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# Otterbein University Senate Minutes

Otterbein University

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**Otterbein University Senate Minutes**  
**February 19, 2014**  
**Riley Auditorium, 3:30 p.m.**

Chair Krendl announced that we had quorum and the meeting was called to order.

Rev. Dr. Guion-Utsler offered the invocation, the agenda was adopted as written and the minutes from November 20, 2013 were approved.

**Honorary Degrees** - Chair Krendl announced that the Undergraduate Commencement speakers for 2014 will be Sen. Sherrod Brown and his wife Connie Schultz. She asked for a motion to grant the following honorary degrees to the speakers:

Sen. Sherrod Brown – D.P.S. Doctor of Public Service

Ms. Connie Schultz – D. Litt. Doctor of Letters

Sen. Mills moved approval, seconded by Sen. Stefano to grant honorary degrees to Sen. Brown and Ms. Schultz. The motion passed.

**Senate Bill 13/14-9** – Approval of the Iota Iota Iota Constitution: Sen. Saker moved approval of the constitution, seconded by Sen. D’Oyly. Hannah Ewald gave a brief description of the organization. The motion passed.

**Senate Bill 13/14-10** – Approval of the proposal to support the basic concept of the new governance models and charge the Governance Review Commission with writing the new bylaws. Sen. Gatti and Sen. Stefano presented the model that the Commission is proposing and how it has evolved since the commission began their research into governance. This is a representative model of governance that will include four councils each elected by their constituent group – Faculty, Student, Administrative and Staff; five super committees – Graduate Council, Curriculum, Planning, Governance & Bylaws and Faculty/Personnel along with their corresponding subcommittees. Super/subcommittees will be filled by both members of the Otterbein community and Senators. The governance system is not just the Senate, it consists of the Operational System, Senate System and Judicial System which all work collaboratively with the President and Board of Trustees.

Concerns/Comments made during the meeting:

- Sen. Blackburn-Smith – Believes that Diversity and Inclusion should be one of the Super Committees and not a subcommittee of Planning. Diversity and Inclusion should touch all aspects of campus life and he doesn’t believe that will happen if it is a subcommittee of Planning.
- Sen. Kirk – Stated that the feedback loop included in this model is an attractive feature that is missing in our current structure.
- Sen. Strayer – Asked if all Councils ever get together in a Town Hall type of meeting? Sen. Stefano replied that it is a possibility that they could have this type of meeting.

- Sen. Barstow – Asked how this will affect the relationship between the Senate, the President and the Board of Trustees? Sen. Stefano replied that the relationship will remain the same and the Board has the final and ultimate authority.
- Chair Krendl – Reminded the Senate that there are three Board members, including a Faculty Trustee and a Student Trustee on the Governance Review Commission.
- Sen. Sherbahn – Stated that this model will provide a better flow of communication back to the students.
- Sen. Mills – Remarked that he understood that the Bylaws were to be completed this academic year. Sen. Haverkamp replied that he is correct, and the Governance Commission asked Administrative Council for an extension and it was granted.
- A student Senator was concerned that this will limit the number of students involved in governance. Sen. Gatti replied that this will actually give students more opportunities to be involved.

Sen. Ludlum wanted to clarify that the Senate is being asked to approve the concept of the representative governance with the four councils and not the standing committees or the size of Senate at this time.

Sen. Millsap asked everyone to seriously think about their vote. This will be a significant cultural shift for the university.

Sen. Gatti moved approval, seconded by Sen. Stefano. The motion passed.

**2014/15 Common Book Presentation** – Sen. Bechtold announced that the 2014/15 Common Book will be – *Running The Rift* by Naomi Benaron. The author will be on campus October 21-23, 2014. Sen. Shively has served as co-chair of the Common Book Committee for 3 years and has completed her term. Regina Kengla was announced as the new co-chair.

Adjourned at 4:40

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Lee  
Senate Secretary