

University Council

MINUTES

AUGUST 8, 2023

3:00-3:54 PM

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, Jeanette Carson, Kim Cole, Alexis Currie, Grace DeWitt, Ed Evans, Tammy Ewin, Cam Feezel, Tonia Ferrell, Max Fightmaster, Dan Friesner, Dallas Grundy, Marjorie Hartleben, John Huss, Sarah Kelly, Kris Kraft, Nate Meeker, John Messina, Stephen L. Myers, John Reilly, Linda Saliga, Eric Veigel, Heather Walter, Nick Weber, John Wiencek</p> <p>Absent with notice: John Corby, Gary Miller</p> <p>Absent without notice: Varunee Faii Sangganjanavanich, Shawn Stevens</p> <p>Other attendees: Matt Akers, Suzanne Bausch, Jill Bautista, Nicholas Campana, M. Celeste Cook, Charles Guthrie, Emily Janoski-Haelen, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Wendy Lampner, Janis McCracken, Stephen McKellips, Christine Mayer, Meredith Merry, Patricia Miller, Paula Neugebauer, Fedearia Nicholson-Sweval, Michele Novachek, Gwyn Price, Jason Segedy, Christin Seher, Sonya Wagner, Tom Waltermire, Jessica Whitehill, 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 with one correction, that the President was not in attendance today. 3. The minutes of the June 13, 2023, UC meeting were approved without dissent.
	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TONIA FERRELL
	<p>The Executive Committee met July 25 with the following business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three topic submissions were received – Nursing degree TS sent to Gwen Price, who responded, Parking in Lot 24 and Campus Clock accuracy were both sent to Physical Environment Committee. • Unfinished Business included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the guest speaker list for the remainder of the year, the guest speaker for August was postponed and Jason Segedy was invited to speak on the Polsky Building. ○ Discussion of UC participation, September to begin in-person meetings with Teams option for guests, voting members are requested to attend in person meeting. If there are any issues, please contact Tonia directly.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UC committee reports will be given during UC meetings again. ○ Overlap with FS committees still in discussion. ○ Orientation for UC committee chairs and admins was discussed. ● The agenda for 8-8-23 was approved.
PROVOST FELLOWS	
	<p>The initial draft of the strategic plan is being reviewed by the President and Provost, working on draft for UPG review, then will go to the University Council for review and discussion. May be September or later.</p>
PROVOST’S REMARKS –	
	<p>The provost shared that it had been a good summer; enrollment has been encouraging and the current student class is leveling. The incoming class was slow to start but now getting mailings back on track and seeing contact with HS sophomores, optimistic about the Fall class.</p> <p>Shoutout to Tom Waltermire who is in the meeting today, we are grateful for the Board’s participation in shared governance.</p> <p>Echo Tonia’s remarks about the importance of participation in shared governance, managers and supervisors are encouraged to allow them that time and space to do this work.</p> <p>The budget is moving into a full year of the new budget process, making sure all deans and direct reports are aware of the expectations. OAA shared discussions going on. We have come a long way from 2020 and are making sure everyone understands the resources that are available.</p> <p>Welcome to Dan Freisner, the new dean of CHHS, welcome to campus. Dan has hit the ground running with good news coming out of the college. We’re grateful you are here and grateful to Tim’s work for so long as interim dean. He will continue as the director of Social Work.</p> <p>Shoutout to many people I don’t even know, saw this from a distance but this comes out of Buchtel College – Anne Usher has been working on something given to her by Registrar. Received a request from daughter of 92-year-old man, who took 1-2 classes at a time while raising his family. His daughter asked if UA could do something for him for 93 birthday. We’re looking to see what we can do to allow some credit to be given and coordinated with Physics and we were able to give him a degree for him and his family for his birthday. Shoutout to all those who were involved in this work. Want to do this for more people, help them cross the finish line. Thank you to all of those who were involved.</p> <p>There were no questions for the provost.</p>
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>

The Chair asked when the Fellows anticipate the next plan to be done. Hartsock responded that they were not sure, still meeting with people and planning to have it ready for UPG in the next few weeks.

GUEST SPEAKER – JASON SEGEDY,

The Polsky Building was acquired in 1993 and has served UA for 3 decades. It's a key block downtown, the western most part of UA. President Miller sees this as part of our campus strategy. It is 427,000 square feet, attached to a 1,000 space garage and is a part of the fabric of downtown.

The university received a 20-mil grant to support the project last year. The vision is to create a space on Main Street that will have civic and academic life that intermingles. This renovation will transform it into a creative hub and continue its work as an academic building. Some new uses are also being planned. This is a generational opportunity. The Civic Theatre was renovated with Knight Stage added. Lock 3 is going through renovations of almost 10 mil worth. Main Street upgrades and lots of work, looks great. The city has a lot of downtown residential. It is prime time for Polsky renovations. Getting new things in there and updating what's already there. Budget is 43 mil, 20 mil from Knight Foundation and we're working to raise the matching funds, thanks to Kim Cole and our state partners.

The first three floors will see the most work, 1st and 3rd floor street entrances. Thinking is that the art spaces would focus on Main Street side, goal to open it back up to the public. Performance space and galleries, retail. Fast casual food or sit-down restaurants, possible alcohol provisions. Working over the next 18 months on this. Preconstruction part of project; planning, schematics, construction plans will take about 18 months, through January of 25, construction will start after that, about 2 years. Want it to be as quick as possible. Everything that serves the university will most likely stay during work. Working on how to best do that. Hired Hausenstaub architects to do the work. Great company. A lot of their design will focus on the first three floors. The building can feel a bit confined when you're in it, looking to open up the building a little bit more, make public spaces bigger, better connect 1st and 3rd floor. Bring new life to the building. The building looks like a former department store, and we want to make that different. Want it to be spacious and provide a unique mix of things. The fourth and fifth floors will have some attention, want to be sure that happens as well. Public areas will get attention. We had a lot of great meetings with people here in this meeting and discussing having other colleges that will have a presence in the building. I will be the liaison between the designers, campus and all the other players. Working with Capital Planning and serving the new and old users of the building. We will be at Fall Kickoff to talk to people who are interested in the project. Would welcome questions and feedback. Open to discussions at any time. Thank you for the opportunity to chat.

Questions:

Huss – usual to bear in mind is 2025 bicentennial of Akron, wonder if there's any opportunities to tie in with that?

Segedy – wonderful suggestion. When I was at the city, we had started the planning for that event. A lot of exciting events planned for it. Building will be under construction during that time, but will look for ways to showcase the building during that time.

Evans – thank you for coming to the meeting. When the project was first proposed to this group there were serious concerns about security for the building at Main Street entrance and assuring safety and the issue of plumbing and other services being inadequate for uses now happening and how to deal with that. Hope those conversations are happening with those working and teaching in Polsky already. That the people who should not be in the building should not be there.

Segedy – Think security front is in my opinion has been discussed some, key is to make sure the first floor is full of life and making sure there is constant activity in it. Retail and food are very important for that. Everybody loves food and that could be the gateway into the building. Could be an event going on that would be of interest to someone coming in for food. Maker spaces could be populated and draw in the general public. Getting more people in the building will help with safety. Sure we will have a lot of conversations about security with cameras and people. Steve and his team are working on that. Building systems are a key part of that project as well, analysis of HVAC, looking at electric, plumbing and telecom and upgrades of those systems. Bathrooms are quite large in the building, and a good amount of space will modernize those. The needs of tenants will have, both those already there and those who may come. Work with needs of those.

Waltermire – first three floors – what is going on today?

Segedy – mix of activities; university functions, project to move Allied Health and Early College from first floor to second floor, make more space available to renovation. A lot of underutilized spaces as well, some completely empty and some that is officially occupied but not as well as it could be. Right sizing of spaces in building. Goal is to make space work adequately, fill the building.

Waltermire – which current activities will be disrupted? How much change for those already there? Early College is an example. Take it from your comments that there wouldn't be many changes to 4th and 5th floors?

Segedy – business on 5th floor, 4th floor is social work and computer labs.

Myers – 5th floor business will only touch what's needed, 4th floor is disaster science, Barnes and Noble, Starbucks, bid to relocate Allied Health to second floor already in process. Audiology will remain on first floor. Spaces are being worked to remove those on first floor to open the space. Will be impossible not to disrupt once construction starts. A lot of space to work with.

Evans – Steve, moving programs into other locations, how have you gotten feedback from those faculty in those areas.

Myers – having conversations with Kris Kraft and allied health, with high school and they are involved in the new space.

Evans- timelines of projects

Myers – Kris is great, working with us on all that. High school has been in conversation with us, 1st floor not a great space for them, so new space will be better, construction will be starting soon for them. Working primarily with Kris and the principal.

	<p>Nicholson-Sweval – are you also talking to Kelly Herold?</p> <p>Myers – yes. Security issues have been a big part of this conversation. Doors locked for 25 years. The response to that is three-fold – having people there, having it occupied, there are defensible space – create less spaces to hide. Will adjust circulation of stairs and closing off areas. Electronic surveillance will also be used. Locking doors when not in use. Defensible spaces. We want the building to be an asset to the community but still work for the university.</p>
CONSTITUENCY REPORTS TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards – no report, volunteers needed to serve on this committee. No appointments are made for this committee. If you would like to serve on the committee, send a message to Tonia. This is a great opportunity to work with shared governance. Service awards will be held at Infocision on October 25. • Budget and Finance – no report. • Campus Wellness – trying to get ready to start new Roofit and planning has already begun. • Communication – no report. • Information Technology – The committee has finalized our first draft of the best practices in utilizing technology related to communication. The purpose of the best practices is to provide essential information regarding diverse technological platforms to aid members of the campus community to make informed decisions when it comes to communication technology selections. We hope to present the final draft to UC this Fall • Institutional Advancement – no report. • Physical Environment – no report. • Student Engagement – working on scheduling a meeting. • Talent Development and Human Resources – not able to meet. • Social Engagement – food truck on campus August 10.
COMMITTEE REPORTS TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSG – introductions to group, welcoming new and returning grad students • USG – busy over the summer with incoming freshmen, Baig to speak at convocation. Working on New Roo. • SEAC – no report.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSAC –met on July 24th. Thanks to PSAC outgoing members. Voting occurred for representatives to serve on PSAC Executive Committee. Voting of PSAC and PS At Large members to serve on UC committees. There is a PSAC Social Event at 4:30pm on September 20th at R Shea downtown. All professional staff are invited. • Faculty Senate – Executive committee working with other shared governance groups providing input to administration. • Chairs – meeting before semester starts to talk about AI policies. • Deans – no report.
NEW BUSINESS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
GOOD OF THE ORDER	
TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed Evans shared that one of the CEPS faculty, Don Visco, was elected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). • The chair reminded everyone that the September meeting will be in person, will be held in LH 208. If you will need to use the Teams option, please contact the chair. • The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 pm.