

**MINUTES**  
**College of Arts and Sciences Assembly**  
**March 15, 2016, 3:30 p.m.**  
**Oakland Center 128-130**

**Members present:** Andrews, Battles, Berven, D., Cheng, Chong, Comartin, Dulio, Eis, Grimm, Guest, Havstad, Law-Sullivan, Martaic, Naus, Pfeiffer, Reger, Rigstad, Roth, Spagnuolo, Thornton, Wang, Welling

**Members absent:** Barry, Berven, K., Clark, Corso, Gooren, Orces, Wendell

**Ex-officio present:** Corcoran, Hitt, Stewart

**1. Call to Order**

Dean Corcoran called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of February 16, 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2016, were approved with one correction: the name of the 2016-2017 CAS theme should have been "Unity in Diversity." (Eis, Dulio)

**3. Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Strategic Communication**

Director of Journalism Garry Gilbert was present to answer questions about the newly proposed B.A. in Public Relations and Strategic Communication. He said that the plan to create this B.A. came from a retreat during discussions about his department's most popular minor, which is the minor in public relations. Because of the popularity of this minor, they decided to turn it into a major by adding new courses. He noted that the Communication and Journalism program had worked together on it. Ms. Pfeiffer expressed her support for the program and said that with the lack of brick and mortar newsrooms, this is a wonderful proposal because it serves the students by preparing them for job opportunities. She asked whether the School of Business Administration is agreeable with this program being housed in the CAS. Mr. Corcoran pointed out that it will be a less expensive degree when offered in the CAS. He also noted that our location in Oakland County is a factor that will be favorable to this major. Mr. Rigstad expressed his approval for the proposal, but asked whether they had considered opening up electives to other departments. Mr. Gilbert said that was a good idea and he foresees that the program will grow as resources become available.

Mr. Dulio moved to waive the second reading of the proposal (seconded by Andrews).

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Battles then moved to approve the B.A. in Public Relations and Strategic Communication (second by Thornton).

The motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. Dean's Remarks

Associate Dean Anne Hitt informed Assembly members that in 2017 the university is likely to be moving from the 0.0-4.0 grading system to an alpha (A, B, C, D, F) grading scale. She said the reason for this is that Oakland's present grading scale is different from almost everywhere else and is out of sync. Elsewhere, a 2.7 is a "B-," but at Oakland, a 2.7 is in the "C" range and our students are getting injured by this discrepancy when they transfer or apply to graduate school.

After an animated discussion about the aforementioned switch in grading systems, Dean Corcoran then informed the Assembly that the billing due date for students had been moved back a year and would not be launched in August 2016, as anticipated. This change was due in large part to the concerns expressed at the February meeting of the Assembly when Paul Schroeder (assistant vice president of Enrollment Management) was present to explain the change in the billing due date. Mr. Corcoran added that Mr. Schroeder had expressed his appreciation for the questions and concerns raised during his visit to the Assembly.

Mr. Corcoran then updated the Assembly on the search for the AVP for Research. He noted that the candidates are coming to campus for interviews soon. He added that the Carnegie classifications had changed slightly, which has had an effect on classifications of other Michigan universities. For example, one university rose from a lower category than Oakland, and one university that was in our category rose to a different category. These changes have ramifications for the perception of Oakland University in the context of the other universities.

Mr. Corcoran said that there are also searches with open forums going on in Nursing, and he encouraged CAS members to attend and possibly to think of ways in which CAS departments could potentially collaborate with their programs.

#### 6. Discussion

Mr. Guest announced that the musical *Assassins* would be running from the end of March through the first week of April. He encouraged everyone to try to attend.

#### 7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dikka Berven (secretary)