

University Council

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

3 – 3:35 PM

MICROSOFT TEAMS

MEETING CALLED BY	Tonia Ferrell, chair
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
PRESIDER	Tonia Ferrell, chair
NOTE TAKER	Heather Loughney
ATTENDEES	<p>Member: Anne Bruno, Jeanette Carson, Laura Conley, Ed Evans, Kathee Evans, Tonia Ferrell, Juliana Fierro, JP Garcher, Marjorie Hartleben, Grace Kasunic, Kris Kraft, Paul Levy, Tim McCarragher, Gary Miller, John Nicholas, Michele Novachek, Shawn Stevens, John Wiencek</p> <p>Absent with notice: Katelyn Frey</p> <p>Absent without notice: Jennifer Manista, Tiffany Schmidt, Abbey Shiban, Emily Starkey</p> <p>Other attendees: Matthew Akers, Kathryn Budd, Kim Cole, Will Cole, Aimee DeChambeau, Tammy Ewin, Amy Freels, Dallas Grundy, Wayne Hill, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Sarah Kelly, Wendy Lampner, Mitchell McKinney, John Messina, Mitchell McKinney, John Reilly, Michele Smith, Sarah Steidl, Joe Urgo, Sonya Wagner</p>
<p>Agenda topics:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CALL TO ORDER TONIA FERRELL</p>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. 2. The chair asked for additions or revisions to the agenda. There being none, the agenda was approved as distributed by unanimous consent. 3. The chair asked for additions or corrections to the August 10 University Council minutes. There being none, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent. 4. The chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the UC for the academic year. She welcomed the new members and welcomed back returning members. She then reminded the group that the UC year is through August 2022.
<p style="text-align: center;">EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TONIA FERRELL</p>	
	<p>The chair reviewed the August 24 UC Executive Committee minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaws review – discussed the revisions to the bylaws. Charge of committee was to look for outdated, redundant, and restrictive portions of the document. The decision was made to have another meeting to specifically address the changes to the bylaws. • Discussion of the chair of UPG, approved as a group that the chair would be appointed by the President after consultation with the UC.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on the fact that bargaining unit staff are not represented on UC, HR has been asked to revisit this issue and give input.
<p style="text-align: center;">UC ELECTIONS – VICE CHAIR TONIA FERRELL</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chair called for nominations. There was a nomination via email for Jeanette Carson. With no other nominations E Evans moved to close nominations and elect by acclamation, 2nd by Nicholas. Motion carried. Jeanette Carson was elected Vice Chair.
<p style="text-align: center;">PRESIDENT’S REMARKS DR. GARY MILLER</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The president thanked everyone for their service on this committee. • The president shared that he and the provost had begun visiting units throughout campus and would continue in the next few weeks. He indicated that they are taking copious notes and will collate that and give to Chair Ferrell to share with the group. • The president shared that he had been attending the Law School’s 100th anniversary events, invited the group to join in the celebration. • The president met with the IUC today and the Chancellor to discuss capital budgets and stimulus money and the opportunity to implement the new hazing rule. Discussed pending legislation in the House and Senate and have briefed both Faculty Senate and this body as well as AAUP about this. In Columbus next week to meet with many legislators and the Speaker and members of our delegation. • Attending the Bliss Institute event on Tuesday next week and breakfast with some Board of Trustee members. Starting conversations about the legislation and other capital issues. <p>There were no questions for the President.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PROVOST’S REMARKS JOHN WIENCEK</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provost shared that a lot has happened since the last UC meeting. Announced that the new director for regional campuses has been named, Heather Howley has accepted the position. Congratulations to her. • Working on the next class, Fall 2022, making opportunity to set us up for a great success, getting applications in by December and pushing out that analysis to the colleges. Part of effort to boost applications is focused on the students and meeting with them on the internet and our general community who speak with our potential students. Simple things like tv ads and billboards are generating response. We have special events planned to invite them to come to our campus and see how beautiful our campus is. It is unusual to have a campus just steps

	<p>from downtown. Encourage everyone to speak to our mission and encourage students and help them to impact they'll have on the world in their chosen field. This past weekend we invited students from local high schools to attend, sent them tickets for the game. We also hosted UCEC and FSEC as well as leadership from student government and AAUP leadership. Tell students about our beautiful campus and our mission to get them across the finish line.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPG met yesterday to get the plan up and running, communications will be going out soon. Tactics and plans are being discussed. A visioning event is being planned for folks to envision their experience both good and bad and how to leverage our plan for the future. We're not asking everyone to do everything, find the thing that resonate with you and pursue that. • Working with Faculty Senate and thank them for endorsement for the degree maps, that will help our students understand their path to graduation. Working with the ad hoc Investment Committee to evaluate metrics for investing in academic plans. Working with AAUP on searches and compliance with the CBA. Searches underway for the various colleges and using the search firms in supporting those groups and hopefully to fill those positions by next year. • A request was made for an enrollment update. The provost indicated there was a slight decrease in enrollment, reflective of declining first year classes. Focus now on next year and understanding there are things we can control and things we can't. As a follow up it was asked exactly how far off we are from last year? The provost replied about 6-7%.
COMMITTEE REPORTS TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no committee reports. The chair reminded everyone to be sure to schedule their committee's first meeting and to report elections to Heather as soon as possible.
CONSTITUENCY REPORTS TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSG – no report. • USG – Grace Kasunic reported that all USG reps are elected. USG offering mental health training for all leaders and to give power to our people to help students. Working with Drs. Messina and Ferguson to start a mental health series focusing on students of color, student athletes and others to see how USG can help those groups. • CPAC – Jeanette Carson reported that CPAC met in August and elected Stephanie Kiba, chair; Alison E Doehring, vice chair and Brittany Ferguson-Mike, secretary. Connecting with Benefits as we approach healthcare for our constituency groups. • SEAC – Kathee Evans reported that SEAC elections are behind this year but will be meeting Thursday to elect representatives. SEAC would like to thank President Miller and Sarah Kelly for their quick and positive assistance. As you may know, SEAC represents the non-bargaining unit staff across campus and our members represent a wide variety of educational backgrounds – from high school

	<p>through multiple MDs. Staff who also want to teach classes had to do so at other institutions because UA did not permit them to teach here. President Miller listened to this issue when SEAC presented it to him and took the issue to Sarah Kelly. Once the issue was reviewed, the position was reversed and salaried staff can now teach at UA! (Hourly staff are restricted by federal labor law but can be reviewed on a case by case basis with the supervisor). SEAC is grateful for Dr. Miller's willingness to listen and for his quick action! And thanks also to Sarah Kelly who recognized the need to update an old policy and allow well-qualified and enthusiastic staff the opportunity to share their knowledge with UA's students.</p> <p>The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council met for the first time September 3rd. The leadership had been busy over the summer condensing the original 100-page report into 4 specific goals. The committee was divided into four subcommittees, one goal each and we are working with a tight time frame with a goal to being to complete the final document by late November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty Senate – Ed Evans shared that Faculty Senate focuses on hearing and making recommendations on academic policy and academic programs at the University of Akron. They recently approved the creation of the BS in Polymer Science and Engineering. They also voted to discontinue the CR/NCR rule, the university will return to the previous rule. Working on process and criteria for program resources and process going through Faculty Senate to be passed on to the President and Provost. • Deans – Dean McCarragher shared that the deans are working at the strategic action plan and working with directors and chairs for this year. Working on recruitment efforts and working with our departments and others on recruiting. This is the first week of RTP process and all tenure track are being reviewed, this is a very busy process. • Chairs – Chair Levy reported that chairs are working on strategic plan and recruiting. Meet Friday with Cher Hendricks and Tony ?? to talk about CBA issues and to be sure we all understand it.
	<p style="text-align: center;">UNFINISHED BUSINESS TONIA FERRELL</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
	<p style="text-align: center;">NEW BUSINESS TONIA FERRELL</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was asked of CFO Grundy – letters received by insurance members regarding the exclusion of Summa from BCBS going forward and requesting a comment. CFO Grundy replied that he could not comment in detail, perhaps Sarah Kelly could provide more information. He said that negotiations are going on with Anthem and that letters are typically sent out during negotiations. Waiting for conclusion of negotiations and will report when action is needed. No action required yet.
	<p style="text-align: center;">GOOD OF THE ORDER TONIA FERRELL</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None • The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.