

University Council Executive Committee

MINUTES

MARCH 23, 2021

3:31-4:35 PM

MICROSOFT TEAMS

MEETING CALLED BY	Tonia Ferrell, chair	
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting	
PRESIDER	Tonia Ferrell, chair	
NOTE TAKER	Heather Loughney	
ATTENDEES	<p>Attendees: Arnob Banik, Anne Bruno, Jeanette Carson, Tonia Ferrell, Ed Evans, Kathee Evans, Kevin Feezel, Marjorie Hartleben, Kris Kraft, John Wiencek</p> <p>Absent with notice:</p> <p>Absent without notice:</p>	
Agenda topics:		
3:31 PM	CALL TO ORDER	TONIA FERRELL
DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The chair called the meeting to order. With no changes the agenda was approved. The minutes of the February 23 meeting were approved without dissent. 	
TOPIC SUBMISSIONS		TONIA FERRELL
DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cryptocurrency – a submission was made to investigate the use of cryptocurrency at the University of Akron. After discussion it was decided that the submission would be returned to the originator, Donald Pryor, to ask for more information on the uses for colleges and to give examples of other institutions that are using it now. It will be placed under Unfinished Business for UCEC until Dr. Pryor responds. Part-Time Faculty pay increase – this submission came from the chair of the Faculty Senate, Linda Saliga. A resolution was passed at the March Faculty Senate meeting asking the administration to look at the issue and to increase the pay for part-time faculty. After discussion the UCEC decided that this is a larger issue and affects more groups on campus. It was decided to refer the issue to the Talent Development and Human Resources committee for review and to look into the various groups on campus that have not received pay raises equal to those of the bargaining units on campus. 	
UNFINISHED BUSINESS		TONIA FERRELL
DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Roster and website updates – Heather Loughney reported that the roster has been updated and is online, there are still some open spots but most of those 	

are for positions that have not been appointed within committees. All minutes received have been posted to the website.

2. Budget training topic submission – Dallas Grundy has responded that he would be happy to put together training and asked for direction in terms of how it should be presented. The UCEC decided that multiple sessions dealing with topics would be helpful so that people can access the modules that they need. CFO Grundy also requested a timetable for the project. The UCEC responded that it would be helpful to have the training available for them by the beginning of the fall semester. It was also suggested to record the sessions for future reference.
3. Signage in Polsky/Schrank – emails have gone to Steve Myers in capital planning and response indicated he and Dallas Grundy, CFO are aware of the problems and are looking into updating signage. Will be addressed from a main budget line.
4. Diversity committee – item is still pending the report from the work group that was formed over the summer. Report has gone to the President and is being vetted.
5. Vacation bank – the item has been sent to Talent Development & Human Resources committee for review with a 30 day turnaround.

NEW BUSINESSIA FERRELL

TONIA FERRELL

DISCUSSION

1. The Provost reported that he has been spending considerable time with the Admissions people, deans and data people to discuss the enrollment and how to increase the numbers. Faculty are engaged and putting a huge effort in. But this is still an uncertain time, student behaviors are off due to the pandemic and affordability is a bigger issue than ever. UA is committed to making education affordable; it has been decided not to increase tuition and to lower the cost of on-campus housing. Have also reviewed the various scholarships offered at UA. Creating “last mile” scholarship that will close the gap in what students have received in grants and other funding so that they are fully funded for the semester. There are no plans to grow the scholarship budget but to change the way they are offered.

The Provost also shared that the dean search in College of Business is underway, the director search for Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering is down to two candidates and the search for the director of branch campuses is underway. A question was asked about the search for the new dean of the Law School, the Provost responded that the search will most likely take place during the summer.

A question was asked about the fall semester teaching models, the Provost responded that a Pivot taskforce is being put together to work over the summer and to prepare for the changing conditions and to make the decision on how to come back for fall semester. Jeanette Carson pointed out that the AV team

that does the Smart Classroom upgrades will need to be included in the planning so that they can order equipment early for classrooms. The Provost suggested reaching out to Jennifer Lillard who is chairing the Pivot committee.

2. The agenda for the UC meeting on April 20th was discussed, it was suggested to add Good of the Order to the agenda. The agenda was approved with changes.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

TONIA FERRELL

DISCUSSION

1. None.
2. The motion to adjourn was approved without dissent.