

University Council

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

3:03 – 3:42 PM

LH 208 AND TEAMS

MEETING CALLED BY	Tonia Ferrell, chair
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
PRESIDER	Tonia Ferrell, chair
NOTE TAKER	Heather Loughney
ATTENDEES	<p>Member: Marilia Antunez, Stacia Biddle, Kim Cole, Tracie Epner, Ed Evans, Blair Everett, Tonia Ferrell, Megan Frey, Dan Friesner, John Huss, Elena Kozma, Kris Kraft, Brant Lee, Nate Meeker, John Messina, Stephen L. Myers, Linda Saliga, Varunee Faii Sangganjanavanich, Amy Trunko, Eric Veigel, Misty Villers, Sonya Wagner, Nick Weber, John Wienczek</p> <p>Absent with notice: John Corby, Grace DeWitt, Tammy Ewin,</p> <p>Absent without notice: Sarah Kelly, Catherine Strain</p> <p>Other attendees: Suzanne Bausch, Aimee DeChambeau, Alison Doehring, Melissa Dreisbach, Charles Guthrie, Becky Handley, Kathleen Hauenstein, Brain Humm, Patti Huth, Marcinda Jackson, Matt Juravich, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Wendy Lampner, Olivia Lane, Steve McKellips, Patricia Miller, Michele Novachek, Gwen Price, Scott Roberts, Christin Seher, Tom Waltermire, Jessica Whitehill, Sheldon Wrice</p>
CALL TO ORDER	
TONIA FERRELL	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The chair called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm. Elections were held for the positions of Chair and Secretary of the University Council. Tonia Ferrell was elected to a two-year term as Chair and Kris Kraft was elected to a two-year term as Secretary. The agenda was approved as distributed. The minutes of the August 13, 2024 meeting 2024-8-13-minutes-university-council-working.pdf were approved as distributed.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT	
NATE MEEKER	
	<p>As Chair Ferrell was not in attendance at the UCEC meeting in August, Vice Chair Nate Meeker gave the UCEC report.</p> <p>The UCEC met August 27 and discussed a topic submission on student organizations and university social media. The submission was forwarded to the communications and student engagement committees for response.</p>

	<p>UCEC also discussed participation in UC committees and there will be communications coming out about that. John Messina was also added to the agenda as a guest speaker for September along with Ali Doehring.</p>
<p>PROVOST'S REMARKS</p>	
	<p>Wiencek – Good afternoon. I'll be sharing similar comments to my report to Faculty Senate last week. We are gathering census data and numbers are coming in that were expected but good. We are down about 1%, maybe a bit more but close. First-year class is reduced due to issues with FAFSA and larger enrollment allowances at the big Ohio universities. We feel we have turned a corner in our approach and the financial aid strategies. A right fit is important. We're hitting the projected numbers and happy with that. That is good news. We also had a hiring freeze last spring and worked over the summer with Misty Villers to identify ways to have a process for strategic rehiring and put funds towards the debts. We will be meeting with groups across campus to provide more detailed information and to speak to the changes were looking at to move the university through in coming years.</p> <p>We are focusing on student experiences. We want our students to have a positive experience, in recruiting all the way through graduation and also focus on life after campus. It is a heavy lift to focus on all those areas at once. But setting big goals and working hard to meet them. We are having discussion on visioning groups and the president's memo outlined that. We remain engaged and if you have a chance to serve on a committee, we encourage you to do so.</p> <p>The president is working on innovative ideas to reduce debt and bring in income. We continue to focus on international recruiting and have had gains in that area over the past year. You'll be seeing a memo from me about those areas coming soon. Our students' experience is most important.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In speaking on student experiences, are you considering all aspects of student experiences? Athletics and other areas as well? <p>Provost – We recognize the importance of our students having a great experience here, that they feel their time and passion were well placed in The University of Akron. We're proposing to look at how we do our work and how to empower people to make decisions without waiting for permission, across many areas.</p>
<p>GUEST SPEAKER – ALI DOEHRING, SENIOR DIRECTOR, ZIP ASSIST AND STUDENT AFFAIRS DEVELOPMENT & JOHN MESSINA, VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENT AFFAIRS – ODHE GRANT</p>	
	<p>Ali shared her presentation UC Update on ODHE MH Support Grant 9-10-24.pdf.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADHD testing, is that through ZipAssist or Counseling and Testing? Doehring – Counseling and Testing. Messina – looking for ways to continue with more grants, programs or majors centered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

Secretary Kraft reminded committees that goals and annual reports are due soon, committee reports are up to date.

- Awards – no report. There are opportunities to get involved. Calls to join coming out soon.
- Budget and Finance – met August 22, reviewed fiscal year. Budget at about 5 Mil less than what was budgeted. Discussed assumptions being used for 2025 budget – 3% increase in tuition guarantee, plant fund will remain flat, overall draw on reserve to be about 8 Mil less than this year. Look for ways to increase revenue and decrease costs. The consultant is reviewing discounts. Goals have started to take shape.
- Campus Wellness – met in August, worked on goals to align with goals coming from President Nemer. Looking for help with the Banana Games, contact me if interested in helping.
- Communications – no report.
- Information Technology – no report.
- Institutional Advancement – met on September 6, discussed announcement from Kim Cole – nurse anesthesia program opening. Precision manufacturing center opening soon. Update on Knight Polsky Building – plans under revisions. Approximately 130 endowed scholarships that are gender-aligned, looking to rewrite to law.
- Physical Environment – no report.
- Student Engagement – no report, meeting in next couple of weeks.
- Talent Development – no report.
- Social Engagement – watch for announcement of October event in Digest.

CONSTITUTENCY REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

- GSG – GSG is strong this year, elections have finished. We are full. Initiatives to come.
- USG – Introduce our new UC rep, Ann Trunko.
- PSAC – met on August 19, welcomed new members, finalized constituency members, elected officials and should be getting new PSAC folks in committee meetings.
- SEAC – meeting coming 9/19, sent email to members to join.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty Senate – met last Thursday, elections of myself and Kris Kraft to UC. We had several curriculum proposals, CRC work continues. • Chairs – had a chance to meet with Gwen from OAA, Mark and Sarah to discuss bookstore processes. We are set to follow up with different groups regarding this. • Deans – work reflected in Provost’s remarks.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
NEW BUSINESS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
GOOD OF THE ORDER	
TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair commented that if members came to the meeting and did not find their name on the sign-in sheet or did not have a name tent, reach out to Heather (hl@uakron.edu). Transitions to new members are happening. <p>The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm.</p>