

UNIVERSITY SENATE

Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2022

The University Senate was called to order at 3:30 p.m., Remote Access, on Monday February 7, 2022. Members absent: Eli Davies, Logan Harvey, Vada Stephens, Adam Strantz, Troy Travis, Victoria Villanueva

Call to Order

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 with announcements and remarks by the Chair, Senate Executive Committee, Jennifer Green:
 - a. The Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion is offering many opportunities to celebrate Black History Month. A [link](#) was provided that lists many many events and opportunities available.
 - b. The Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion is hosting a banquet and dinner on February 24th in Armstrong in honor of Black History Month. Provost Osborne has sponsored a table at this

Ohio for the field. Additionally, the program is expected to attract female and minority students to serve diversity inclusion efforts.

- iii. Significant support has been secured through several area hospitals and the healthcare related industry; clinical engineers should encounter promising employment outcomes in hospitals, industry, and private practice.

- b. Exploring preferred pharmacy options.
- c. Reviewing relationships with preferred providers.
- d. Discussing contract terms with Anthem; the renewal decision is due at the end of 2022.

Q: What percentage of employees opt out of the coverage?

A: Specific percentages are not known, but the number are small, and typically because they have access to other coverage.

Q: What if two family members both work at Miami; how are they grouped?

A: This designation is determined on a case-by-case basis, i.e., if a married couple has one person on a PPO and the other prefers to have a HDHP, if there are children, etc. Benefit Services can assist in providing different options.

Q: Are there attempts to respond to overall increases by trying to find more equitable distribution of costs across salary ranges?

A: The PPO Plan is more costly than the HDHP. Everyone pays the same percentage of their salary meaning that higher income employees are subsidizing lower salary employees to get to that same rate.

New Business (Continued)

6. New business discussions were continued:

- a. Computer Science, Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science – Eric Bachmann, Chair and Professor, Computer Science and Software Engineering
 - i. Goal of the new BA in computer science is to broaden opportunities and diversify computing majors that are offered at Miami.
 - a. Increase diversity among CSE majors, and attract students with broader interests and those who have no previous experience in CS.
 - b. BA degree would enable students to change majors with less of a delay in graduation.
 - ii. The proposed BA degree requires the completion of a minor, which allows for strong degree combinations that can
 - a. Attract students who are not currently enrolled at Miami.
 - b. Increase enrollment in other majors across the campus.
 - iii. Impacts on CSE:
 - a. Current students could switch to the BA program, as the number of upper level electives could be reduced, with those in the upper level electives focusing on the BS degree.
 - b. Enrollment would grow at a faster rate.
 - c. 25% of CSE majors predicted to be in the BA program.
 - d. End result is a more diverse array of students with a broader set of interests.
 - iv. The proposed degree program does not require any new courses.

Q: Is there a status differential BA/S?

A: Consultation was done with Wright State about their program and both degrees attract offers by the same employers. There do not appear to be impact on employment opportunities.

Q: What are accreditation requirements for this degree?

A: We would like to get it started first and then we can look into it going forward.

Q: Is there potential that this could be perceived as a “lower status” degree? If so, are their concerns that it will create differences in how the University recruits a diverse population of students?

A: There is no evidence that the BA degree is “easier” than the BS. Both are rigorous mathematically. It is however geared to be a more professional degree than a science degree, depending on where a student wishes to work and what their career goals may be.

Old Business

7. No items of old business.

Provost Update

8. Updates and Announcements from Jason Osborne, Provost and Chair of University Senate
 - a. The recent visit to Luxembourg was very successful with many positive things to report for MUDEC and the University Global Initiatives:
 - i. There are increased numbers in applications for summer programs.
 - ii. The focus continues to be providing high quality programs while looking at budget sustainability. Ideally, the University would like to not only cover costs, but return revenue and support those students who might not be able to participate due to financial constraints.
 - iii. The University has signed leases that will offer additional housing options for students.
 - iv. We are getting national recognition in regards to excellence in diversity and inclusion, as well as international education.
 - b. Recent Admissions updates look strong with current 2022 applications. In-state applications are up 5% and international applications are rebounding 17% compared with the pool at this time last year.
 - c. Improving faculty research and scholarship efforts continue.
 - i. Miami has invested more than a million dollars in supporting sponsor program efforts, and another million dollars in faculty to