

University Council

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 14, 2023

3:00-4:08 PM

LH 208 & 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, Alia Baig, Stacia Biddle, Kim Cole, Alexis Currie, Grace DeWitt, Melissa Dreisbach, Tracie Epner, Tammy Ewin, Ed Evans, Cam Feezel, Tonia Ferrell, Dan Friesner, Sarah Kelly, Kris Kraft, Brant Lee, Nate Meeker, John Messina, Stephen L. Myers, Michele Novachek, Deb Owens, Linda Saliga, Varunee Faii Sangganjanavanich, Tausif Utchhash, Eric Veigel, Sonya Wagner, Heather Walter, Nick Weber, John Wiencek, Wan Yu</p> <p>Absent with notice: John Corby, Blair Everett, Dallas Grundy, John Huss, Gary Miller</p> <p>Absent without notice:</p> <p>Other attendees: Matt Akers, Michelle Banis, Jill Bautista, Christine Boyd, Nicholas Campana, Jeanette Carson, Celeste Cook, Lisa Craig, Aimee DeChambeau, Max Fightmaster, Becky Handley, Patti Huth, Marcinda Jackson, Emily Janoski-Haehlen, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Steve Kaufman, Paul Levy, Steve McKellips, Janis McCracken, Erin Makarius, Gary Miller, Fedearia Nicholson-Sweval, Gwen Price, John Reilly, Christin Seher, Tom Waltermire,</p>
Agenda topics:	
	<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 3:02 pm. 2. The agenda was approved with one change, the report from Budget and Finance moved to the December meeting. 3. The minutes of the September 12, 2023 were approved as distributed. The minutes of the October 10, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed.
	<p style="text-align: center;">EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TONIA FERRELL</p>
	<p>The Executive Committee met on October 24 and discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two topic submissions – Menopause Support, forwarded to the Campus Wellness Committee. Campus Clocks, still not accurate, was sent back to Physical Environment. • Guest speakers – Budget report and Provost Fellows in December. • Strategic Planning – meeting with Fellows this week. • Discussion of service awards and date for event – in November.

- Discussion of UC participation and meeting in person or hybrid and helping committees do their work.
- Procedural Manual in progress.
- New Business – Youth Protection Policy received, will be discussed at the December meeting.
- Halloween event in Student Union hosted by Social Engagement Committee.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Miller - thank you everyone for participating in this important work of this group. It’s been a good semester so far. BOT Waltermire is with us today in person. We have a great Board, want to mention new member Mark Lerner.

We’ve been spending a lot of time in the legislature, will be there off and on through this year and next year. Couple highlights:

- Lots of interest in higher education. Additional legislation coming through that will affect us in many ways. Three-year degrees will be pushed. There is a slow motion thing happening due to divided house.
- SB 83 is apparently stuck in committee, may not get to vote this session. We’ll keep you abreast on information. Version 11 right now.
- A couple of other bills that will affect us, bathroom bill, intended for k-12 but affecting higher ed, which we already have legislation related to that. Expect continued activism on legislation.
- Does appear that there will be a capital budget. Not clear when that will happen. Time schedules are disparate. The Senate is asking for ideas by April, House later. 17-18 Mil expected plan to use some for deferred maintenance and some new items. Unity Capital projects are also possible, how we got money to redo the McClain Gallery. We participate whenever we can. Vetting at chamber of commerce level. The state has 700 Mil in one-time cash available this year, to deliver to state entities based on yet to be determined process. We have to go through our partners for that money, working with city and chamber on that.

Want to remind you again that we were designated as one of 31 innovation tech hubs in the country, partnership with chamber, UA, and business community. Came with substantial grant to fund development of tech hub. Could be worth millions, up to 72 mil. A lot of work between now and next year to make that happen. Sue Bausch and Brian Anderson from Chamber wrote proposal. We were one of 33 locations and mentioned by President Biden. Focused on sustainability of plastics. Thank our chamber counterparts for that work. The state has innovation hub money available as well. Asked them for these funds and we’ll work through the legislative process for this. Ready to do this, organized around our polymer cluster. We’ll be applying for that as well. Could lead to a facility on campus for polymer scale up.

Started traveling for alumni events; NYC event coming up and have donor who gave us a Spero Steinway piano, it’s an AI player piano, coming next week. We’ll be in Houston this weekend, a lot of alumni there, 120 already responded. Florida for first two weeks in February. Trips to DC also planned.

Continuing to work with USG on off campus safety, mental health and current events. Moving fast on the Knight/Polsky project, have had meetings with constituents and assembled a dense list of occupants. Met with architects on campus, this week we’ll start

	<p>shaping first ideas to socialize on campus. Long term capital planning is happening as well.</p> <p>There were no questions for the president.</p>
<p>PROVOST'S REMARKS</p>	
	<p>Wienczek - Enrollment is looking strong, put in intentional effort into contacting students, have not had to make adjustments so far, huge number of international students coming in, so far so good.</p> <p>We are also focusing on grad student recruiting and improving processes. Changes happening in process and mitigating the problems in getting grad students in here. Move toward comprehensive admission process for them.</p> <p>UCEC talking about new ideas, rising from conversations around campus. Met with all departments this semester. Have a long list from that. Themes I'm hearing are that people are happy with news on finances. Continue to push forward on that. Transition in parking has been bumpy but meetings were good. A lot of the issues have been addressed and by January will be able to enable visitors to campus to have smooth parking experience. Learning new things about the departments.</p> <p>Faculty Senate is talking about transitions in Research, mitigate the pain in that.</p> <p>Strategic plan – good plans in place, asked communities to come together in five plans. Two year rolling plans. Long term work in groups. Thank you to Provost Fellows for their work.</p> <p>Compliance – email out today, pointing everyone to Brightspace page – impressed with training, easy to navigate. Expect that we will all get that done. Encourage everyone to get that done. Follow up will happen to make sure everyone has completed. The deadline is February 28, check your emails.</p> <p>There were no questions for the provost.</p>
<p>STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE</p>	
	<p>Juravich – just a quick update, documents have been shared the president, provost and cabinet. Meeting with UPG this coming Thursday to finalize the draft and then we'll distribute them to UC. Discussion at the next meeting.</p>
<p>GUEST SPEAKER – WENDY LAMPNER, DIRECTOR, ONLINE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION – ONLINE PROGRAMS</p>	
	<p>Wendy shared her presentation OLS - UAkron Online Update.pdf</p> <p>Questions: How many classes are being offered synchronously vs asynchronously? Lampner – we expect it to be completed asynchronously. But there are opportunities to participate synchronously.</p>

Wanted to take opportunity to tell you that the faculty I talk to speak highly of the support of your staff and understand you had to move from Leigh Hall to Polsky and there was no interruption of service.
Lampner – thank you. We are having an open house on December 7 from 10 am – 2:30 pm in Polsky 489/483.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

- Awards – getting everything ready to be announced for award nominations. Call for volunteers for the evaluation of nominees soon.
- Budget & Finance – no report.
- Campus Wellness – working on RooFit, expect information coming in next few weeks, starting in Week 2 of Spring semester.
- Communications – no report.
- Information Technology – goal is around Workday – forming taskforce to see how to help IT in roll out of Workday. Report document was shared.
https://uazips-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/hl_uakron_edu/EZ2DCB9VBcxEjtxidE7EL8wBgkrtsesO6s7v-PBNXBfcaQ?e=dfgQ76. Document is a best practice to document technology and what is available through IT. Recommend campus to use. Utilize communication tools on campus. https://uazips-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/hl_uakron_edu/EUY4fNpMcOdJnLCtdqam16QBk71f_offzZ8OPamgYQB1jw?e=rkeP6l

Also proposing that Z Alert be an “opt-out” option, all current students and employees would be automatically enrolled and would have to opt-out. Option to opt-out would exist. Believe it is helpful to have it be automatic, other institutions across nation do auto enroll in alerts.

Questions? None.

The chair indicated that there was no second required. There was no discussion. The motion passed.

- Intuitional Advancement – no report, working on deans, directors messaging workshops.
- Physical Environment – The Physical Environment Committee reviewed three topic submissions. Stephen Myers updated the committee on university space and construction plans. In addition, the committee is exploring safety-related activities. Eric Green, Director of Environmental & Occupational Health and Safety will be a guest speaker at the November meeting
- Student Engagement and Success – welcomed new committee member from GSG, Deja Gresham. The first message on student mental health coming out in ZipMail today, after Thanksgiving will focus on enrollment for spring.
- Talent Development and Human Resources – no report.
- Social Engagement – no report.

CONSTITUENCY REPORTS	
TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSG – welcomed five new members and senators. December social being organized. Encourage grad students to come out and meet the group. • USG – worked on Rethinking Race events, held collaborative art event “Unity in Tiles” with students, faculty and staff participating by painting a heart on a tile, it will be displayed somewhere on campus – location to be determined. Held Student Leader Roundtable discussion on Colorism. • PSAC – met on October 23, unable to meet with President Miller due to his travel, our next meeting on November 27 will be with Provost Wiencek, update from HR and creating professional development for staff. • SEAC – we are welcoming 10 new members to SEAC and now have one person on each committee. This will be the last time I speak, Tracie Epner taking my place. Had an informal social recently, first time trying one in quite a while. Next order of business is bylaw changes from last year to include bargaining and non-bargaining staff – did not go through yet. Next item of business for SEAC, need to have clarification for having officers. Hope to get that through soon. November 16 is our next meeting. • Faculty Senate – met November 2, heard from president and provost, approved proposals brought by CRC and appreciate their hard work, approved a motion to form a committee to create the new student course evaluation – work to begin shortly. • Chairs – no report. • 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"> • John Messina invited everyone to attend/volunteer for Robsgiving, it is a long-standing tradition at UA where administrators serve students. Monday of finals week will also have a study break starting at 9 am. • The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 pm.