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the Graduate Council to revise the Graduate School Policy reducing the minimum number of Ph.D. program credits from 80 to 60, and to clarify the continuous enrollment registration requirement (Brandy Randall)

MOVED that the Graduate School Policy be updated as presented.

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for a final vote at this meeting

Comment: Graduate Council Minutes
Graduate Policy Revision

- 4.4. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction proposing the following changes to Undergraduate Degree Requirements Policy modifying to change the upper-level degree requirements in the Undergraduate catalog, in the following sections; (1) Undergraduate Degree Requirements, (2) Dual Degrees, (3) Post-Baccalaureate (PB) Students, and (4) University Honors changing from 32 credits in courses at the 3000 level or above to 30 credits in courses at the 3000 level or above, and if pursuing a Dual Degree, changing from 16 credits at the 3000 level to 15; aligning the catalog with the Undergraduate Residency Requirements approved at the November 20, 2025 University Senate Meeting (Kristin Landis-Piwowar)

MOVED that the Undergraduate Degree Requirements Policy be updated as presented

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for a final vote at this meeting

Comment: UCUI Minutes (January 27, 2026)
Senate Minutes (November 20, 2025)
Proposed language for Catalog

- 4.5. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction proposing modification to the **Creative Writing, B.A., Specialization in Fiction**, to (1) remove the specialization to align with University decision to discontinue specializations, and (2) making Creative Writing, B.A. a stand alone major by redesigning four embedded specializations into two separate B.A.s (Creative Writing, B.A. and Screenwriting, B.A.). The redesigned Creative Writing, B.A. will eliminate separate specializations and instead offer a single, flexible degree path that includes core courses in fiction, poetry, and memoir/essay. This structure simplifies advising, maintains genre breadth, and ensures a clear path from foundational to advanced coursework; [please reference Information Item 1.3.21, 1.3.22, and Voting Item 4.6] Department of English, Creative Writing and Film, College of Arts and Sciences (Jeffrey Chapman - presenting virtually, Rob Anderson)

MOVED that the Creative Writing B.A., Specialization in Fiction program be accepted with changes as presented.

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for a final vote at this meeting

Comment: Curriculog Item outlining changes
UG COI Minutes (August 28, 2025)
UCUI Minutes (January 27, 2026)
UCUI Cover Page Outlining Creative Writing Program Design
Presentation

- 4.6. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction Proposing modification to the **Creative Writing, B.A., Specialization**

in Screenwriting, to (1) change the name to Screenwriting, B.A., by removing the embedded specialization to align with University decision to discontinue specializations, and (2) making Screenwriting, B.A. a stand alone major by redesigning four embedded specializations into two separate B.A.s (Creative Writing, B.A. and Screenwriting, B.A.) The redesigned curriculum will simplify the new structure, offering a clearer, more focused path for students pursuing careers in screenwriting while maintaining opportunities for creative breadth; [please reference Information Item 1.3.21, 1.3.22, and Voting Item 4.6] Department of English, Creative Writing and Film, College of Arts and Sciences (Jeff Chapman - presenting virtually, Rob Anderson)

MOVED that the Creative Writing, B.A., Specialization in Screenwriting program be accepted with changes as presented.

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for a final vote at this meeting

Comment: Curriculog Item outlining changes
UG COI Minutes (August 28, 2025)
UCUI Minutes (January 27, 2026)
UCUI Cover Page Outlining Creative Writing Program Design
Presentation

Good and Welfare

Adjourn

Senate Minutes
February 19, 2026

Members present: *Al-Shabrawey, Aloi, Ausloos, Ball, Battles, Blumer-Schuetz, Boruff-Jones, Carpenter, Carver, Chamra, Chapman, Coleman, Craig, Debnath, Dempsey, Dinda, Dunn, Dwyer, Edrisinha, Fails, Gilson, Grace, Guessous, Guest, Hansen, Hartmus, Hoag, Hodge, Hosch, Jamieson, Johnson, Kattner, Kauric-Klein, Knox, Landis-Piwowar, Landolt, Lasecki, Lewis, Margerum-Leys, Matthew, Merchant, Miller, Mitton, Nielsen, Olawoyin, Ostergaard, Pierce, Piscotty, Pratt, Seidel, Shesko, Thompson, Tilashalski, VanLoon, Wadsworth, Wasserman, Wendell, Westergaard, Williams, Youngquist*

Members absent: Arena, Barley, McCulloch, Rawashdeh, Rohn

The agenda for this meeting is attached as Appendix A and follows at the end of the minutes.

Provost Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS

Motion approved to change the minimum threshold requirement for degree programs from 120 credits to 90 credits

NEW BUSINESS

Procedural motion approved to staff senate committees

Motion approved from SBRC to revise charge and increase membership

Motion from Grad Council to revise policy reducing minimum number of PhD program credits from 80 to 60

Motion from UCUI to change undergraduate degree requirements

Motion approved to accept the Creative Writing Specialization in Fiction BA

Motion approved to accept the Creative Writing Specialization in Screenwriting BA

INFORMATION ITEMS

Provost Thompson provided the opportunity to comment on the information items related to the Graduate School Curriculum submissions listed on the agenda, numbered 2-6l; the Undergraduate Curriculum submissions listed on the agenda, numbered 1-30; and the Combined Graduate School and Undergraduate Curriculum submissions of which there was one item. There being no comments, she moved on

PROVOST UPDATES: Provost Thompson provided the following updates:

1). She announced the date of the State of Academic Affairs on March 31 11:30-1:00 and encouraged Senators to attend.

- 2). She announced that the midterm grading function is open, and she said they are hoping for an overall participation and submission rate of 60%.
- 3). She provided an update on the searches, to include the candidates for the AVP position who are on campus this week, and she said they have also identified 10 candidates for VP for Student Affairs and Engagement in the near future.
- 4). Enrollment: Provost Thompson indicated that there are 900 students who were enrolled in the Fall semester that did not return to classes in the Winter semester. She expressed concern about this loss and said that the best way to improve the downward trend is retention. She noted that among the 900, there are 400 juniors and seniors who did not return, and 300 FTIACs. She said the goal is to get all students to the finish line.
- 5). She announced that OU is serving on the National Survey of Student Engagement for which first year and senior students will receive an invitation. The results will provide information directly from students to improve the curriculum as well as the overall student experience. She said that students who participate will be in the running for a gift drawing.

Senator Updates: Associate Provost Banes-Berceli provided an update on Senate replacements for Winter 2026, as follows:

L.J. Lasecki, Vice President, OU Student Congress for Nia Matthews
Mathew Seidel, Oakland University Student Congress for resignation of Clover DeVore
Sarah Hosch (CAS) for Scott Tiegs Winter 2026 Sabbatical
Annie Gilson (CAS) for Bridget Kies Winter 2026 Sabbatical
Matt Fails (CAS) for Nicole Mathew Winter 2026 Sabbatical
Lori Ostergaard (CAS) for Tom Discenna Winter 2026 Teaching Conflict

CARS name change: Neil Baumgartner was present to announce the CARS name change from Committee for Academic Recovery and Success to Committee for Academic Resilience and Success.

Undergraduate Enrollment Report : Dawn Aubry was present to provide an update on the overall undergraduate enrollment situation. She said that the bottom line is that the enrollment needs to grow though higher education is navigating difficult demographic changes. She observed that community colleges have reshaped enrollment landscape because they have been widened to include more programs, as well as emphasize the 25-year and older student groups, for example. She noted that OU is the third largest transfer destination among the public institutions, although we used to be the first. She stated that articulation agreements are also very critical. She asserted that OU has outperformed our peers, and she said we are one of the only universities who have had higher numbers of enrollment this year when compared to last year. She added that we are the sixth largest public university in Michigan. She said that the graduate enrollment also grew in the Fall 2025 semester. She stressed that retention is the key strategy in enrollment, more important than recruitment, and that total enrollment was up 1.3%. = 15,979 in Fall 2025. She stated that there is an excellent first generation scaling initiative and that OU is expanding elements of the DREAM pilot program with success coaching and early alerts, as well as enhancing financial literacy and wraparound support. She emphasized that enrollment is not just up to one office, but rather is a collective effort across the

university. She thanked everyone for all they do to aid retention.

B. Approval of the Minutes from December 11, 2025

The minutes from the meeting of December 11, 2025 were approved (51 yes, 0 no).

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** brought forward by the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction (UCUI) to modify the Undergraduate Degree Requirement Policy in the Undergraduate Catalog changing the credit hour requirements from "a minimum of 120 credit hours" to "a minimum threshold of 90 credit hours; in alignment with HLC policy." (Kristin Landis-Piwowar)

MOVED to accept the language change to the Undergraduate Degree Requirement Policy as presented.

There was a great deal of discussion on this topic. Matthew Seidel started the discussion off by saying that the number one obstacle for students to complete their education at OU is the cost which can get as high as \$30,000 to \$40,000. He said students understand that tuition increases are necessary but he stated that education at OU is getting very expensive, and college needs to be more affordable for everyone. He noted that OU students who were polled like the idea of credit reduction in programs. Senator Johnson addressed the problem of affordability also, noting that he has an uncle who had to leave OU due to affordability, and went to a Community College to complete his education. He said the high cost is a problem, and the university should work to save students money. Kelsey Luka had a message on behalf of her mother who explained her efforts to get her degree, thus speaking for non-traditional students. She said a reduced credit degree could make education more affordable and accessible for non-traditional students because it is very challenging for those who return to complete education after or while raising a family, so the reduced credit program would ease financial burden, allow people to obtain goals more efficiently and open the door to many non-traditional students. Senator Dinda said that he is for the decrease but did not believe it would work for his program. He suggested that OU should look at the Gen Ed requirement because that is very heavy for science students. Senator Margerum-Leys spoke in favor of the reduced credit policy which he said would give greater flexibility to students. He noted that if the program goals can be achieved with fewer credits, then departments should be allowed to create such programs which would provide flexibility in the curriculum. Dean Randall spoke in favor of this program to reduce course credits and pointed out it would not close doors for students going to graduate school. She observed that in addition, these lower credit programs are going on all around the world. She pointed out that the main thing is what students learned in their programs. Senator Johnson added that the Student Congress had passed unanimous support for this program. Senator Kattner said that she is very much in support

of this policy for her dance program, and added that the dance faculty is in support. Senator Carpenter echoed Dean Randall's endorsement and stated that the reduced credit program concept is not a deterrent for people to get into graduate school. He said that it would be a welcome benefit for some of the Medical School students. Senator Fails said he appreciates colleagues' thoughts about which programs are well-suited, but he is concerned about a race to the bottom for a whole swath of programs if they are reduced to 90 credits. He expressed concern and said it is important not to be naive about the dynamics that this could introduce in terms of competition between departments. He added that there could be a potential conflict when a student adds a minor which could make their course not available for financial aid support. Mr. Mitton brought up the system in Canada, noting that for 50 years throughout Ontario almost every program exists as 3 year or 4 year degrees. Dean Chamra said it is possible to maintain the same rigor with reduce credit programs. He noted that engineering technology would be a great program for reduced credit, with opportunity for collaborations with a Community College. He noted that engineering programs have to be accredited so that means it is necessary to maintain the rigor. He added that for lower income families it would be a big help to prevent them from paying back education bills for many years. Senator Miller expressed skepticism about the program. She said she is in favor of lowering student cost, but she said this is a band-aid to the problem of expensive higher education. She said it would have some impact for some students but does not resolve the problem of the cost of higher ed which has very deep roots. She worries that having this reduced credit program as a possibility would delay the solution of the problems of higher education. She acknowledges that some programs may be able to accomplish their goals in 90 credits, but she worries that there would be intense pressure for departments to reduce their credit requirements. She said we have to think carefully about our reputation, and added that she thinks it will decrease the number of minors and double majors, and have a significant impact on the liberal arts education at OU. Senator Hodges asked whether the point of higher education is to get students jobs, or is there a higher goal. He said we would be giving up a lot, that reducing programs by 30 credits is a lot, and he added that it should not be a cost discussion, but rather a thought discussion. Senator Seidel said the students understand the risks, but he said the policy is a realistic effort to reduce the costs for students and create more opportunities for more students to get a higher education. Senator Youngquist said he thinks this would turn into an unavoidable race to the bottom, and he stated that it would amount to a reduced education degree in reality. He said that students are not going to get the same education that 4 year students get. Senator Gilson asked how the determination will be made, whether there is a body that will determine how the programs would be created. She said Gen Ed program courses are very important because they introduce students to the world they are going to have to be working to create after they graduate, so we cannot make an informed decision if we don't know who is overseeing the programs that would make these changes. Ms. Thor said UCUI is the body that reviews any new degree program that would be proposed, and from there a proposal for a reduced credit program

would go up through the governance. She clarified that students do qualify for financial aid if they go over 90 credits, and she noted that they regularly see students in BIS who have more than 120 credits. Acting Dean Piwowar said nobody has to propose a reduced-credit program, so if there is a degree for which it makes sense, that is what the faculty have to determine, and in addition, these programs would ultimately come to the Senate and to the BOT. She said there would have to be a rigorous rationale in order to get a 90-credit program, as for any program. Mr. Chabi asked why programs are not able to decide how many Gen Ed credits their students take. Senator Wasserman said there is a faulty logic in a lot of the arguments he had heard. He noted that mostly the discussion has been about reducing costs, but he was not hearing the importance of getting a high quality higher education. He said democracy and education matter and it should be about value as well as costs. He agreed we should be thinking about cutting tuition but if the goal is to reduce costs for lower income students, instead we would be giving them a reduced quality education. He said students should be protesting rising tuition. Senator Pierce said this proposal needs to be rethought because a 120 credit program cannot be taught in 90 credits. Instead we need to put aside thinking about reducing the credits of the programs we have, and think instead of creating programs that start at zero and get to 90 credits since turning the same 4-year degree into a 3-year degree cannot be done. Senator Seidel emphasized that the students do not want to reduce quality. Senator Hosch said we should think about what is our call to action as a university, and we need to think about who our students are. This does not mean that we have to take what we have and make them fewer credits, but to create programs that work at 90-credits which can only happen by being allowed to innovate because the students are telling us that that is what they need in our student population.

Senators then voted on the motion.

The motion was approved: 30 yes, 28 no.

D. New Business

2. Procedural Motion to staff Senate Standing Committees:

MOVED that the persons below be appointed to the designated committees for the indicated terms (Guessous, Lewis)

Academic Honors Committee

Elisabeth Deloreme-Axford (CAS) Winter 2026 for David Kidger (CAS) Winter 2026 Sabbatical

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Committee

Jonathan Cooper (CAS) Winter 2026 for Bridget Kies (CAS) Winter 2026 Sabbatical

Classroom Use and Academic Scheduling Committee

Scott Crabill (CAS) Winter 2026 for Jeffrey Heisler (CAS) Winter 2026 Leave

Disability and Literacy Awareness Committee

Emily Ruth Benoit (UL) for Mariela Hristova (UL) for Term 2023-2026

Experiential Learning Committee

Kareen Tonsing (CAS) Winter 2026 for Jennifer Law-Sullivan (CAS) Winter 2026 Sabbatical

Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Tian Tian (CAS) Winter 2026 for Angineh Djavadghazaryans (CAS) Winter 2026 Sabbatical

Senate Budget Review Committee

Eralda Caushaj Winter 2026 for Henry Aigbedo (SBA) Winter 2026 Sabbatical Leave

Senate Planning Review Committee

Lian Fu (SBA) Winter 2026 for Robert Nehmer (SBA) Winter 2026 Sabbatical Leave

Erica Ruegg (SEHS) Term 2025-2028

Mariela Hristova (UL) Term 2023-2026

Holly Franson (SON) Term 2024-2027 Term

Service Learning Committee

Kareen Tonsing (CAS) Winter 2026 for Jennifer Law-Sullivan (CAS) Winter 2026 Sabbatical

Teaching and Learning Committee

Fay Hansen (CAS) for Winter 2026 for Robert DelGreco (CAS) Winter 2026 Sabbatical Leave

Haley Laurila (UL) Term 2025-2028

University Assessment Committee

Lindsey Brandt (SHS) Winter 2026 for Kelley Borton (SHS) Winter 2026 Leave

The motion was approved. (53 yes, 0 no)

0. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the Senate Budget Review Committee (SBRC) to revise its charge and increase membership to ensure representation from all academic units creating equitable representation and increased membership to allow subcommittees to be formed to address the workload of the committee. (**Chaturi Edrisinha - presenting virtually**)

***MOVED** to accept the membership and charge change to the Senate Budget Review Committee as presented. (Wendell, Johnson)*

Mr. Wendell made the motion to move to second reading (Wendell, Johnson)

This motion was approved (43 yes, 5 no).

The original motion was then approved (47 yes, 3 no).

0. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the Graduate Council to revise the Graduate School Policy reducing the minimum number of Ph.D. program credits from 80 to 60, and to clarify the continuous enrollment registration requirement (Brandy Randall)

***MOVED** that the Graduate School Policy be updated as presented. (Johnson, Seidel)*

Dean Randall presented the motion, stating that the reasoning is to provide greater flexibility for faculty.

4. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction proposing the following changes to Undergraduate Degree Requirements Policy modifying to change the upper-level degree requirements in the Undergraduate catalog, in the following sections; (1) Undergraduate Degree Requirements, (2) Dual Degrees, (3) Post-Baccalaureate

(PB) Students, and (4) University Honors changing from 32 credits in courses at the 3000 level or above to 30 credits in courses at the 3000 level or above, and if pursuing a Dual Degree, changing from 16 credits at the 3000 level to 15; aligning the catalog with the Undergraduate Residency Requirements approved at the November 20, 2025 University Senate Meeting (Kristin Landis-Piwowar)

***MOVED** that the Undergraduate Degree Requirements Policy be updated as presented (Wendell, Johnson)*

0. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction proposing modification to the **Creative Writing, B.A., Specialization in Fiction**, to (1) remove the specialization to align with University decision to discontinue specializations, and (2) making Creative Writing, B.A. a stand alone major by redesigning four embedded specializations into two separate B.A.s (Creative Writing, B.A. and Screenwriting, B.A.). The redesigned Creative Writing, B.A. will eliminate separate specializations and instead offer a single, flexible degree path that includes core courses in fiction, poetry, and memoir/essay. This structure simplifies advising, maintains genre breadth, and ensures a clear path from foundational to advanced coursework; [please reference Information Item 1.3.21, 1.3.22, and Voting Item 4.6] Department of English, Creative Writing and Film, College of Arts and Sciences (Jeffrey Chapman - presenting virtually, Rob Anderson)

***MOVED** that the Creative Writing B.A., Specialization in Fiction program be accepted with changes as presented. (Wendell, Seidel)*

Senator Chapman explained that the logic for this proposed change had to do with discontinuing a specialization and reorganizing using the same courses.

Mr. Wendell made the motion to move to second reading (Wendell, Seidel)

The motion was approved (45 yes, 3 no).

The original motion was then approved (44 yes, 2 no).

0. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction Proposing modification to the **Creative Writing, B.A., Specialization in Screenwriting**, to (1) change the name to Screenwriting, B.A., by removing the embedded specialization to align with University decision to discontinue specializations, and (2) making Screenwriting, B.A. a stand alone major by redesigning four embedded specializations into two separate B.A.s (Creative Writing, B.A. and Screenwriting, B.A.) The redesigned curriculum will simplify the new structure, offering a clearer, more focused path for students pursuing careers in screenwriting while maintaining opportunities for creative breadth; [please reference Information Item 1.3.21, 1.3.22, and Voting Item 4.6] Department of English, Creative Writing and Film, College of Arts and Sciences (Jeff Chapman - presenting virtually, Rob Anderson)

***MOVED** that the Creative Writing, B.A., Specialization in Screenwriting program be accepted with changes as presented (Wendell, Tilashalski).*

Senator Chapman explained that the logic for this proposal is identical to the previous motion since they are part of the same re-organization of the same coursework.

Mr. Wendell made the motion to move to second reading (Wendell, Tilashalski)

The motion was approved (47 yes, 1 no)

The original motion was then approved (47 yes, 1 no).

E. Good and Welfare

Brandy Randall announced the Graduate Thesis Showcase which is a 3-minute presentation competition coming up soon.

Also, she invited all to come on Sunday to the basketball game which happens to be Graduate School Day.

Senator Johnson said there is a project called Clean up Bear Lake for which students got a \$5000 grant

Dean Kevin Ball said that on March 11 1:00-8:00 PM. Health Information Symposium will take place in HHB. The theme is Healthy Engagement for All People.

Sara Hosch from CETL announced the May 8 Teaching and Learning Symposium, and said they are taking calls for proposals. This year's topic is Rekindling Connections

F. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dikka Berven (Senate Secretary)

Oakland University Senate Agenda

Meeting Details

March 19, 2026

Meeting Time: 3:10 pm

Hyflex: Oakland Center - Banquet Room B or [ZOOM Registration Link](#)

Meeting Materials and Documents

- Only elected senators for the 2025-2027 term may vote
- Vote Yes (1) or No (2)
- If you wish to Abstain, simply do not vote
- If you are attending remotely, please rename yourself for voting purposes. To rename yourself-- hover over individual icon (2) click the 3 horizontal dots (3) click "rename" and rename yourself using SEN and first and last name (ie: SENKevinBall, SENKarenMiller)



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- If senators leave the meeting, or join late, they are required to indicate *via* the Zoom chat for the minutes. Your departure or arrival may affect having a quorum that is necessary for a vote.
- If attending virtually and have a question or comment, please raise your virtual hand and turn on your camera.
- If attending virtually please have your camera turned on especially if you are speaking.

1. Informational Items

1.1. Provost Updates

1.2. Graduate School Curriculum Submissions

- 1.2.1. **Music, Master of Music program will discontinue the following (8) programs** for the purpose of streamlining degrees and to help optics of enrollment numbers for the accreditation body (National Association of Schools of Music, NASM). These discontinued degrees will be redesigned into a single major with approved major-dependent concentrations: (Melissa Hoag, Beth Dawson)

Master of Music in Conducting*
Master of Music in Vocal Pedagogy
Master of Music in Vocal Performance
Master of Music in Instrumental Performance
Master of Music in Piano Performance
Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy
Master of Music in Music Education
Master of Music in World Percussion

- 1.2.2. **Music, Master of Music program modification** to redesign the (8) discontinued stand alone degrees into the one single Master of Music degree with

major-dependent concentrations. The single degree will have an 8-credit common core with 24-credit concentrations and are as follows: (Melissa Hoag, Beth Dawson)

Master of Music with Concentration in Choral Conducting*

Option 1 from Master of Music in Conducting

Master of Music with Concentration in Instrumental Conducting*

Option 2 from Master of Music in Conducting

Master of Music with Concentration in Vocal Pedagogy

Master of Music with Concentration in Vocal Performance

Master of Music with Concentration in World Percussion

Master of Music with Concentration in Music Education

Master of Music with Concentration in Piano Pedagogy

Master of Music with Concentration in Piano Performance

Master of Music with Concentration in Instrumental Music

- 1.2.3. **Mechanical Engineering, PhD, graduate program modification** to remove unnecessary language and further modify existing language to improve the overall clarity and flexibility of the listed requirements related to the Mechanical Engineering PhD Doctoral Advisory Committee; Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science (Laila Guessous)

1.3. Undergraduate Curriculum Submissions

- 1.3.1. **Business Administration, Business Economics, B.S., modification** to (1) remove MTH 1222 (the calculus requirement) from the precore requirements, to accord with other business degrees in the School of Business Administration, and (2) change the Economics electives requirements from 3 to 4 at the 3000 level; Department of Economics, School of Business Administration (Tim Hodge/Zeina AlSalman)
- 1.3.2. **Orthotist and Prosthetist Assistant Studies Minor, modification** to the catalog language from a minimum grade of a B- to a C (2.0) for the prerequisites, as per unit standards; Department of Human Movement, School of Health Sciences (John Krauss, Josh Haworth)
- 1.3.3. **Theatre Minor, modification** to revise the required credits from 20 to 16 and allow for more flexibility when choosing courses; Department of Theatre, School of Music, Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences (Jeremy Barnett, David Gram)
- 1.3.4. **Bioengineering, B.S., modification** to add an additional professional track option, Human Movement Engineering, for students preparing to work in fields of Orthotics & Prosthetics and exoskeleton/assistive devices; Department of Bioengineering, School of Engineering and Computer Science (Shailesh Lal)
- 1.3.5. **Theatre Design and Technology B.F.A., modification** to revise the Theatre programs, changes will focus on new courses, new requirements and a clearer pedagogical path for our students to follow; Department of Theatre, School of Music, Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences (Jeremy Barnett, David Gram)
- 1.3.6. **Theatre, B.A., modification** to revise the Theatre programs, changes will focus on new courses, new requirements and a clearer pedagogical path for our students to follow; Department of Theatre, School of Music, Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences (Jeremy Barnett, David Gram)

- 1.3.7. **Musical Theatre, B.F.A., modification** to revise the Theatre programs, changes will focus on new courses, new requirements and a clearer pedagogical path for our students to follow; Department of Theatre, School of Music, Theatre and Dance, College of Arts and Sciences (Jeremy Barnett, David Gram)
- 1.3.8. **Exercise Science, B.S., Concentration in Orthotist and Prosthetist Assistant Studies, modification** to the catalog language from a minimum grade of a B- to a C (2.0) for the prerequisites, as per unit standards; Department of Human Movement, School of Health Sciences (John Krauss, Josh Haworth)
- 1.3.9. **Biology, B.S. Concentration in Pre-Veterinary Medicine, new major dependent concentration** designed for Biology students who are planning on entering the field of veterinary medicine; Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences (Gerard Madlambayan, Mark Sturtevant, Sandy Troxell-Smith)
- 1.3.10. **Criminal Justice, B.A., modification** to add COM 3303, American Sign Language for Healthcare Personnel and First Responders, to the elective options, and reduce the credits required from 124 to 120; Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)
- 1.3.11. **Criminal Justice, B.A., Concentration in Homeland Security, modification** to add COM 3303, American Sign Language for Healthcare Personnel and First Responders, to the elective options, and reduce the credits required from 124 to 120; Department of Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences (Jo Reger)
- 1.3.12. **Nutrition, B.S., Specialization in Dietetics, modification to rename the program** to Dietetics, B.S., a stand alone major to be consistent with other institutions, align with the university moving away from specializations, noting no substantive changes to the degree requirements; Department of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, School of Health Sciences (Amanda Lynch)
- 1.3.13. **Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, B.S., Specialization in Medical Laboratory Science (MLS), modification to rename the program** to Medical Laboratory Science, B.S., a stand alone major to be consistent with other institutions, to be aligned with other accredited MLS programs in the US which are standalone B.S. degrees, align with the university moving away from specializations, noting no substantive changes to the degree requirements; Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, School of Health Sciences (Sumi Dinda)
- 1.3.14. **Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, B.S., Specialization in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, modification to rename the program** to Diagnostic Medical Sonography, B.S., a stand alone major to be consistent with other institutions, align with the university moving away from specializations, noting no substantive changes to the degree requirements; Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, School of Health Sciences (Sumi Dinda)
- 1.3.15. **Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, B.S., Specialization in Radiologic Technology, modification to rename the program** Radiologic Technology, B.S., a stand alone major to be consistent with other institutions, align with the university moving away from specializations, noting no substantive changes to the degree requirements; Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, School of Health Sciences (Sumi Dinda)
- 1.4. Combined Graduate School and Undergraduate Curriculum Submissions
 - 1.4.1. **Spanish Language in Literature, B.A./Court Administration, Graduate Certificate, Combined B.A. and Graduate Certificate, new combined BA to Graduate Certificate** program for students pursuing a world language degree that

want to pursue a career in Court Administration, Department of Modern Languages and Political Science, The College of Arts and Sciences (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo, Doug Carr)

- 1.4.2. **Spanish Language in Literature, B.A./Criminal Justice Leadership, Graduate Certificate, Combined B.A. and Graduate Certificate, new combined BA to Graduate Certificate** program for students pursuing a world language degree that want to pursue a career in Criminal Justice Leadership, Department of Modern Languages and Political Science, The College of Arts and Sciences (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo, Doug Carr)
- 1.4.3. **Spanish Language and Literature, B.A./Health Care Administration, Graduate Certificate, Combined B.A./Graduate Certificate, new combined BA to Graduate Certificate** program for students pursuing a world language degree that want to pursue a career in Health Care Administration, Department of Modern Languages and Political Science, The College of Arts and Sciences (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo, Doug Carr)
- 1.4.4. **Spanish Language and Literature, B.A./Local Government Management, Graduate Certificate, Combined B.A./Graduate Certificate, new combined BA to Graduate Certificate** program for students pursuing a world language degree that want to pursue a career in Local Government Management, Department of Modern Languages and Political Science, The College of Arts and Sciences (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo, Doug Carr)
- 1.4.5. **Spanish Language and Literature, B.A./Nonprofit Organization and Management, Graduate Certificate, Combined B.A./Graduate Certificate, new combined BA to Graduate Certificate** program for students pursuing a world language degree that want to pursue a career in Nonprofit Organization and Management, Department of Modern Languages and Political Science, The College of Arts and Sciences (Adolfo Campoy-Cubillo, Doug Carr)
- 1.5. AI Institute and Data Centers (Steve Mackey, Penny Vigneau, Tom Yamin)
- 1.6. Digital Accessibility Task Force (Diane Underwood, Shaun Moore, Todd Nucci)
- 1.7. Update the Senate Committee (Co)Chairs for the Senate Record - Amy Banes-Berceli
Artificial Intelligence Committee
Seong-Yeon Cho (SBA)
- 1.8. Senate Ad Hoc Policy 482 Language Review Committee Update - Amy Banes-Berceli
Per the committee charge, the committee has completed their work and this committee is being dissolved.
- 1.9. Committee on Academic Resilience and Success (CARS) Update to change Academic Standing terminology to begin Fall 2026. Note, the changes are only to academic standing terms, not policy. (Nick Sanders, Jamie Franklin, Amy Gould, Neil Baumgartner) not presenting, document provided
- 1.10. Course Evaluation Update (Anthony Tuf Francis, Nivedita Mukherji, Sarah Hosch)

2. Approval of Minutes from February 19, 2026

3. Unfinished Business

- 3.1. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the Graduate Council to revise the Graduate School Policy reducing the minimum number of Ph.D. program credits from 80 to 60, and to clarify the continuous enrollment registration requirement (Brandy Randall)

MOVED that the Graduate School Policy be updated as presented.

Second Reading: Amendable, debatable and eligible for a final vote at this meeting

Comment: Graduate Council Minutes
Graduate Policy Revision
Presentation

- 3.2. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** from the University Committee on Undergraduate Instruction proposing the following changes to Undergraduate Degree Requirements Policy modifying to change the upper-level degree requirements in the Undergraduate catalog, in the following sections; (1) Undergraduate Degree Requirements, (2) Dual Degrees, (3) Post-Baccalaureate (PB) Students, and (4) University Honors changing from 32 credits in courses at the 3000 level or above to 30 credits in courses at the 3000 level or above, and if pursuing a Dual Degree, changing from 16 credits at the 3000 level to 15; aligning the catalog with the Undergraduate Residency Requirements approved at the November 20, 2025 University Senate Meeting (Kristin Landis-Piwowar)

MOVED that the Undergraduate Degree Requirements Policy be updated as presented

Second Reading: Amendable, debatable and eligible for a final vote at this meeting

Comment: UCUI Minutes (January 27, 2026)
Senate Minutes (November 20, 2025)
Proposed language for Catalog

4. New Business

- 4.1. **Procedural Motion** to staff Senate Standing Committees:

MOVED that the persons below be appointed to the designated committees for the indicated terms:

Senate Budget Review Committee

Katie Greer (UL) for the 2025-2028 Term

Amy Rutledge (SBA) for Henry Aigbedo Winter 2026 Sabbatical Leave

Eralda Caushaj (SBA) moving to SON vacancy for Winter 2026 Term

Elizabeth Kattner (CAS-SMTD) for the 2025-2028 Term

Victoria Lucia (SOM) for the 2023-2026 Term

Hongwei Qu (SECS) for the 2023-2026 Term

Senate Planning Review Committee

James Naus (CAS) for the 2024-2027 Term

University Research Committee

Betty Tonui (CAS) replacing Paul Jung (SHS) for the 2024-2027 Term (clerical error)

- 4.2. **SUBSTANTIVE MOTION** brought forward by the senate General Education Committee to reconfigure the thirteen faculty appointments to align with units providing undergraduate instruction and to better meet the charge of the committee, to adjust the Vice Provost appointment to allow a designee, and to adjust the Registrar designee to designee(s) to allow flexibility for representation from both the transfer as well as the technical aspects required. (Liz Shesko, Tim Donahue)

MOVED to accept the changes to the General Education Committee membership as presented.

First Reading: Amendable, debatable and not eligible for a final vote at this meeting.

Comment: Rationale and proposed new membership
Presentation

- 4.3. **SENATE RESOLUTION** brought forward by the Oakland University Women and Gender Studies Program to call upon the Oakland University Senate to reaffirm the President's message on February 24, 2026 to affirm the heart of the university's Strategic Vision to be "stewards of place" and by standing in solidarity with immigrant faculty, staff, and students amidst heightened federal enforcement concerns. The Oakland University Senate recognizes the need for a greater show of support for our student population at this time of heightened fear and uncertainty surrounding federal immigration enforcement and resolves to reaffirm their commitment to protecting and supporting the university's diverse community. (Erin Meyers)

RESOLUTION: The Oakland University Senate resolves to support the Supporting Oakland University's Diverse Community Resolution.

Comment: Proposed Resolution: Supporting OU's Diverse Community
Presentation

- 4.4. **SENATE RESOLUTION** brought forward by Oakland University Senator Doug Wendell to call upon the Oakland University Senate to resolve to accept the proposed resolution to ensure all undergraduate reduced credit programs align with the Oakland University mission and brand and adopt the proposed outlined guidelines. (Doug Wendell)

RESOLUTION: The Oakland University Senate resolves to support the Statement of Values for Reduced Credit Undergraduate Programs Resolution.

Comment: Proposed Statement of Values for Reduced Credit Undergraduate Programs Resolution

Good and Welfare

Adjourn