

University Council Executive Committee

MINUTES SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 2:30 – 3:38 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, Jeanette Carson, Kathee Evans, Tonia Ferrell, Kevin Feezel, Marjorie Hartleben, Cher Hendricks, Kris Kraft, Ruth Nine-Duff, John Wienczek</p> <p>Absent with notice: None Absent without notice: None</p>	
Agenda topics:		
2:30 – 2:35	CALL TO ORDER	TONIA FERRELL
DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The chair called the meeting to order. There being none the agenda was approved as distributed by unanimous consent. 2. The chair asked for additions or correction to the August 25 Executive Committee minutes. There being none, the minutes were approved as distributed by unanimous consent. 	
2:35 – 2:50	UNFINISHED BUSINESS	TONIA FERRELL

DISCUSSION

1. Discussion of University Council orientation. Chair Ferrell pointed out that it would be a heavy lift to get it together in time for October meeting. Secretary Kraft agreed and suggested that there needed to be a refocus of what the role of UC is and its mission in light of the new administration. Provost Wiencek responded that the UC is the key shared governance body for the university. The university has been through a difficult period and there is some disorientation for everyone. He asked if the UC feels it has been marginalized.

Secretary Kraft responded that it feels as if the UC has become the “rubber stamp” and not used as it could be. That there are many things that the body could and should be doing. Chair Ferrell agreed and stated that the support from the administration has come and gone. That while the Budget & Finance Committee bear a heavy burden, many committees not utilized at all. That transparency of data is key. Trust being an ongoing issue as well. Provost Wiencek responded that there is a lot of foundational work to do and that the committees of UC would be the ones doing that work. Some committees will be getting a lot of attention this year while others will be scheduled to work next year. He mentioned a possible poll of membership. Vice Chair Carson pointed out that a survey was done in June with little feedback generated. Chair Ferrell indicated that those who responded indicated they did not understand why they were attending meetings and what the function of their committee was. Secretary Kraft added that she would like to see the administration give guidance to the UC in the way of goals or things that they would like to see the body address. Goals driven by university needs.

Provost Wiencek replied that his task is to guide the university and there are plenty of things to do. Committees of UC should be part of the work. That with the new CFO coming on board and newer administration there will be a new ways of doing things. The Board makes decisions and sends them to the President and that moves down the line. He stated he would be happy to put projects in writing and send them to the UC to distribute to committees. Not all will be done this year, some will come next year. Faculty Senate, University Council are part of shared governance. The Provost said that he could have the number one projects on his list to the UCEC in about a week and a half. He also indicated that he should meet more often with the Chair.

2. Office of Academic Affairs – The Provost shared that he and Cher Hendricks have been putting together groups to help with the reorganization of the OAA and to provide input. Faculty Senate has provided seven names and he would like the UC to also provide seven names for the group. The overarching conversation will be about what OAA is and what should be done within their office and what should go out to the colleges. The goal is to align with student needs.

Secretary Kraft asked if Deans would be on the committee. Provost Wiencek responded that they are part of the interaction. He then requested that UCEC send ideas of groups that they believe should be part of the discussions. It is a difficult task, to take all the many parts of OAA and set it up for success

2:50 – 3:05

TOPIC SUBMISSIONS

TONIA FERRELL

DISCUSSION

1. LGBTQ students – this came back to the UCEC through Mary McCracken but had already been sent forward to Jolene Lone. The Chair indicated that she did not see that there was anything more to be done from the UCEC perspective.
2. Water availability on campus – A student was concerned about access to water for students as all water fountains have been turned off due to COVID guidelines. The student expressed a need for a way for students to fill/refill water bottles while on campus. Only a few buildings have water fountains equipped with water bottle filling abilities. It was requested that some type of access to water be made for all buildings.

Vice Chair Carson indicated that Physical Facilities had said that as buildings were being upgraded that water bottle filling stations would be installed, but that is not going to happen in the next few months. She asked the Provost if there might be COVID federal dollars available to address the problem?

Chair Ferrell stated that she would refer this to the Recreation and Wellness committee as well as to Eric Green. Deadline of a response will be two weeks. She will contact both shortly. The Provost also suggested speaking to CFO Storck as well. He might have answers regarding federal funding for water assistance.

3:05 – 3:38

NEW BUSINESS

TONIA FERRELL

DISCUSSION

1. There was a discussion of the necessity of monthly, in-depth committee reports at each University Council meeting. Secretary Kraft questioned the necessity of these monthly reports and if there were better use of the time. Chair Ferrell suggested that the monthly committee reports remain in writing as part of the reports section of the meeting. She pointed out that Budget & Finance needs to come to the UC twice during an academic year and should be scheduled for those. Provost Wiencek suggested that the UCEC should decide if a committee should be presenting to the UC during its preparations. Let that committee know ahead of the regular UC meeting. The body was in agreement with the idea. It was also recommended that Chair Ferrell communicate regularly with the committee chairs to let them know when the committee might want to present to the University Council.
2. Agenda for 10/13/20 UC meeting – corrections and changes made to agenda. Add to New Business the OAA organizational committee appointments. Changes approved.
3. Human Development committee appointments – Harvey Sterns had reminded the UCEC that the committee needed new appointments as some members had left the university.

A discussion of whether the committee had fulfilled its purpose or not, was its work done? Chair Ferrell stated that its original mission was to look into ways to bring childcare back to campus and to support many age groups on campus. But had changed as the group became involved with the Summit County age-friendly initiative. Provost Wiencek suggested that a discussion with Chair Saliga of the Faculty Senate should happen to discuss the viability of the committee, as it is a joint venture with Faculty Senate.

4. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m. by unanimous consent.