

**DRAFT Journal of the
March 20, 2023 Faculty Senate Meeting
Thurman J White Forum Building - The Forum Room**

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 pm by Chair Hambright. Chair-Elect Heyck read the [Land Acknowledgement](#).

It was confirmed that a quorum was present thus allowing business to be conducted.

The Faculty Senate Journal for the regular meeting of February 13, 2023, was approved without revisions.

Announcements (via Chair Hambright)

- The Faculty Senate is sad to report the death of retired faculty members Ron Ratliff, Assistant Professor of Health & Exercise Sciences on January 23, 2023 and John Dowling Pigott, Associate Professor of Geosciences on February 14, 2023.
- Senators who are interested in running for an at-large position on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee should inform Chair-elect Heyck.

Senate Chair's Report (via Chair Hambright). The report was distributed via email. Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. There were no questions.

Discussion and Vote on Proposal for OU Open Access Policy

New proposal language for the Open Access (OA) Policy proposal from the Faculty Senate Open Access Policy *ad hoc* Committee was distributed via email. Chair Hambright explained that following a series of faulty listening sessions conducted by the committee, the language had been simplified and that there was now language added to tie the policy to the annual faculty evaluations through the Faculty Activity System, and that this version represented a formal motion from the committee. Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Sen. Garofalo asked about language for opt-out in the original proposed policy and clarified that it was for each article. Dr. Masly responded on behalf of the committee about how that language is presented in the presented policy. Sen. Bolino asked about articles being uploaded to the Faculty Activity System and if the system could be tailored so that faculty can denote in the system which articles should be included. That was the implementation recommendation from the committee, and the administration seems generally in favor of this. Sen. Apanasov expressed concern that the policy gives copyright to the university. Committee members pointed out that faculty are not transferring their copyright, but instead are giving the university permission to exercise that copyright on behalf of the faculty. Sen. Muraleetharan asked about what the committee heard during the listening sessions. Dr. Masly indicated that faculty expressed concern about the policy creating more work for faculty; he also indicated that this proposed OA policy was narrower in focus than the university's current Intellectual Property policy. Sen. Schmeltzer asked if this policy had been cleared by OU Legal. The current version has not been reviewed by OU Legal; the previous version had been reviewed by Legal. Chair Hambright reminded Senators that, if the proposal passed, it would be sent to the Office of Policy Management that would draft the formal policy in consultation with Legal, and that the formal policy would return to the Senate Floor for approval. Sen. Kibbey asked about the expectation that each faculty member provide a digital copy; he would prefer opt-in rather than opt-out. Sen. Sharma asked who will bear the cost of providing open access; Dr. Masly indicated that this policy is addressing a separate issue. Sen. Ge asked if articles being open through the OU system creates a conflict with publishers; the

publisher has copyright to the final version. The policy is asking authors to publish the accepted version, the copyright for which is retained by the authors. Sen. Busselle asked about obtaining permission from co-authors not affiliated with OU; Dr. Masly recommended talking to your co-authors but nothing would prevent it from being included in SHAREOK. Sen. Garofalo has concerns about the publishing crisis and small presses/journals that are not sustainable. Committee member, Dr. Pandora indicated that the idea is to make works as widely accessible as possible. Sen. Bolino questioned the inclusion of the language “irrevocable license.” Dr. Masly indicated the language came from the Harvard policy model. Sen. Muraleetharan asked the committee to clarify comments about peer institutions and their experience with publisher push back to the policy. Sen. Bembem reminded senators that they are representing their colleges/department, not just personal feelings. Sen. Apanasov asked about consequences for opting-out. Sen. Garofalo asked if we had talked to presses or publishers about the impact of Open Access. Sen. Schmeltzer asked about the rationale for this policy. Sen. Livingood asked a procedural question; if we approve the proposal, we will still have an opportunity to approve the final policy, to which Chair Hambright responded affirmatively.. Sen. T. Kibbey recommended a change to the language regarding uploading articles into the activity system; the change was ultimately rejected. Sen. Harjo raised a concern about making faculty scholarship easily searchable given the current political climate. Sen. Hougen asked about opt-in versus opt-out.

After spirited discussion, a vote was called; the motion passed (25 in favor; 8 against; 6 abstentions). The policy will go to the OU Office of Policy for official language and review and return to the Senate for final approval..

Remarks by Vice President Belinda Hyppolite regarding Classroom Accessibility and Fundamental Alteration Policy Memo and Policy

VP Hyppolite introduced those responsible for digital accessibility within the Accessibility and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) - Darcy Adams Maelzer (Interim Director), Donna Lewis (Digital Accessibility Specialist), and Megan Moore (Digital Accessibility Specialist). VP Hyppolite’s office has hired an outside consultant regarding policies, procedures, and staffing to ensure OU is properly serving our community. She assured Senators that ADRC is staffed appropriately for institutions of OU’s size. Exam periods are peak times for the ADRC, and that is why they request volunteers. The ADRC received a large (\$100,000) donation to launch a pilot program to help neurodivergent students. Donna Lewis provided an overview of what it means to have materials that are digitally accessible and the services available through the ADRC. Megan Moore informed us that they can only notify faculty about the need for accommodations within a course after a student has enrolled, thus explaining the often short notice that a faculty member may receive. Personnel from the ADRC will schedule 30-minute one-on-one appointments with faculty and will meet with departments or other groups as needed.

Chair Hambright opened the floor to questions. Sen. Busselle asked about structural accessibility; how do we address issues when our classrooms are not accessible? VP Hyppolite indicated that her office can work with classroom management to resolve the issue and move the class. Chair-elect Heyck asked about where the bar is for a course to be considered accessible; Ms. Adams Maelzer indicated that it depends on the student's needs. There are some efforts being made to procure tools to make remediation easier. Sen. Muraleetharan asked about technology to make equations accessible and indicated that we need training to make materials accessible. VP Hyppolite indicated they are working on a train-the-trainer model to develop in-house expertise. Sen. Bolino suggested that they look for alternatives to providing accommodations to students enrolled in evening courses as ADRC currently does not support evening exam periods.

Remarks by David Horton, Senior Associate Vice President & Chief Information Officer

CIO Horton provided an overview of the data classification standard. Most faculty handle student data which is protected by FERPA, and there are new privacy standards and security controls being implemented. He reminded the senate of how IT implements new policies through an online open commenting period. Horton discussed the security protocols that are currently in place. The slide deck which contains links to more information will be distributed to Senators.

Chair Hambricht opened the floor to questions. Sen. Malestein asked for further clarification on the security protocols and what is being monitored. CIO Horton indicated that virtually all monitoring is through automation. IT staff do not look at the records without involvement from OU Legal. Sen. Malestein also asked about the training emails that appear to be phishing. Sen. Schmeltzer asked if the VPN was available to students; it is available to all those affiliated with OU. Sen. Hougen asked about external collaborators via Teams; the university's license should allow for external collaborators, but it can take up to an hour to add a new Team member.

New Business

Chair Hambricht opened the floor for new business. None was presented.

There being no additional business the meeting was adjourned

The official Faculty Senate Journal will be made available in draft form before the next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate Meeting (April 10 at 3:30 pm).

Sarah Robbins
Faculty Senate Secretary