

University Council

MINUTES

APRIL 8, 2025

3:03 – 4:07 PM

LH 208 AND TEAMS

MEETING CALLED BY	Tonia Ferrell, vice chair
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
PRESIDER	Tonia Ferrell, vice chair
NOTE TAKER	Heather Loughney
ATTENDEES	<p>Members: Marilia Antunez, Stacia Biddle (SES chair), Stephanie Davis-Dieringer (TDHR chair), Grace DeWitt (UCEC), Tracie Epner (UCEC), Ed Evans (UCEC), Tonia Ferrell (chair), Kris Kraft (secretary, CW chair), Nate Meeker (vice chair), Linda Saliga (BF chair), Faii Sangganjanavanich, Ally Temsey, Amy Trunko, Sonya Wagner</p> <p>Members Absent with notice: Blair Everett (UCEC), Karima Elgarroussi (IT chair), Megan Frey (UCEC), Dan Friesner, John Huss (IA chair), John Wiencek (ex-officio)</p> <p>Members Absent without notice: Elena Kozma, Nicolina Kravljaca, Brant Lee, Catherine Strain, Eric Veigel</p> <p>Other attendees: Matthew Akers, Suzanne Bausch, Cristine Boyd, Scott Campbell, Patricia Chapman, Tammy Ewin (AA), Becky Handley, Kathleen Hauenstein, Patti Huth, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Alex Knisely, Wendy Lampner, Olivia Lane, Colleen Lazzaretti, Steve McKellips, Meredith Merry, John Messina (AA), Stephen Myers, Paula Neugebauer, Jesse Redwine, Madeline Shaw, Mark Stasitis, Sarah Steidl, Nick Weber, Jessica Whitehill, Katie Willis, Mia Yaniko</p> <p>AA – appointed administrators BOT – Board of Trustee member UCEC – members of the University Council Executive Committee</p>
CALL TO ORDER TONIA FERRELL	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm. 2. The chair moved that the report of the Chief Strategy Officer be removed and to move the report from UCIT to the top of the committee reports. The revised agenda was approved. 3. The minutes of the March 11, 2025 meeting 2025-3-11-minutes-university-council-final.pdf were approved as distributed.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TONIA FERRELL	
	<p>EC met 3/25, had two topic submission to review; UC committee minutes not posted/up to date on website. Discussion on improving the process and communication with committees. Start at the beginning of next year make expectations clear to comm chairs and secretaries. Provost and Chair to meet with committee admins and later chairs to discuss expectations.</p>

	<p>TS on bathrooms at InfoCision stadium – crisscross of TS and solution, so TS is closed. We also completed the calendar of guest speakers through July - GSG to present at May meeting, June with be Budget focus and no speaker for July. Under new business, we discussed the visioning work and provost transition, talked about the transition. We also discussed the LMS proposal from UCIT and requested a timeline for the UC meeting.</p>
<p>PRESIDENT’S REMARKS</p>	
	<p>The provost’s remarks were delivered by–Sarah Kelly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As you all know Gwen Price named the new SVP/Provost. Happy to have such a capable leader. • Athletic director – 3 candidates on campus next week, • 160/90 work – met with the agency and in final stages of branding work. Presented with final version and excited to share with UA over the summer. • Athletics – spring underway – president extends congrats to all athletes on the field and classroom. • Call to Action meetings – continue to populate the database – met with student leaders and front facing areas – recruiting retention, new student experiences. Managers tasked with entering information into database • SB1 -seeking guidance after governor signed bill – correspondence with campus to share information. Placed some information on the webpage, at information for fac/staff and at information for students. Updated as information becomes available. <p>There were no questions.</p>
<p>PROVOST’S REMARKS</p>	
	<p>The provost’s remarks were delivered by–Fedearia Nicholson-Sweval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulations to Dr. Gwen Price, she will begin April 21st. Transition to be completed by the end of April. • Applications are essentially flat, admits up about t1%. Confirmations are also up 247 students. 43 students more than 2023. 52 transfer students. Updates are coming in enrollment soon. FAAFSA delayed response last year. Retrenchment recs received, BOT will consider all input and take action. SB1 passage – working with students to respond. • Thank you for your energy while we continue to deal with challenges. <p>There were no questions.</p>
<p>GUEST SPEAKER – RHPB presentation -</p>	
	<p>Gia Dilts, current RHPB President Max Woodside, RHPB President Kim Barlock, current Emerging Leaders Student Coordinator Mercy Vandenberg, Emerging Leaders Student Coordinator 2025 – 2026</p> <p>Presentation - Res Hall Activities Faculty Senate Presentation 4-2024.pptx</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favorite memory of service?

Programming is something I've never experienced before, favorite thing so far was training week, we come a week early and the first thing is the Headphone Disco. Everyone wearing headphones and 3 DJs with different channels, everyone jamming in silence but you're hearing their own music, changing channels, changing the color of headphones and anxiety melted. Realize we are students and here to have fun. Both this year and last year were great events.

ELs rave about it, but it's only one time each year. It's our nice first event, being an adult and on our own. Our programming makes college fun, I have friends at other colleges, and they don't have programs like ours. Nationally we have awards that say we are the best, we put our heart and soul into our programming. It was the best part of my college experience, and I want to give it to other students.

As a graduating senior I've been involved for four years, and it has shaped my experience in college. Building the community of leaders and Grace DeWitt and I have served as emerging leaders together, so we've been serving all along. Our emerging leaders go on to flourish on campus. Majority of our groups stay in college.

- When the Activity Board presented, they said that some members are paid positions; is that the case for you? How do you make it work?

Presidents for both and coordinator is a paid appt. Staff apartment as well. Room and board is covered as well. All of our staff for RHC and RHPB are paid as community assistance. Four hours per week. Their rooms are paid for as well. The only ones not paid are EL major events staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

- Information Technology –
The IT chair spoke about the LMS recommendation and opened up discussion.

Based on past experience of other universities was that the selection of the LMS takes about 3 years, so tried to build in the time needed for that.

Review of timeline. – changing the vendors would change the timeline, if we stay with the vendor things will move quicker.

Questions:

- Which vendors are we looking at for fall?
Three main vendors but don't know who they will be.

- Rationale for switching from Brightspace to new system.
The current system was brought on ten years ago, newer systems available and faculty have recommended better systems. We may not have to change it, depending on the input from faculty and students.

- Don't know if it was mentioned, do you have any details on makeup of the committee?
Faculty part will come from Faculty Senate. Students from UCIT and admin members.

- What are the main things you are looking for in the new system?

New features, AI capability, expanded in offering related to lecture capture and other collaborative platforms. Also they have made enhancements for distance learning and noncredit courses.

- Stellic question, wondering if there is an update on comparison of Workday and Stellic. My perspective as a faculty advisor is that it is important to listen to them, Stellic has been a great addition to our abilities, while Workday has just essentially added more work. I would not want to see us move away from it.

Demos in workday tomorrow, will get feedback. The advisory group is well represented, expecting about 80 participants in demo tomorrow. Feedback from advisors will be critical to the next steps. Does that help?

Reassuring to hear that advisors will be listened to.

Recommendation –

1. Motion to extend agreement with D2L one more year, begin implementation following.

Motion approved.

- Awards – announcement has appeared in the Digest, ceremony will be the first week of May.
- Budget/Finance – No report, March meeting was canceled (spring break).

Can the chair answer a question? There was a comment from Steve McKellips about not spending all the dollars that were donated to scholarships, curious about why that happened or how it happened.

Chair responded - the reason was because of the way scholarships are described and details of who has to get the scholarship. Development is going back to the donors to see if the requirements can be changed to allow disbursement to someone else.

Steve McKellips added that one of the other challenges is that when dept award in the past they often make decisions and then convening and then summer and then fall, sometimes students leave after getting award. There was no mechanism to tell the committee to reconvene and choose someone else. So, if the student was given to a student who doesn't return that money is not spent.

Another questions - plans for selling or leasing residence halls – was amount disclosed or how much impact there will be?

The chair responded that no, still negotiating at that time.

- Campus Wellness – did not meet in March (spring break).
- Communications – no report, met in February.
- Institutional Advancement – no report.
- Physical Environment – reviewed one space request and had two guest speakers, participated in the campus safety walk.

- Student Engagement and Success – March meeting pushed to April, explored admissions, Kim Gentile was our guest speaker. Next meeting will be later in April. Members of Advising will be coming to talk about the transition from Slate to Workday platform. Figuring out barriers for students in that transition.
- Talent Development and Human Resources – met at end of March, verified that we have some someone from our committee on each of the transition groups.
- Social Engagement – no report.

CONSTITUTENCY REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

- GSG – working with Grad Council to prep for grad research day, ice cream social coming up in Roo Lounge. Opening new positions for applications, having final meetings that will focus on the past year. In a unique position with elections, we are staying on but all changing roles. It will be interesting to see what we do with it, with the same people could make it interesting. Continue the work we started. Good year and we will keep it going.

- USG report:

USG Report for University Council (April 2025)

This is our last meeting for this year’s USG representatives! It has been a fantastic time, and we want to thank everyone on UC for their hard work and dedication to making the university a better place for students, faculty, and staff. Your hard work does not go unnoticed. Thank you for all you do!

PROJECTS

- Received 15 student trustee applications and forwarded 5 finalists to the President’s Office for further review. This appointment will fill the upcoming student trustee vacancy on the UA Board of Trustees.
- USG received a \$50,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Higher Education’s Campus Security Support Program Grant.
 - The grant will enhance security measures and increase student safety through "Safety First for Zips: A Student-Centered Initiative”
- Legislation went into effect to limit cars usage on walkways with the exception of emergency vehicles
- Brightspace Initiative – passed legislation recommending that Brightspace be open a few days early (included survey results from nearly 200 students)
- Working on distributing surveys for food robots, campus safety, etc. to wrap up the year.
- USG alumni social and scholarship in the works for summer/early fall
- The student initiative for a new pride flag display is in the final stage of details. A flag has been purchased and a location set. Working out logistics for installing the permanent display.

EVENTS

UA Remembrance Day

- Tuesday, April 22nd at noon
- At UA Remembrance Garden behind BCAS
- Speeches by USG and GSG, followed by a service project
 - Student Leader Showcase

- Wednesday, April 23rd from 6:00pm – 8:30pm in SU Rm 335
- Event to recognize student orgs accomplishments in the year. Can win various prizes. Registration was sent out to student orgs, is on the USG social media, and in Zipmail. Closes on Sunday, April 13th
 - Small Business Series with Downtown Akron Partnership
- April 7th – April 28th
- Students can pick up passports at tabling events in the SU and take those to the restaurants listed on the card. If they complete one restaurant in each category, they have the chance to win a prize.
 - Cultural Night
- Tuesday, April 15th from 6pm – 8pm in SU 312
- Cultural fashion show and food
- Registration sent to various student orgs and on social media
 - Take Back the Night w/ Dean of Students Office
- Monday, April 21st from 3 – 4:30pm in SU
- For Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- A walk followed by tabling w/ resources and student orgs
 - Bicentennial Event
- To celebrate the City of Akron’s 200th anniversary
- In the works, collab with Phi Alpha Theta (history honorary)
 - Life Awards
- USG is giving out 21 awards
 - A-Key Blues, A-Key Golds, and Faculty Engagement Award
 - USG Inauguration Ceremony
- Thursday, May 1st from 5 – 6pm in SU Ballroom CDE
- New USG leaders will be sworn in, including a short reception after. All of you are invited!

Introduction of new USG President, Madilyn (Madi) Shaw and next year’s USG platform:

Thank you, Grace, and thank you all for having me today. Like mentioned, my name is Madilyn Shaw. I am a current second-year with a Political Science major, Pre-Law Philosophy minor, and a Manual Communications certificate. Speaking on behalf on myself and my Vice President, Bethel Tsigie, we are super grateful to have the opportunity to represent the Undergraduate Student Body!

The platform that we campaigned on is named All4UA. We built this platform on 4 key identifying pillars, with additional subpoints, that we aim to achieve through student input, collaborations, projects, and initiatives. Our first pillar is Amplifying Academic Opportunities. This includes increasing internship and co-op experiences, connecting academic services and tutoring, and fostering student collaboration. Our second pillar is Enhancing the Community. This pillar includes connecting with the Akron community and the city of Akron, creating a welcoming campus environment, and fostering student collaboration. The third pillar is Expanding Personal Growth. This includes showing support to all identities on campus, highlighting campus resources, and improving mental and self well-being. Lastly, our fourth pillar is Empowering the Student Perspective. This pillar encompasses hearing all students’ voices, connecting USG, the student body, and higher administration, and strengthening student relationships.

We hope to continue some initiatives and projects from previous administrations, as well as establish ourselves with some new ideas. I want to thank you all again

	<p>for giving me the time to introduce myself and our platform. Bethel and I are looking forward to getting started and establishing connections with you all!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSAC – Sarah Kelly attended to discuss changes to professional staff bylaws. Setting up a meeting with Pre Nemer, details to come. Still many slots to sign up for SpringFest volunteers, please look it over. I should have update on Prof Staff social engagement committee and hope to do another Rubber Ducks game.. • SEAC – met on March 20, chose a new chair. Blair Everett accepted the position. Met with President Nemer. We will be bringing back the Ziptastic awards, will present on April 17. • FS – at last week’s Senate meeting we approved course proposals and program proposals, APC brought policies for approval for Teaching Learning Assessment, and the creation of the new department of Music, Theatre, Dance and Theatre Administration. Also approved the new Graduate School structure. • Chairs – met with OAA and ITL about course evaluation, new system implementation, faculty found there are some gaps to close, working on adding other components to course evaluations, have standard questions but need different types of questions for some areas, working on that. Working with ITL to resolve the issue. • Deans – no report.
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"> • None. <p>The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 pm.</p>