

The University of Akron
 Staff Employee Advisory Committee (S.E.A.C.)
 Minutes for 8/21/08 Special Meeting with President Proenza

Members and Attendance:

| Name | Position | Attendance |
|--------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Jean Andrick | | Present |
| Gary Beckman | | Present |
| Charlene Calabrese | | Present |
| Mary Dingler | | Present |
| Jeri Farwell | | Present |
| Lissia Gerber | Vice Chair | Present |
| Jim Shuster | | Present |
| Laura Spray | | Present |
| Bob Stachowiak | Chair | Present |
| Mary Tabatcher | Secretary | Absent w/Notice |
| Linsie Webb | | Present |
| Pam Woodall | | Present |

Meetings always scheduled on third Thursday of month at 12:30 PM.

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM.

Meeting Presidential Meeting on Thursday, 8/21/08: Bob Stachowiak (reporting) -

We began the meeting with the president presenting certificates of appreciation for service to the committee to departing members Mike Kimble, Peggy Speck and to returning member Jim Shuster.

A picture of the currently serving committee members was taken as well. (Unfortunately missing our secretary.)

Introduction of new members

Presidential Remarks

- Welcome to another year
- We will be having another increase in enrollment (modest)
- UA sponsored an alumni event in Columbus with comments of great pride in the university.
- President received two emails:
 1. First spoke of how nice the campus environment (green space) was and how they compared it to another rural campus which had less green space. This helped sell them on UA.
 2. Second email spoke of the cleanliness of our campus and how that had helped them to decide on UA.
 3. State officials are currently occupied with the presidential election.

4. Reports indicate state income may be less than expected
 5. President does not believe any info will be available about our budget being affected until January
- Looking forward:
 1. President approaching his 10th year anniversary.
 2. Revisiting the strategic plan
 - Some areas of the plan are still viable but some areas need to be revisited.
 - Pending construction will continue but at a slower pace.
 - UA looking to partner and position with business
 - Seeing Significant progress in this area
 - Looking to diversify and enhance our revenue base
 - Still 90% of funding from state funds and tuition
 - Grants have increased but not enough
 - Currently our budget has increased from \$315 Million to \$475 Million per year.
 - Focused Differential Strategy
 - How is UA unique
 - Build on UA strengths
 - In the past year UA has developed collaborations
 - Hospitals
 - Medical Research
 - State Energy Plan
 - Lorain Community College

Indicated that our institution was well positioned with respect to Chancellor Fingerhut's remarks and plans for the Ohio University System.
 - Question – How was our Medical corridor proposal going. Answer – We won an \$8 million grant from the Third frontier pending approval of another grant that we won't know about until late September-October.
 1. Stachowiak on SEAC Accomplishments
 2. Record number of votes and increased interest in the committee
 3. Holiday celebration showed an increase of attendees and over \$600 of donated door prizes dispersed to staff and their families.
 4. Met with the AVP of Hr and discussed issues that were pertinent to staff
 5. Met with the Wayne staff and discussed issues.
 6. Met with the NCA representatives and discussed UA leadership initiatives
 - SEAC Projects:
 1. Participation in the University Council Exploratory committee. Looking into the best method to disseminate information to Staff members.
 2. Health benefits committee –Currently studying wellness options
 3. Still continuing to revise our bylaws
 4. HB 185 Issues (Civil Service Law Reform)

5. Staff Employee Appreciation Day – Meetings have been held. Currently working on draft plan to present to John Case to determine what type of funding would be available.
- Topics that Keep Recurring:
 1. Fee remission – Perhaps for staff members who don't qualify, some type of discount could be offered for staff members to give to people who don't qualify as dependants. Win – win for Staff and UA. (President stated that he was intrigued by that idea.)
 2. 360 Evaluation – Will be part of an ongoing exchange with HR. Indicated a desire to form a subcommittee to sit with HR and discuss options.
 3. Sick leave bank – UA has made reparations to people on an individual basis, how do we let people know that this option exists.
 4. Pay equity – Staff feel that they are a large part in the increase in enrollment and should be rewarded much in the same way Faculty are through a student increase related stipend.
 5. Departmental funding for title increases – People who are advancing through the ranks should not be faced with the dilemma of a pay cut.
 - Opened the floor to other members of the committee
 - Shuster asked what the president thought about our funding ideas (Coin Press and pitch a penny). Stachowiak gave a quick overview of the idea. The president stated that they were ideas to look into but did not indicate much more.

President asked how each persons summer had gone and when asked how his had been, indicated that he had given several different talks and had probably over extended himself as he had very little time to spend on his sailboat. He indicated that he wanted to take a vacation next year and sail to Lake Huron.

Board of Trustees: Gary Beckman & Jeri Farwell (reporting) on 8/6/08 meeting
www.uakron.edu/bot/ - Barbara O'Malley, Associate Vice President of Communications/Chief Communications Officer and Jim Sage, Vice President, Information Technology/Chief Information Officer gave a presentation on the new web design for The University of Akron. The new website was designed to increase UA visibility and will be used as a strategic communications tool that is useful to external audiences, faculty, and staff. The intranet is personalized for use by faculty and staff to access their payroll and benefit information as well as forms and policies. There is a new Content Management System (CMS) that is easier to update content on department websites. No HTML skills are needed, and it meets accessibility guidelines.

New curricular changes were approved for certificate programs including:
 Certificate in Research Methods for the Social Sciences (RMSS), Graduate Certificate Program in IS Project Management, Certificate Program in Post MSN Psychiatric Family Nurse Practitioner, Certificate in Professional Writing, Program in Paraprofessional

Education in Early Childhood, and an Online Course for M.S. Postsecondary Technical Education.

Summer 2008 Graduation Statistics are 52 Doctoral, 369 Masters, and 669 Undergraduate.

\$34,039,871 dollars were awarded in grants for research and sponsored programs. This amount is up from previous years.

PeopleSoft version 9 upgrades were on schedule and within budget. IT is planning to implement document imaging across Campus.

The “Coleman Commons” outdoor living room behind Buchtel Hall will be completed in three phases. Phase I included the Buchtel Hall Terrace and diagonal walkway to the Student Union. Trees lining the walkway will be planted in the 2nd Phase. An amphitheatre, fountains and lighting will be completed in the 3rd Phase.

Next board meeting September 3, 2008 at the Medina County University Center.