



June 3, 2020

Dear Members of the University Senate,

I am pleased to accept the following action passed by the University Senate on April 8, 2020:

- [US19/20-13: SAT/ACT Optional Undergraduate Admissions Criteria](#)
- [US19/20-14: Policy on Search Procedures for Academic Administrator Positions](#)
- [US19/20-15: New Program Proposal – Ph.D. in Bioengineering](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the way in which we address our collective mission as a university, and apply ourselves in strengthening our university. Shared governance is a case in point, and I not only wish to thank those who participated in the Zoom Senate meeting on April 8th, but also in particular, the Senate leadership for their flexibility and quick resolve to move to test optional for the SAT/ACT for undergraduate admissions prior to the scheduled Senate meeting. This was an atypical situation, and I am very pleased that we were ultimately able to bring the motion to the Senate for an official vote.

While the present circumstance places many demands on our attention, it is imperative that we also keep an eye on the future promise of UO. Expanding our program offerings to include a graduate degree in Bioengineering will serve to bolster the university and add to our already strong profile. I commend the hard work done by the Graduate Council and program faculty to ready this proposal for Senate approval.

Lastly, I would like to make mention of the lively discussion and negotiation with the Senate leadership on developing the policy on search procedures. This policy was crafted to reflect a balance between the need for administrative flexibility, a demand for greater transparency, and broader constituent representation. The policy has undergone a PAC review including its corresponding open comment period and emerged unchanged. It has been added to the university policy library.

Thank you again for your hard work and contributions to our university.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Schill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael H. Schill
President and Professor of Law