

University Council

MINUTES

MAY 13, 2025

3:01 – 4:07 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>Members: Marilia Antunez, Stacia Biddle (SES chair), Stephanie Davis-Dieringer (TDHR chair), Karima Elgarroussi (IT chair), Tracie Epner (UCEC), Ed Evans (UCEC), Blair Everett (UCEC), Tonia Ferrell (chair), Dan Friesner, John Huss (IA chair), Kris Kraft (secretary, CW chair), Brant Lee, Nate Meeker (vice chair), Gwen Price (ex-officio), Linda Saliga (BF chair), Faii Sangganjanavanich, Madilyn Shaw (UCEC), Aimee Trunko (UCEC), Bethel Tsige, Sonya Wagner, Alison Winters</p> <p>Members Absent with notice:</p> <p>Members Absent without notice: Nicolina Kravljaca, Catherine Strain, Ally Temsey</p> <p>Other attendees: Michele Banis, Toni Bisconti, Cristine Boyd, Becky Handley, Kim Cole (AA), William Cole, Kim Gentile, Andrew Goodrich, Kathleen Hauenstein, Patti Huth, Marcinda Jackson, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Sarah Kelly (AA), Wendy Lampner, Emily Lenke, Erin Liggett, Meredith Merry, John Messina (AA), Katherine Moseley, Stephen Myers, Jesse Redwine, Christin Seher, Joshua Skovira, Michelle Smith, Mark Stasitis, Misty Villers (AA), Tom Waltermire (BOT), 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 3:01 pm. 2. The chair revised the agenda to include , after the remarks of the provost, the new Athletic Director. She then added that today’s guest speaker would be Amiee Trunko and moved that the UCIT report be moved to the top of committee reports. Under new business the chair added a discussion of the Social Engagement Committee. The revised agenda was approved. 3. The minutes of the April 8, 2025 meeting 2025-4-8-minutes-university-council-final.pdf were approved as distributed.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TONIA FERRELL	
	<p>The chair welcomed everyone to the May meeting, thanked Trustee Waltermire for joining online. She congratulated the recent graduates and thanked those who worked so hard on graduation ceremonies over the weekend. She reminded the body that committees continue</p>

to work over the summer, so if there are no topic submissions that annual goals could be worked on or that committees can work on the annual report to be submitted by September. She reminded committees that they should submit committee reports, even if not meeting for the record as it is important to document for HLC.

The executive committee met April 22 and that was the first meeting with the new provost. UC transition work will pick up the conversation again now that the transitions are complete in the provost office. Guest speakers were discussed for summer and UC working in alignment with CSO and having conversation about that over the summer. The status of committee reports is mostly up to date, Institutional Advancement still not up to date but working with that committee. We also said farewell to USG and GSG leadership.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Nemer expressed his thanks to all those who worked the ceremonies over the past weekend, 1,783 students graduated. Students were celebrated at Coleman Commons with cake and Zippy. He expressed how wonderful it was to see our students achieve.

President Nemer mentioned that it has been one year since he became president; thanked everyone for their patience as he learned. BOT and the president are committed to a vision plan and more robust campus. 125 ideas were received from the call-to-action database, that will remain open over the summer for more input.

Next month we will wrap up the branding partnership and he thanked UC for their participation in that work. The internal team has chosen the new brand initiative and are excited to share it with campus. They feel it holds true to UA's heritage. With that, the new Chief Brand Officer position is now open. With Tami Ewin resigning, this is a new position but not a newly created position. AD Andrew Goodrich was welcomed to campus yesterday, he has a deep passion for UA and is setting initiatives for campus.

First time and first year transfers all are looking good. We are seeing improvement year over year, and he thanked everyone for their work. Financial aid letters were first out and that helped with decisions. Academic programming with the Browns continues, two more special courses created.

UA athletes continue to showcase our school, our university is formidable in many of the programs. Thank you to everyone for championing our students. Congratulations to all on the successes this year.

Questions:

-regarding budget issues, a pretty big budget cut on the academic side this year and additional asks of time and resources to come. In collaboration with the new AD, what are the planned cuts to Athletics and what timeline should we expect to come?

Nemer – hope to hear something back in 4-6 weeks, understand the sense of need to it. We started working on athletics when we separated from last AD. Give Andrew grace and time to look at this and to make his own analysis. Appreciate your viewpoint that you want answers. Think in 4-6 weeks expect some answers.

– brand rollout – will there be specific groups or by department?

Nemer – Sara Seidl and Matt Juravich are working on that, various BOT members who will see it next month then workshop after that. Would like Mark to weigh in on that. Not sure of the timeline yet.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

Provost Price expressed her excitement at being at her first UC meeting as provost. Full time enrollment is up over 24/25, over 23 as well. May 1 came and went and UA held strong in numbers. Transfers are up significantly, about 20% up. Our freshmen are meeting with advisors and orientation is starting, still taking applications and trying to prevent summer melt. We are excited about the numbers and kudos to Admissions and faculty for their work.

SB1 on everyone's mind, mentioned in other meetings, heading up groups to work on implementation of SB1, so much we have to understand and react to. FS we were asked about faculty input into that, Chair Budd asked to join group. Took feedback and worked on an FAQ page with feedback section. ITL session next week on SB1, concentrate on specific portions of SB1, I'll be there to answer questions.

Searches – from OAA – things that I was doing before; restructure of Grad School, we're taking that leadership and morphing it. Dual role is VP for International and Graduate Studies. There is also a Senior VP role, looking to have another Vice Provost for academic affairs. Use our lines as efficiently as possible. Those will be internal searches and should be coming together soon.

Add congrats to those involved in all five graduations. The ceremonies were wonderful, thank you to Justin and his team. Great job. So much goes into all of it.

Questions:

-you mentioned that numbers were strong, could you be more quantitative?

Provost Price – I can't be right at this moment but can get back to you. Some are up by 20%, but compared to 2023, it's higher.

Andrew Goodrich – Athletics Director

Good afternoon, everyone – thank you for having me here, excited to be at UA. I grew up in upstate New York, I was the first college grad in my family. I was interested in Athletics and that's because of people like you. I was planning to be a professional athlete or a dairy farmer. Then I took Psychology of Self, my professor took an interest in me and knew I needed to talk, and he talked to me. Opened a world I never knew I could be a part of. He changed my life. Here today because of one person. You represent faculty, staff and different areas of university, this is my life mission. I'm going to be an asset and a helper. Pres Nemer has been very transparent about what we need to do to revitalize this institution. I'm the person who has an abundance mindset. I'm an optimist. We're going to have an incredible era; open-door policy for anyone on this committee. If there is anything we can do to help you, I love creating partnerships on campus. Helped to revitalize South Florida program. Come see us, we're an incredibly creative group, can create win/win situations together. Let's be creative. I am willing to take questions.

There were no questions for AD Goodrich.

GUEST SPEAKER – GSG presentation – Aimee Trunko, President

Aimee shared her presentation -

Officers of GSG for 2025/26 academic year:

President – Aimee Trunko

Vice President – Nikolina Kravljaca

Treasurer – Adara Turek

Questions:

-Does GSG have a main point of contact in administration?

Trunko – should have a faculty advisor but we don't currently. We meet with Dr. Messina currently, and President Nemer when able. We have representatives in each college.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

- Information Technology –

The IT chair spoke about the classroom technology survey and shared the results with UC [Survey_Summary_UCEC_meeting.pdf](#).

Questions:

-the information is interesting, did not see in data if the college of the student/professor who responded was listed? Teaching around campus, we know that some classrooms are better than others.

Elgarroussi – we did not ask that, but that would be a good question to ask, some colleges have better technology than others. Thank you for the idea.

-recently have done some interviews of graduating students and the comment I got a lot was about printer access and it was an issue. Was that part of the survey?

Elgarroussi – it was not, but they could add that to the “other” category.

The chair concluded that this would be taken up at the UCEC meeting and that they would get in touch with UCIT and where action will go.

- Awards – official awards ceremony held last week, awards were presented to recipients.
- Budget & Finance – met in April, Misty gave an overview of some property transactions and first look at what will happen with Housing P3. Details to come next month.
- Campus Wellness – dealt with some topics from HR regarding participation in the Akron Health Challenge, working with UCM on it.
- Communications – no report.
- Institutional Advancement – met May 9 and heard from Stephanie LaGuardia about what they are doing in Polymer and Engineering. Great information. Highlighted their relationships with industries for co-op and corporate partners for research. Design teams supported endowed funds in place. We learned a lot from their information and learned a lot about institutional advancement from them.
- Physical Environment – meet Thursday and in June, discussing how to apply annual goals before fall if time.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Engagement and Success – met on April 28, meeting with individuals to determine ways to support Registration process, had people come to talk about Stellic and steps taken by students in process and advising to determine their course plan. Conversation is ongoing so there will be more information coming on that. The committee has been posting information to Digest on topics that are of interest to campus. We still are talking about the consistent use of Brightspace with the need to get all faculty onboard for course management. • Talent Development and Human Resources – met April 28 and talked about Admin process and will meet through May on that. The chair asked when we will know what makes it to the second phase? Davis-Dieringer replied that it would probably be in June. • Social Engagement – no report.
CONSTITUTENCY REPORTS TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USG - end of year awards gala, our end of year hurrah. We held our inauguration ceremony and thank you to everyone for their hard work. We are transitioning to new roles; new leadership; Madilyn Shaw, president; Bethel Tsige, vice president; Alison Winters, VP for finance. Lots of work happening over the summer. • PSAC – meeting last month focused on the upcoming mapping groups and the LMS project and upcoming elections. If you are professional staff, you received an email about nominations. Six seats are open. • SEAC – quick meeting last month, nominations being taken, all information is on website. • FS – busy final meeting of the semester, elected two new officers – Angela Hartsock as chair, Joel Duff as vice chair. CRC reported that they have completed 338 courses and 45 program proposals. Approved four new 99-credit baccalaureate programs and one new GenEd category for Breadth of Perspective. Heard from committees. • Chairs – no report. • Deans – wrapping up budgets for fiscal year. Very short time window to get new data for next fiscal year.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
NEW BUSINESS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chair shared that the Social Engagement committee is looking for volunteers. The committee was created to bring campus together for fun activities and to increase morale. With retirements and people leaving UA, there is opening for

	<p>volunteers to the committee. You do not need to be appointed, just a desire to serve. Submit your name to Chair Ferrell or Heather. This is a great opportunity to volunteer and with just a small amount of work.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">GOOD OF THE ORDER TONIA FERRELL</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Messina thanked everyone who worked graduation, thank you to Kris Kraft for all her work, truly appreciated all the work done. <p>The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 pm.</p>