

Meeting Summary
University Senate Meeting
November 29, 2018, 3:30 PM
Saxbe Auditorium, located in Drinko Hall.

1. Secretary's Report #368

Ben Givens, University Senate Secretary

The motion for approval carries.

2. Suicide and Mental Health Task Force Report

Javaune Adams-Gaston, Senior Vice President for Student Life

Eileen Ryan, Interim Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health

Shamina Merchant, President, Undergraduate Student Government

The task force members were campus-wide. The President was intentional that student engagement is key. While there was content area expertise, the President was very clear that we should not have preconceived notions about recommendations. They identified content matter experts on campus, in the community, and internationally. An inventory was taken of what was currently available and what was not. Student outreach was critically important.

One challenge was the sheer volume of information. Suicide is a very complex subject being researched from a variety of perspectives. Sound research had to be distinguished from the literature based on popular opinions.

Being a college student seems to be a protective factor against suicide. Still, less than half of college students experiencing a mental health crisis seek help. There are risk factors for completed suicide. One is mental illness, especially if left untreated. Depression takes a tremendous toll on students' academic performance. Students typically drop out of school because of mental health conditions. The rate of college student suicides has been increasing. Anxiety is now a more common problem than depression.

We have expanded our counseling staff by 50% over the last three years. The need has increased as well and is outgrowing the number of staff. Our offerings are not intended to take the place of a person's primary mental health care. They are intended to supplement what students have already been receiving. Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) is a multimodal service. There may be an expectation that students need an hour session each week. OSU offers other options such as workshops and group counseling. We also refer students to outside providers as needed.

The overarching theme is the fact that all of our campus community owns the shared responsibility of creating a culture of care. [The report](#) identifies six recommendation areas for action.

We need to start at orientation and we need to go throughout a student's journey. We also want to coordinate stigma reduction. We have identified digital delivery supports, many of which came directly from students. Modifications have already been made to garages. Everyone is strongly encouraged to take the REACH training and to spread the word to colleagues. Faculty's ability to know the risk and the warning signs are crucial. One recommendation is a central case management system, as the amount of resources can be overwhelming to navigate. A case manager would help students navigate the system.

3. Proposal for Senate Action from the Council on Academic Affairs

Eric Bielefeld, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs

a. Proposal to establish a Sustainability Institute

The purpose of the proposed Sustainability Institute is to bring together resources. The mission is to promote interdisciplinary research. They included a very transparent and detailed five-year budget. During a meeting with the Faculty Council, several questions came up which were addressed. You can find the [response document](#) on the Senate website. Overall, CAA viewed the proposal and institute positively. This investment puts us in the international conversation of sustainability within an institute.

Faculty senator Dr. Ogle raised concerns that he and some of his colleagues have about the funding, for example for non-instructional staff. He expressed the importance of investing in faculty. Provost McPherson provided a background on the funding of each of the two entities being merged to form the institute. As is done with many interdisciplinary initiatives the funding typically comes from colleges. Directors and leaders of these initiatives work with the relevant colleges. The view was also expressed that such interdisciplinary centers are a catalyst for leveraging a variety of external funding.

The motion passes.

4. Supporting Student Academic Success

Beth Hume, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education

Student success falls to all of us. In June, Undergraduate Education and Enrollment Services merged and now both report to Dr. Hume. Leadership saw this as an opportunity to look at the overall structure. Over the summer, they worked with an expert in organizational design to help understand how to best become one organization. The new organization being proposed reduces the number of offices. They also propose the name Office of Student Academic Success. This title reflects the mission of the office although it should not be assumed that the office is solely responsible for this success. Success depends on collaboration. They also believe in serving compassionately and inclusively. They want to proceed in a way where we are measuring success. We work every single day to remove obstacles for students. The office must also be research informed. Their new mantra is “First do what’s right for the student, then make it work for Ohio State.” Another aim of the reorganization was to make sure that there was alignment with the goals of the Strategic Plan. Five of the units are new or realigned or have a new focus. One is the Office of Strategic Enrollment Planning. Currently, we have the office of Enrollment Services. We want to not only bring in the best class but also study patterns as students matriculate. A new office is the Office of Transition and Academic Growth. This has a focus on supporting students academically as they transition to the Columbus campus and a major. This includes Advising, Exploration, First Year Experience, and growing attention to campus change and transfer students. Another office is the Office of Research and Program Assessment, those that focus on student academic success. Shauna Jaggars in collaboration with ODEE and ODI will be putting out an RFP seeking proposals from faculty on student academic success. Undergraduate Education has currently been a catchall for student academic success programs. We are shifting the emphasis so this office can focus on policy, procedures, informational support, and oversight for the GE program. Though it seems we are adding many people, this will be FTE neutral. The next steps are gathering input from university stakeholders. They are proposing that as of January the new Office of Student Academic Success replace the current

ESUE. A lot the programs and offices mentioned here have faculty advisory groups. They will also be forming a new Faculty advisory group with Senate representation.

5. **Old Business**
6. **New Business**
7. **Announcements**
8. **Adjourn**