

University Council

MINUTES

MARCH 8, 2022

3 – 3:51 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: Jeanette Carson, Katie Cerrone, Kim Cole, Laura Conley, John Corby, Eli Eubanks, Tonia Ferrell, Juliana Fierro, Amy Freels, Katelyn Frey, James Garcher, Dallas Grundy, Marjorie Hartleben, Courtney Johnson-Benson, Grace Kasunic, Sarah Kelly, Kris Kraft, Paul Levy, Tim McCarragher, John Messina, Gary Miller, Robert Peralta, Linda Saliga, Shawn Stevens, Nick Weber, John Wiencek</p> <p>Absent with notice: Ed Evans</p> <p>Absent without notice: Tammy Ewin, Migyeong Jang, Megan Kenworthy, Jennifer Manista, Steven L. Myers, John Nicholas, Michele Novachek, Tiffany Schmidt</p> <p>Other attendees: Matt Akers, Michelle Banis, Jill Bautista, Toni Bisconti, Christine Boyd, Maria Celeste Cook, Kathee Evans, Kim Gentile, Charles Guthrie, Anne Hanson Hilaire, Cher Hendricks, Wayne Hill, Kerry Jackson, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Sarah Kelly, Wendy Lampner, Christine Mayer, John Messina, Patricia Miller, John Reilly, Michelle Smith, Joe Urgo, Matt Williams, Nathaniel Yost</p>
Agenda topics:	
	CALL TO ORDER TONIA FERRELL
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. 2. The agenda was approved without dissent. 3. The minutes of the January 11, 2022 UC meeting were approved without dissent.
	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TONIA FERRELL
	<p>The chair reviewed the February 22, 2022 UC Executive Committee minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provost Wiencek discussed deferred maintenance, Quaker Square future unknown, use as a dorm is being questioned. • Bylaws review is done, sent to John Reilly and will get adjustments and plan to have to UC for review and vote. • Discussed committee minutes, several not submitted. HLC will look at minutes of UC committees and need for everyone to update their minutes. Also requesting that all committee give a 1-2 minute report of committee business during the UC meetings.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

DR. GARY MILLER

- Working on commencement, location will be in the JAR. Hope all can attend.
- Traveling a lot and in DC last week to lobby for the EDA proposal to be decided in April. Discussed downtown Akron as well as visiting with senators and local delegation.
- Moving aggressively on safety initiatives- meeting with newly hired police officers and have camera projects in place. Block By Block is in place and we’re talking to landlords.
- Question regarding the food truck event – President Miller responded that everything is good, no announcement yet.

PROVOST’S REMARKS

JOHN WIENCEK

- The Provost spoke about the situation in Ukraine-all are concerned and it’s very sad and scary at the same time. Many in our community who are feeling the stress personally. Sent out an appeal to reassure and comfort where we need to. Link them to other resources and let us know if you need help.
- Stellic is software to help with advising and student success. Had RFP looking for this and Stellic was chosen to be our provider. We had another vendor who competed but chose Stellic. Moving forward to implement as soon as possible, use for Summer students being planned. Working diligently to get that in place.
- Searches ongoing – dean searches, VP searches, VP Provost for student pathways and Dean of Honors coming in this week and will be ready to get committee feedback then. Candidate for Dean of Engineering and Poly Sci will be interviewing in next week or so and anticipate report after spring break and moving forward. VP of Research and engagement – candidate pools have been strong, looking forward to hearing about finalists after spring break. Hope to have all positions filled by end of spring.
- Enrollment going well, confirmations holding, looking at flat or upward trajectory. Still a lot of time to go and things to do. Students making decisions soon. Next step is to get students enrolled. Need to stay engaged with them over the summer. We’ve really had a great team effort and thank you all for your work and enthusiasm.
- COVID – transitioning again and moving out of masking requirements. In general things are looking like we can get back to pre-COVID days. Please be patient with those who cannot get vaccinated and have given faculty autonomy in their classrooms. Appreciate everyone’s ability to deal with the last two years of changes. Be respectful and patient with each other. Pam and Gary Williams sponsored speech on Convergence of Society and COVID Pandemic – well attended session and appreciate their sponsorship.
- UPG – at a point where we are talking about collecting accomplishments across campus, want to share about your accomplishments we’ll be reaching out to you

all to share, working with Tammy and UM on this. Quite a bit of progress made on strategic plan and looking forward to sharing that with the community.

- Express thanks to UC and FS for their work, been a good exchange over the past two years. Shaking off the pandemic and thanks to them for their help in a variety of ways; policy changes, adjusting to the pandemic and helping students and advancing the university. Appreciate it.

There were no questions for the Provost.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

- Budget & Finance – Linda Saliga reported that she was elected chair in October, the committee has been meeting every other month and will get minutes posted. Main item has been to try to make the budget more understandable to lay people and look at multiple sheets and transfers. Work continues on that.
- Communications – have results for the communication survey and analyzed data that was sent to parties. Discussing analysis and what changes could come from it. Land Acknowledgement sent for clarification.
- Information Technology – Eli Eubanks reported that the committee reviewed and has endorsed the Information Security Awareness Training Policy brought to the committee, presented a resolution for adoption of the policy. **The resolution was approved by unanimous vote.** A question was asked about implementation timeline and the response was that it would be as soon as possible, training can be made available to UC very soon.
- Talent Development & Human Resources – working on performance review changes and classification studies. A lot of progress has been made and it was decided to do an in-house hybrid model and PayWorks was chosen to be the most efficient and cost-effective to get in (\$45,000). Budget & Finance was asked to review the request for funding and approved the request. Now moving forward with that.
- Student Engagement & Success – working to consolidate web page hubs and to help create ways for students to find information. Working with ZipAssist and will continue to do that.
- Special Awards – still accepting candidates and will begin review after spring break and will then have announcement.
- Physical Environment – kicked off the campus safety walks, someone from the committee will attend every walk. One space allocation request for Title IV coordinator.
- Institutional Advancement – working on a signage project for the many named gardens across campus, will incorporate a QR code that will take users to a history of the site.
- Recreation & Wellness – RooFit ongoing and working on mental health issues on initiatives on campus.

- Food Truck - working on an ambitious schedule of food truck events.

CONSTITUENCY REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

- GSG – beginning health insurance survey, hoping to get information to help us get insurance for grad students. Looking to get a few hundred responses. Three quarters of those who have responded so far indicated they were interested in getting insurance through UA. Advertising a survey to faculty and staff to boost morale of grad students on campus. With general exhaustion it was thought if people would take a moment to write something encouraging, a link was shared in Digest. We will share those with grad students at the end of the month.
- USG – election cycle has begun, voting opens March 15 and will know winner shortly after. New president will join current president at the April meeting. There has been outreach to get more people to participate. Honors College will be hosting an event to talk about Ukraine. Lots of different events, today is International Women’s Day and there is an event in the Student Union. Hosting a thank you note station to write notes to faculty members they interact with. Student trustee selection process is ongoing, know of student leaders who would be great please have them apply.
- CPAC – hosting an inclusive workshop on March 17 from 1-3 pm in Teams, discussing inclusive conversation techniques. The workshop will include barriers, listening quiz, diversity wheel and small group discussion. Certificates for those who complete the workshop. All staff, faculty and contract professionals are invited.
- SEAC – February meeting included the Ziptastic award winner was Dawn Wiltheiss, Administrative Assistant for the Hower House. May 16-20 is fun week for staff and contract professionals. Plans for fall conference we are hosting are ongoing. Information can be found in the Digest.
- Faculty Senate – no report.
- Deans – focus on engaging with accepted students to answer questions and consider enrolling, senior day is March 11 and all schools will participate. Conversation with deans about when we have events talked about what we’re doing while at the tables. When greeting students and parents be attentive to those visiting the table. Engage and stand and interact with folks, point well taken. Had a good discussion with my college on that. Working with alumni on how to better engage our alumni. A lot of our alumni working in clinical positions. Lot of virtual recruitment events on campus coming up. Career fair coming to campus next week to recruit our students.
- Chairs – focus on confirmations and reaching out to students and senior days and virtual interactions. Coming out of time of finishing summer and fall schedules and that was hard. Starting to look at workload documentation that Cher sent. Chairs also looking at merit reviews.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TONIA FERRELL

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
NEW BUSINESS TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
GOOD OF THE ORDER TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Guthrie shared that the women’s basketball MAC player of the year is Jordyn Dawson from UA. MAC tournament coming up in Cleveland. Thanked everyone for their help. • The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 pm.