

University Council

MINUTES

OCTOBER 8, 2024

3:03 – 4:02 PM

LH 208 AND TEAMS

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| MEETING CALLED BY | Tonia Ferrell, chair |
| TYPE OF MEETING | Monthly Meeting |
| PRESIDER | Tonia Ferrell, chair |
| NOTE TAKER | Heather Loughney |
| ATTENDEES | <p>Member: Stacia Biddle, Tracie Epner (UCEC), Ed Evans (UCEC), Blair Everett (UCEC), Tonia Ferrell (chair), Megan Frey (UCEC), Dan Friesner, John Huss, Elena Kozma, Kris Kraft (secretary), Brant Lee, Nate Meeker (vice chair), Linda Saliga, Amy Trunko, Sonya Wagner, John Wiencek</p> <p>Absent with notice: Marilia Antunez, John Corby (AA), Grace DeWitt (UCEC), Varunee Faii Sangganjanavanich</p> <p>Absent without notice: Kim Cole, Nicolina Kravljaca</p> <p>Other attendees: Suzanne Bausch, Cristine Boyd, Eric Brisker, Jeanette Carson, Sheau-Huey Chiu, Gershon Cohen, Celeste Cook, Lisa Craig, Asoke Dey, Scott Dilling, Karima Elgarroussi, Tammy Ewin (AA), Becky Handley, Kathleen Hauenstein, Jennifer Hebert, Brain Humm, Patti Huth, Matt Juravich, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Leslie Kallenborn, Rhiannon Kallis, Sarah Kelly (AA), Lori Kidd, Wendy Lampner, Olivia Lane, Erin Liggett, Steve McKellips, John Messina (AA), Renee Mudrey, Stephen L. Myers (AA), Paula Neugebauer, Melissa Olson, Gwen Price, John Reilly, Jordan Renna, Scott Roberts, Lisa Sabol, Christin Seher, Michelle Smith, Mark Stasitis, Ally Temsey, Misty Villers (AA), Tom Waltermire (BOT), Nick Weber (AA), Katie Willis, Kim Wise</p> <p>AA – appointed administrators BOT – Board of Trustee member UCEC – members of the University Council Executive Committee</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 3:03 pm. 2. The agenda was approved as distributed. 3. The minutes of the September 10, 2024 meeting 2024-9-10-minutes-university-council-final.pdf were approved as distributed. |
| <p style="text-align: center;">EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT NATE MEEKER</p> | |
| | <p>Chair Ferrell welcomed everyone to the full UC meeting; welcomed committee members attending. The chair then shared an orientation to University Council UC Overview Presentation 10-2024.pptx.</p> <p>The chair then shared the EC report:</p> |

The UCEC met September 24; there were no new topic submissions, there was a discussion about topic submissions in general, only seeing one or two per month, discussed ways to bring attention to the campus community. The provost was to speak to the president about making a statement to the campus community on topic submissions and the process for submitting. Also, discussion on getting information to constituency groups.

No official guest speaker for October as it is the full UC meeting. Scheduling through rest of the year was discussed. UCEC decided guest speakers were helpful and will continue to have them, turning focus to students for the upcoming year, looking to schedule guest speakers from student organizations.

The chair shared that a topic submission was received by UCEC after their meeting, related to parking fines for incorrect parking. The submission was referred to Student Engagement and Success and cc'd to Jared Coleman of UAkron Park. The provost also emailed individuals asking for more signage as well.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

R. J. NEMER

The president greeted UC and invited everyone to attend the internal State of the University address on Wednesday, October 16. He continued by sharing that he and the provost are starting small group discussions as they begin visioning for the future and to kick off the strategic analysis team's component of Vision 2030. They have distributed invitations to participate in the strategic analysis teams in the areas of enrollment and academics; branding and marketing; organizational culture; athletics; development; and facilities. The committees will include representation from students, Board members, faculty and staff from units across campus.

He updated the UC with information about the ribbon cutting for facilities that increase student opportunities; thanks to the UA Foundation Women in Philanthropy, the School of Nursing opened the nurse anesthesia surgical lab. At the end of last month, the Timken Foundation Center for Precision Manufacturing was opened in a beautiful new facility that will provide new student research opportunities. There has also been some significant development with the Cleveland Browns partnership. A group of UA colleagues from across campus went to visit the Browns' facilities, many of which we now have access to reserving as part of the partnership. There was a call for course proposals that went out and there were multiple submissions received.

Last week a couple hundred people attended the 10th annual Leadership and HR Advisory Board Conference at Quaker Station. This continued the College of Business's slate of programming exploring advancements in AI. There is outstanding work continuing throughout campus.

Despite that, the enrollment issue does continue to loom, and of course, we need to be very cognizant of our financial situation. Part of the Vision 2030 planning process involved gathering ideas from all stakeholders about enrollment, potential growth areas, providing unique experiential learning opportunities to students and increasing our recognition and reputation. If you have any ideas for the planning process, especially salient ideas to increase enrollment, please don't hesitate to come to us with those. Last week, an announcement and invitation was distributed to join small group discussions with me on Vision 2030. Those initial timeslots will simply be dedicated to the sharing of ideas and Q/A from faculty and staff.

There were no questions for the president.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

Census report has been pushed out, saw ABJ article. Positives in data, things to be proud of: we've taken on switching financial aid and paying attention to matching aid and what has been received. Several million added to our pool from that. Applications and admits were up over 10%, FAFSA may it difficult, but we still feel we had a good showing this past year, we're up by 2.9%, that includes CCP and international students. Overall new student numbers are up. Transfers are up 15.4%. Doubled international students. That's going to become a focus for us over the next year or two, we have the capacity to bring in both undergrad and grad in that area. Master up 7.8%, Wayne up by more than 2%. All in all, we're closing the books on a successful year, want to see it continue to grow and turn to the next cycle.

Retention numbers are just out, thanks to Fedearia and her team, retention is a hands-on deck activity for all of us. Meeting the needs of students. We've seen an increase of 9%, to 72% this year. Focus on pushing that number up. We use high impact practices to increase retention and grad rates, focus on learning communities and those students involved in those are up 2%. More students in the communities as well as cohorts and such are working to achieve retention.

Plenty going on and happy to answer questions.

Questions:

- A couple of ideas; students in ECH, or Wayne, these students are racking up credits and going wherever, the more we can make them part of the main pool of the campus the more likely they are to stay. Faculty from the main campus go out into HS where it's being offered and to Wayne to give them a feel for the main campus. Another thing is to create as many incentives as possible to keep them here, they come with a lot of credits, give them opportunities for grad work with possibilities for staying. A lot of ways to keep them and get more credit hours from them. More that could be done.

Wiencek – there is a lot going on, Greg Dieringer and his team work hard to get students incorporated in UA. High number who matriculate to campus, approaching 40%, but you're right, there is always more we can do. Look at us as a viable option for their ongoing education. Might want to ask Rick to come in and talk about ECH and ideas.

CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER REMARKS

MATT JURAVICH

The university's new Chief Strategy officer introduced himself. Quick overview – strategic planning, operational decision making, and many are involved in this. Teams have formed and priorities on that front. Marketing and branding is important and our collective brand, that team will have its first discussion tomorrow. Strategic positioning and thanks to those participating. Athletics is a hot button item in context to the financial situation. They will start meeting in the coming weeks; we will do a thorough review of not only the finances, but our role in division 1 athletics. We have no preconceived notions of where that will lead. Important discussions. Last two-year planning cycle, myself and Angela Hartsock and Erin Makarius were leading that. Meeting UPG EC to reengage and keep tabs on the work of strategy teams. That's all I have for now. Happy to entertain questions.
No questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

- Budget and Finance – Misty Villers gave a report on the FY25 budget. [UC FY25 Budget.pptx](#)

Questions:

- SSI – formula and how it’s divided? Is there a floor?

Villers - there is no floor. We are working to make sure we are reporting everything accurately and what we can do to increase that. We are three years in arrears, so we are taking the hit now from the decline in students. It’s a portion of what we are compared to other universities. We may increase, but others could increase more. Lots of conversations are going on at state level.

- Assumption of 10% increase in operating budget, how is that reflected in this?

Villers - continuing obligations – 3 mil in insurance, advertising budget, things that aren’t operating budget. Putting together a list of obligations that we are going to look at and how to reduce. Get rid of some licenses perhaps. Need to drive that number down. Fixed expenses.

The chair thanked Villers for presentation and for the Assumptions in particular. Significant step in transparency.

- Awards – started planning for spring awards, we will start asking for volunteers for reviewing and nominations in the next 4-5 weeks.
- Campus Wellness – starting planning for RooFit, coming in January. We’ll be working with KSU again, step challenge. We were short last year by a few steps.
- Communications – no report.
- Information Technology – conducted a survey on goals we wanted to work on this year. Narrowed down the goals: enhancing the Workday applications and Wobble. Research other institutions and how they are using those platforms. Upgrading classroom tech, focus on materials available. Targeted surveys of students and faculty on their tech needs. And improving the My Akron portal; will work with web designers and programmers to look to integration with Workday. Our goals are about enhancing the experience for students, faculty and staff.
- Institutional Advancement – no report. Meet on Friday.
- Physical Environment – no report.
- Student Engagement – met Sept 23, elected Stacia Biddle chair. Assessed goals.
- Talent Development – met Oct 4, elected Stephanie Davis-Dieringer chair. Mental health for campus culture focuses, educate and engage the campus in mental health goals.
- Social Engagement – Halloween themed event on October 30, 11 am-2 pm. Dress up for extra raffle tickets, fun time with Zippy, bowling and snacks.

- GSG – We had our first meeting of the year this last month. We swore in our new members, worked on building up our group and planning events, and team building has been our focal point. We want to be strong this year and incorporate all of the great ideas from each of our senators.

We are down a Senator for the College of Health and Human Sciences. We want to do a good job for all graduate students, so we are interested in ensuring that we are considering graduate students from this college as well. GSG also has a good group of Senators this year, so I have no doubt that we will do our best to represent graduate students. GSG received our budget and approved it for the year. We also worked with USG on the International Student Lounge Dedication on October 9th, and we look forward to continued collaboration with USG in the future! USG also mentioned at Faculty Senate that we are working with them on an event at the Akron Art Museum, which we are very excited about!

- USG – Introduce our new UC rep, Ann Trunko. October 7th from 10 am-2 pm is the mental health fair in the Student Union Concourse; a collaborative event that USG was able to assist with by providing food and refreshments. UAPD meet and greet on October 8th from 11 am – 1 pm in the Student Union Piano Lounge; students will get the chance to meet UAPD officers and enjoy some free pizza and Zippy cookies. And the International Lounge dedication coming October 9th from 11 am – 1 pm in the Student Union, this ceremony recognizes the refresh done to the International Lounge in an effort to highlight our international student population and make them feel at home on campus. USG will also host an event called Bridging Campus and Community with Akron Mayor Malik on October 22 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm where Mayor Malik will introduce himself to students and there will be an open discussion on topics related to the City of Akron. On the horizon USG has the Professional Development speaker series for students, Rethinking Race which USG is planning an event to encourage student groups to submit proposals. And the Bicentennial event planning – a collaborative event with GSG for late spring or early fall of 2025.
- PSAC – met September 15, set some rules for the year. Meet again in a few weeks.
- SEAC – met September 19, focus on filling spots on our board. Secretary is stepping off. Nominations for Ziptastic awards.
- Faculty Senate – met week.
- Chairs – no report.
- Deans – one update – thank you to faculty and staff for their recruitment push, thanks also to advisors and recruiters.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

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| NEW BUSINESS | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. |
| GOOD OF THE ORDER | |
| TONIA FERRELL | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Messina thanked everyone who worked on the planning and orchestration of Homecoming, from Alumni to Student Life and all the others involved, Dr. Messina reported there was great weather and great events across campus for the weekend. <p>The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 pm.</p> |