

# THE STUDENT SENATE OF OBERLIN COLLEGE

MARCH 27, 2007

*To Secretary of the College Bob Haslun.*

Oberlin College's Student Bill of Rights acknowledges, "Students, as well as faculty, staff, and all other officers of the College, must play a major role in campus governance if the College is to thrive as a community of scholars." Oberlin has a proud tradition of operating based on this principle of inclusive and open governance.

Student Senate's power to appoint the student members of committees is a key part of the College's governance structure. We would like to fulfill this responsibility more efficiently but are hampered by a lack of knowledge of all committees, their charges and membership, and the number of student seats available.

Student Senate requests that the College "Mak[e] available descriptions of existing decision-making bodies within the formal structure of campus governance" (Students' Rights and Responsibilities III.i.d). Such a document would include the following information about faculty, presidential, ad-hoc, and other committees: (1) the charges, including powers and responsibilities of the committees; (2) the composition of the committees, including the committee's chair or convener and current membership; (3) a summation of the recent activities, including minutes, of the committee; and (4) the meeting times of the committees. The document should also include the powers and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, administrative offices, and other departments. Additionally, the document should provide illustrators or descriptions of how these individual components fit together to create Oberlin's process, specifically: (1) how the committees relate to each other and to College offices; (2) the avenues through which decisions and proposals must travel; and (3) any additional information that would help students participate in Oberlin's institutional governance.

We believe that a clear and coherent description of Oberlin's governance structure will aid both students and the next president. Students will especially benefit from clearly understanding how they can involve themselves in decision-making at the College. We would therefore appreciate this information as soon as possible.

Please contact me with any questions. Thank you for your help; we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

COLIN KOFFEL, *Liaison*  
LOUIS GRUBE, *Committee Coordinator*  
LEAH PINE, *Committee Coordinator*  
BEN KLEBANOFF, *Governance Chair*

cc: Kimberly Jackson Davidson,  
Associate Dean of Students

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