

THE SENATE INFORMER



The Student Senate is the central governance organization for the student body. It is the principal advocate for the interests of the student body as a whole to the Oberlin administration and faculty, and ensures effective student participation in the faculty governance system. The Senate is a central forum for common dialogue within the student community, and for the development of legislation to actualize common goals.

42ND STUDENT SENATE AJOURNS, FALL ELECTIONS APPROACH



From left to right: Lillie Chillen, Nancy Nguyen, Dean Shozo Kawaguchi, Justin Brogden, Ian Hilburger, Colin Jones, Luke Squire, Nick Ferrara, Kwame Webster, Andrew Watiker, Vanessa Coleman, and David Carlson.

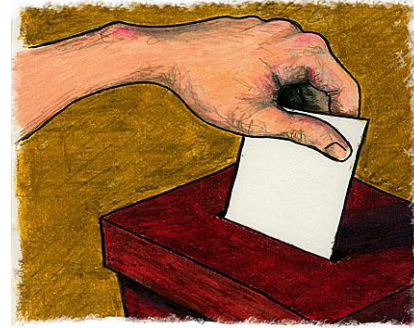
Referendum Fails To Meet Quorum

It was perhaps ambitious to attempt to have two referendums in an academic year, especially when the second one opened only days from the start of Reading Period but persuaded by issues ranging from a new parking lot and several proposed constitutional amendments Student Senate decided to do just that. Unfortunately only about 45% of the Student Body voted before the semester came to an end, short of the 50% needed to reach quorum.

Nevertheless the information provides a useful glimpse into the minds of Oberlin College Students. The students that voted rejected the constitutional amendment which would have made second semester seniors ineligible to run for Senate. It was hoped that the measure would help resolve an issue that helped lead to the thirteen open seats this semester. Two Senators elected in the Spring were second semester seniors, therefore, leaving two additional seats open this Fall. Almost 70% of the students who voted rejected the limitation. Nearly 60 percent also rejected the idea of a community service requirement to graduate while nearly the two-thirds of students opposed the construction of a new parking lot.

Students were also asked to give their opinion of Senate which averaged 3.45. Senate is currently discussing if and when another referendum should be held but the non-binding results are available on pages 3-5.

FALL ELECTIONS GEAR UP



Arguably one of the most exciting events of the semester, the Fall Student Senate Elections, is about to begin. In a rare turn of events, thirteen of the fifteen seats are up for grabs. Five incumbents are up for reelection, insuring that the majority of the next Senate will be first time Senators. Leah Pine and Andrew Watiker, who were elected last Spring, are the only Senators not facing reelection. "Senate did quite a bit last semester and I think this election will give us the mix of fresh blood and experience that is key to our success." Justin Brogden, one of the Senators up for reelection, commented. At the writing of this article over twenty candidates had confirmed their participation in the candidates, while over one hundred have been nominated. The nomination period is set to run until September 15. Students will have until 4:30 on Wednesday, September 17th to accept their nominations and to submit their candidate's statements. The election is set to begin at 5pm the same day and run until September 24th or until quorum is reached. The hope is that the full Senate will meet as soon at September 28th. If there are any questions about the election students can send an email to ocsenateelections@gmail.com.

REFERENDUM RESULTS

Total Votes: 1,486
Duplicate Votes: 204
Total Non-Duplicated Votes: 1,282
Invalid Votes: 62
Valid Votes: 1,220

Do you have a car on campus:

Yes - 254 24.47%
No - 784 75.53%
Abstain - 182

Do you support raising the vehicle registration fee?

Yes - 287 28.56%
No - 718 71.44%
Abstain 215

Do you support the construction on new parking lots on campus?

Yes - 380 38.04%
No - 619 61.96%
Abstain - 221

Should students have to fulfill a community service requirement to graduate?

Yes - 415 40.29%
No - 615 59.71%
Abstain - 190

Should Oberlin College extend its fair-trade purchasing policies to include cocoa products?

Yes - 737 73.41%
No - 267 26.59%
Abstain - 216

How familiar are you with Oberlin College's Strategic Plan?

I have read it - 87 8.38%
I am aware of the strategic plan but have not read it - 411 39.60%
I am not aware of the strategic plan - 540 52.02%

Should students who are only able to serve a single semester of a two semester term be ineligible to run for Senate? (Note: Voting 'Yes' would create a constitutional change.)?

Yes - 296 30.48%
No - 675 69.52%
Abstain - 249

Should the descriptions of Senate officer positions be moved from the Constitution to the Senate's bylaws? (Note: Voting 'Yes' would create a constitutional change.)

Yes - 507 61.01%
No - 324 38.99% (No quorum)
Abstain - 389

Should references to advisory councils and working groups be removed from the Constitution? (Note: Voting 'Yes' would create a constitutional change.)

Yes - 536 64.42%
No - 296 35.57% (No quorum)
Abstain - 388

Student Survey (1 thru 5 scale, 1=low approval, 5=high approval)

Office of the President
Average: **4.27**

Office of the Dean of Students
Average: **3.89**

Office of the Dean of Studies
Average: **3.84**

Office of the Registrar
Average: **3.88**

Office of the Financial Aid
Average: **3.79**

RESED
Average: **2.49**

Oberlin Student Cooperative Association
Average: **3.94**

Your Housing Experience
Average: **3.36**

Your Dining Experience
Average: **3.39**

Safety and Security
Average: **3.62**

Office of Facilities
Average: **3.61**

Athletic Facilities
Average: **3.35**

Career Services
Average: **3.35**

Student Union
Average: **4.22**

Office of Religious and Spiritual Life
Average: **3.66**

Counseling Center
Average: **3.45**

Student Health
Average: **2.84**

Mudd Library
Average: **4.39**

Oberlin College Dialog Center
Average: **3.77**

Assigned Advisors
Average: **3.80**

Bonner Center for Service and Learning
Average: **4.25**

Multicultural Resource Center
Average: **4.15**

Science Library
Average: **4.40**

Art Library
Average: **4.41**

Oberlin OnCampus
Average: **3.68**

Center for Information Technology
Average: **3.48**

Student Senate
Average: **3.45**

Student Finance Committee
Average: **2.85**

Student Honor Committee
Average: **3.40**

Judicial Board
Average: **3.25**

Student Union Board
Average: **3.61**

Forum Board
Average: **3.60**

Conservatory Library
Average: **4.15**

HIGHLIGHTS

Highest Average Rating:

1. Art Library 4.41
2. Science Library 4.40
3. Mudd Library 4.39

Lowest Average Ratings:

1. Residential Education and Dining Services 2.49
2. Student Health 2.84
3. Student Finance Committee 2.85

Highest number of students citing “No Interaction”

1. Oberlin College Dialogue Center-772
2. Office of Religious and Spiritual Life-766
3. Forum Board-690

Committees

Joining one of the many faculty committees is the best ways to influence policy on campus and one of Student Senate's most powerful tools in ensuring that the voice of the student body is heard. Join a committee, see how decisions are made and help create change or preserve the current structure from the inside-out. Email Senate@oberlin.edu for more information about the committees or to schedule an interview.

Committees with Student Assignments

General Faculty Committees

ACADEMIC CALENDAR
ADMISSIONS and FINANCIAL AID
ADVISING
ASSESSMENT
ATHLETICS
COMMUNITY BOARD
COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING
EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
EQUITY and DIVERSITY
FINNEY LECTURE
LIBRARY
MUSICAL STUDIES/DOUBLE DEGREE
STUDENT LIFE
WINTER TERM

Art & Sciences Committees

DANENBERG OBERLIN-IN-LONDON
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES

Conservatory Committees

EDUCATIONAL POLICY – EPC
NEW MUSIC

