

University Council

MINUTES

JULY 11, 2023

3:00-3:43 PM

TEAMS

MEETING CALLED BY	Tonia Ferrell, chair
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
PRESIDER	Tonia Ferrell, chair
NOTE TAKER	Heather Loughney
ATTENDEES	<p>Member: Jeanette Carson, Kim Cole, Alexis Currie, Grace DeWitt, Matthew Dowd, Ed Evans, Tammy Ewin, Cam Feezel, Tonia Ferrell, Max Fightmaster, Dan Friesner, Dallas Grundy, Marjorie Hartleben, Kris Kraft, Nate Meeker, John Messina, Gary Miller, Steven L. Myers, John Reilly, Linda Saliga, Heather Walter, Nick Weber, John Wiencek</p> <p>Absent with notice: John Corby, John Huss, Varunee Faii Sangganjanavanich,</p> <p>Absent without notice: Alia Baig, Sarah Kelly, Robert Peralta, Sherry Simms, Shawn Stevens, Eric Veigel</p> <p>Other attendees: Matt Akers, Suzanne Bausch, Christine Boyd, M. Celeste Cook, Aimee DeChambeau, Leah Fishman, Angela Hartsock, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Stephanie Kiba, Alex Knisely, Paul Levy, Fedearia Nicholson-Sweval, Janis McCracken, Stephen McKellips, Erin Makarius, Christine Mayer, Patricia Miller, Michele Novachek, Gwyn Price, Christin Seher, Mark Stasitis, Nathan Yost</p>
Agenda topics:	
	CALL TO ORDER TONIA FERRELL
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. 2. The agenda was approved without dissent. 3. The minutes of the June 13, 2023, UC meeting were approved without dissent.
	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TONIA FERRELL
	<p>From the May meeting –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed timing for the next message to campus from President Miller regarding topic submissions. Chair will discuss with Provost and Chief of Staff. • Guest Speakers – June was Gwen Price, no speaker for July. • Discussion of participation for fall semester, whether to return to in person meetings, hybrid or Teams. LH room to be reserved, discussion to continue in August with decision to be made then. • Committee reporting and returning to schedule of reporting through year for committees. More to come on this. • Provost Fellows to be added to the agenda to provide updates. • Still exploring overlap of Faculty Senate committees with UC committees.

UCEC did not meet in June due to schedule issues.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS –

The president shared about the FY 23-24 budget: delays on approval due to state budget. Have revised the budget and the BOT gave permission for the university to continue with the budget as is pending state approval. Increase to State Share of Instruction was less than original drafts and how much universities can increase tuition was less than hoped for. Guaranteed tuition agreement affected; 3% increase for incoming freshmen. Others will pay the same they paid last semester. The increase in our SSI (State Subsidy for Instruction) was less than the increase for community colleges. Will present UA budget to the UCBF to go to the BOT in September. Adjustments will be made.

Parking – The change in parking fees is a culture change and we recognize how inconvenient the increase in parking fees is for everyone. Debt service is an issue we are trying to address as the amount we pay each year in debt service could be applied to other needs on campus. Debt service is accrued over a long time and has given us good facilities, housing, parking, the student union, and Quaker Square. Some debt is related to rec center and athletics as well. These facilities were bonded against the general fund when we had 28,000 students. The way to resolve the budget situation is to reduce the debt and one way to do that is to privatize auxiliary operations. This new parking agreement will generate tens of millions of dollars for us to apply toward our debt service. Once we lower the debt service, we can begin to invest in classes and salaries. This is a hard thing to do, but we believe it will work. More privatization is being considered to put us on a good financial road.

Why did we not take this through shared governance? The debt and finances are managed through the BOT, this is not an issue where we had the luxury of talking about it for a long time and we had to move on the partnership. It was decided it was too important to delay the decision, we had to do this. At least it keeps us away from eliminating people or eroding our reserves. It acknowledges that enrollment alone will not solve the problem. We chose to keep shared governance leaders in touch with us, did not allow them to brief their groups due to proprietary information. We talked to Toni, Kate and Tonia and discussed and please don't blame them for not briefing you on this. We will come around in groups for more discussions if you want.

This is a separate initiative from offloading real estate – we have a lot we're trying to sell. Trying to sell Quaker Square, that does not relieve us of that debt though. We are in a good position here to get through this thing that has been on our back for some time but will create hardships. That's the background.

Any input from everyone involved?

Mayer – will say from my perspective understanding it is an inconvenience and will be some hardship. This change is so much smarter than changing the education side of our plans. Like idea of offloading the parts of our university to those who can manage it better than we can. Appreciate everybody having an open mind about this change and understanding it is the best interest of the university.

Questions:

Evans – detail that you haven't mentioned is an estimate of how much of an increase once this all comes through?

	<p>Miller – published that this morning, substantial increase, and it brings us in line with other universities.</p> <p>Ferrell - 200% for employees for this year. \$100 to \$300 for employees. Miller – historically we did not raise parking fees on faculty and staff, but we also subsidized parking for them. We can't do that anymore. Will move that subsidy to grad and law students this year. I made that decision. Can't use general fund to pay for faculty parking.</p> <p>Dowd – will those who bike, walk or bus have to pay for a parking permit? Miller – no.</p> <p>Fishman – two comments – get that we have to bring down the debt and getting rid of parking services does it; one, we are paying our employer to come to work and \$300 to come to work is a lot when some of us have been here a long time without a raise, now have to pay 200% more to come to work. Understand that we as employees are scared of this happening. This is not very supportive for us. Miller – we appreciate that and it's why we are trying to get compensation for employees. Not sure about it yet. Understand both of your points.</p>
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PROVOST'S REMARKS –

	<p>Wiencek – enrollment seems to be holding; optimistic that we will be slightly up; international students are up, need for them to show up now. Registering students and getting ready for classes to start.</p> <p>I missed the last UC meeting, but we have completed the budget reallocation process, it is posted on UCBF minutes. Includes outline of the agreed upon timeline for the budget process, in process for this upcoming cycle. Ready to start process in the fall. Workday has launched, it's new for a lot of us. Thank you to everyone who has gotten us this far. Thank you to everyone out there using the system and beg for your continued perseverance.</p> <p>Within our area, Steve McKellips is taking on the student version of Workday, getting Stellar integrated. Key focus is getting Workday student platform updated and in process. Might want to have Steve talk to UC about the implementation. Assessment for prior learning and opportunities for managing course delivery coming up with work with FS this coming year. Financial aid packaging work to give students a complete view of what is available, give students the full picture of their package. Steve has a good handle on the process and is sharing with Deans and shared governance. Many students will be impacted by the changes, give them more financial help.</p> <p>There were no questions for the Provost.</p>
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STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

	<p>Angela Hartsock gave a brief update on the next strategic plan, working on final progress reports on the current plan, thanking those who have helped with that. Currently clarifying the planning process and the timeline for the next cycle and putting the pieces together.</p> <p>The Chair asked when the Fellows anticipate the next plan to be done.</p>
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	Hartsock responded that they were not sure, still meeting with people and planning to have it ready for UPG in the next few weeks.
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS	
	TONIA FERRELL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards – gathering group during summer for a meeting. • Social Engagement – Chair Ferrell asked who was leading the committee now, Michele Novachek responded that with Vaughn Myers leaving they were planning the next social event for summer on their own and to watch the Digest for announcements. The Chair requested that John Messina consider a replacement for Vaughn.
CONSTITUENCY REPORTS	
	TONIA FERRELL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSG – Currie – working on general introductions to Grad School and putting together the body. • USG – no report. • PSAC (formerly CPAC) – working on elections and next semester. • SEAC – Dowd – final report from chair, after the BOT April meeting, seven members now eligible to serve, SEAC has reached out to see if any others are interested in joining. • Faculty Senate – does not meet during summer. • Chairs – no report. • Deans – no report.
NEW BUSINESS	
	TONIA FERRELL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
GOOD OF THE ORDER	
	TONIA FERRELL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chair thanked Matthew Dowd for his work with shared governance. • The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 pm.