There were four items of business handled in the Senate meeting. A Center for Family Research was established by unanimous vote. The School of Public Health became the College of Public Health by unanimous vote. The Provost gave her valedictory state of academic affairs address (immediately below). The Chair of Faculty Council gave a report.

Provost Snyder's theme was collaboration and the collective nature of the university. She began by saying that she is going to Case Western Reserve University as President, but a large part of her life has been at OSU—as an undergraduate and for 19 years as a faculty member, Vice Provost and Provost. Provost Snyder cited many specifics about collaboration. Examples are the Climate, Water, and Carbon TIE; the merged College of Education and Human Ecology; the merged John Glenn School of Public Affairs; and the Biomechanics Institute. She mentioned the outreach by OSU, in particular by Prof. Evans-Cowley, to Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Provost Snyder discussed three important issues in detail.

Undergraduate reform: She was hopeful that the reduction to 181 credit hours would be carried through before she left, and that that would allow more students to graduate within four years and make OSU more competitive. The Arts & Sciences has already approved the change for the BA, and should soon approve the change for the BS. OSU will admit more students to make the change to 181 credit hours dollar neutral.

Graduate reform: Provost Snyder cited the Freeman and Beck Reports and noted that next month Fiscal will make the new funding model for graduate students final.

Implementing economic accessibility: OSU is concerned about access, and the Provost mentioned the Land Grant Opportunity scholarships as one way to address this. She noted that Tally Hart has been named senior advisor for access. The access also involves Regional Campuses. In addition, OSU is leading a Big Ten initiative on Pell Grants. Access is an internal issue as well. Provost Snyder lauded the Council on Women's tenure clock flexibility proposal in this regard.

Provost Snyder mentioned also that we are being reaccredited by the North Central Association this year. Randy Smith is heading the effort.

Provost Snyder said that we are doing all this collaboratively, and "deliberately and deliberately."

Questions were asked about onerous regulations, salaries, the foreign language requirement, and a surcharge for credits. Provost Snyder said that the regulations were necessary because we owe the people of Ohio the courtesy of spending their money wisely, but also said that the University is trying hard to lessen the burden as much as possible. She said that salaries were important, and that when
you get behind, it’s really hard to catch up (in specific, she noted the years OSU had zero increases). The foreign language requirement remains the same. There will likely be a surcharge for credit hours over 18.

In his remarks, Allan Silverman mentioned the ongoing initiatives: the new leave policy, the Weisenberger "fixit" committee, the formation of three new ad hoc committees ("new, fair, and impartial", interdisciplinary P&T, use/dropping of "clinical" by medical faculty). He noted that there will soon be a new ad hoc committee on budget restructuring review.

Silverman mentioned five items on this year's agenda: the reduction of the graduation requirement to 181 credit hours, which should go smoothly if no one reduces the GEC by more than 5 credit hours; reform of the graduate program; compensation, with the aim of achieving 30th in the AAU ratings by giving raises 1% above the peer average; the issue of governance rights for clinical and research faculty )"what is the nature of a faculty member in the twenty-first century?"); and reform of Senate committees (he mentioned the Research Committee specifically) and reallocation of Senate seats (it is unfair for the College of Medicine to have so few senators).