

University Council

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

3:00-4:10 PM

MICROSOFT TEAMS

MEETING CALLED BY	Tonia Ferrell, chair
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
PRESIDER	Tonia Ferrell, chair
NOTE TAKER	Heather Loughney
ATTENDEES	<p>Member: Zack Azzam, Jeanette Carson, Kim Cole, John Corby, Eli Eubanks, Ed Evans, Tammy Ewin, Tonia Ferrell, James Garcher, Dallas Grundy, Sarah Kelly, Kris Kraft, Tim McCarragher, John Messina, Gary Miller, Steven L. Myers, Michele Novachek, Robert Peralta, Linda Saliga, Shawn Stevens, Heather Walter, Nick Weber, John Wienczek</p> <p>Absent with notice: Marjorie Hartleben</p> <p>Absent without notice: Miranda Brainard, Dylan Leipold, Mai Lor, John Nicholas, Eric Veigel</p> <p>Other attendees: Matt Akers, Suzanne Bausch, Toni Bisconti, Marie Celeste Cook, Aimee De Chambeau, Matthew Dowd, Eli Eubanks, Emily Janoski-Haehlen, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Wendy Lampner, Paul Levy, Stephen McKellips, Mitchell McKinney, Christine Mayer, Rene Molenaar, Paula Neugebauer, Fedearia Nicholson-Sweval, Ling Qian, John Reilly, Luke Smith, Tom Waltermire</p>
Agenda topics:	
	<p style="text-align: center;">CALL TO ORDER JEANETTE CARSON</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The vice chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. 2. Election of Chair and Secretary: The vice chair read a description of the duties of the Chair of University Council. The vice chair shared that Tonia Ferrell had received a nomination before the meeting and had accepted the nomination. She then asked for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations and the vice chair asked for a motion to close nominations and to elect Tonia Ferrell by acclamation. The motion was made and seconded. Tonia Ferrell was elected chair. The vice chair read a description of the duties of the Secretary of University Council. The vice chair shared that Kris Kraft had received a nomination before the meeting and had accepted the nomination. She then asked for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations and the vice chair asked for a motion to close nominations and to elect Kris Kraft by acclamation. The motion was made and seconded. Kris Kraft was elected chair. 3. Chair Ferrell then asked for a change to the agenda to allow the president to give his remarks after the Executive Committee report. The agenda was approved with changes.

4. The minutes of the August 9, 2022 UC meeting were approved without dissent.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

- UCEC met August 23, there were no topic submissions.
- Reviewed the Institutional Advancement, Physical Environment and Talent Development & Human Resources committees; all committees felt they served a purpose and needed to continue with no revisions. UCEC agreed with the reviews. Next UCEC meeting will discuss reviews and will contact admins and chairs with any changes, bylaw changed will be a separate process.
- Dean McKinney to be the guest speaker at the September meeting, invitations were sent to the speakers for the rest of the year.
- Agenda for 8/9 meeting was approved.
- Under good of the order, the ongoing conversation with SEAC and union staff, there was progress. The chair also thanked Courtney Johnson-Benson for her service as she is departing the university.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Dr. Miller began his remarks by congratulating Tonia and Kris and thanking them for all their work for the body. He pointed out that BOT members Mayer and Waltermire were in attendance.

The president discussed the recent award of 31 million dollars in grants from the Knight Foundation, whose board met in Akron the past weekend. BOT member Boyd is a member of the Knight board. There were two clear themes in the gifts: the importance of Akron and downtown and the importance of the arts as a driver of the economy and revitalizing the area. Exciting to receive 20 million for the revisioning of the Polsky building. Part of an aggressive move to be downtown and part of the urban landscape. A lot of people worked on this proposal; Kim Cole, Mitchell McKinney, all the deans worked on this at one time or another and under time pressure. A lot of work to do and starting next week engaging the university community and the broader community. Have to raise some matching funds and will be a transformational project for UA and Akron. Would like to bring the proposal to this group and discuss what was in it. With that invitation, Knight Foundation understood we had a lot of work to do with UA community. The plan is to reimagine the Polsky building and renaming it to honor that Knight foundation grant. Express to Christine and through you how deeply grateful we are to the Knight foundation and your work.

Exit meeting with HLC just recently and it's clear to me that many, many hundreds of people have contributed their thoughts about the future of the university. They told us they were incredibly well treated so thank you. Thank you to Joe Urgo and Provost's office for bringing this thing home. Thank you to the two Board members, meeting was very positive. Student members did a fantastic job representing the student body.

Provost will talk about enrollment and we're going to be talking to the university community later in fall, this has been a very positive year in enrollment this past year. We look like were going to be nearly flat with our incoming class. Plan is to turn the

ship and that is long process. Unfortunately, our international students had difficulty in enrolling for fall, so we won't have them here until the spring. Don't be discouraged by reports in the paper, in October we'll be rolling out detailed plans for the future and how you can help even more in the future. Please be encouraged by what you see.

There were no questions for the president.

**PRESENTATION – MITCHELL MCKINNEY, DEAN,
BUCHTEL COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

Dean McKinney began his remarks by thanking President Miller and Kim Cole and their teams for the work that went into this transformational project downtown. He also shared his appreciation for the invitation to share with the UC about BCAS and what they are doing. He shared that it was a year last month since he became dean and that it has been a very rewarding year.

He then stated that he planned to share some highlights of the last year and where the college is going.

The five divisions of Buchtel College:

- Education
- Humanities
- Fine Arts
- Natural Sciences
- Social Sciences

Profile:

- Approx. 4500 undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees
- Enrolled in 20 schools and departments, 4 interdisciplinary degree programs
- 350 faculty; 225 full-time, 125 part-time
- Approximately 90,000 living alumni of Buchtel College

Recent appointments:

- Ann Usher, Sr. Assoc Dean, Assoc Dean for Undergraduate Studies
- Bill Lyons, Assoc. Dean for Faculty Support
- Hazel Barton, Assoc Dean for Research and Grad Studies
- Joe Wilder, Assoc Dean for Fiscal Affairs & Data Analytics
- Ashley Rini, Director of Advising & Student Success
- Lisa Craig, Director of Communication & Marketing
- Jess Otto, Faculty Fellow for Diversity, Inclusion & Equity
- Martha Reynolds, Chief of Staff

Recent chairs & directors:

- David Licate, CJS
- Mary Biddinger, English & Modern Languages
- Linda Saliga, Math
- John Huss, Philosophy
- Lisa Lenhart, School of Education
- Jeni Stanley, Psychology
- Mark Friedline, Statistics

Dean McKinney went on to discuss the Innovation Fund and its strategic action plan to increase enrollments

Innovation Fund

Strategic Action Plan

1. Increase Enrollments

- a. Newly created Communication & Marketing Office in the college
- b. Enhanced scholarship support – we award approx. \$2 million in scholarship support annually. Targeting these awards to incoming students and also newly created transfer student scholarships

New Academic Programs:

- Global Studies Program w/ a multidisciplinary degree, Yang Lin as Director
- Public History MA degree
- MA in Strategic Communication (100% online)
- Bliss Institute for Applied Politics (Cherie Strawn)
 - Applied Political Comm (undergrad and grad certificates)
- Center for Intelligence and Security Studies
- Working group, led by Becky Erickson, joining with colleagues in Health and Human Sciences, how we might address needs in community and behavioral health

2. Strengthen Student Success & Engagement

- a. A focus on **Student Retention efforts** with a re-vamp of our Office of Advising & Student Success and intrusive or pro-active advising, especially for students who are experiencing challenges in their programs of study. Looking at those high DFW courses, implementing early alerts, support and interventions, developing parachute sections/courses
- b. Our focus on experiential learning
 - i. Our Communication students in Kolby Hall prepare for media careers by running the award winning WZIP radio and Z-TV.
 - ii. Our art and design students in the Myers School craft their talents, build their careers, and win awards through the Design X 9 student run ad agency.
 - iii. our Criminal Justice students are working with local prosecutors and police in the City of Akron's criminal nuisance project to make our community safer.
 - iv. our students from the School of Education engaged with students in APS's iPromise School.
 - v. our Sociology students are delivering education and training programs to jail residents in the Summit County jail

3. Enhance Faculty Research & Creative Activity

- a. This past year, the highest level of research expenditures that we had in the previous five years. Loss of our research active faculty, and building back
- b. Five NSF early career awards across three depts (Biology, Chemistry, Geosciences)
- c. Multiple inventions / patents granted to our Buchtel College faculty

4. Expand Public-Community Engagement

- a. Building on the AkronArts initiative, we launched the **Arts Advancement Council**

The University of Akron will receive \$20 million to renovate the Polsky Building, to be renamed after the Akron-born Knight brothers, where the school will relocate academic and community programs for the benefit of Akron’s residents and members of the university community.

National Center for Choreography will use \$1.5 million to establish the NCC Akron Choreography Prize.

- b. Alumni Advisory Council
- c. Dean’s Advancement Council
- d. (Also note the close work that’s happening in our School of Education with APS and the iPromise School)

5. Strengthen Inclusion, Diversity & Equity

- a. Hiring plan that will in three years more than double our underrepresented minority faculty in the college
 - i. Revamped search process

Finally, Dean McKinney shared that he most proud of the work started in the college to recognize and thank staff and faculty. Some of the highlights of that work were:

- Buchtel College Awards for Outstanding Achievement Teaching, Research, Service & Staff
- Annual Awards Luncheon
- “Welcome Back” Reception - welcoming our new faculty & staff, promoted & tenured colleagues, and distinguished professors
- Above & Beyond Award

The dean closed by stating that he looked forward to working with his faculty and staff to continue the great work of the faculty and the accomplishments of their students. To build a college that delivers a world-class liberal arts and science education that transforms the lives of our students.

Chair Ferrell thanked the dean for bringing back those awards, UC brought back university-wide awards, and thanking and recognizing our people is so important.

PROVOST’S REMARKS

The provost opened his remarks by congratulating Tonia and Kris on their re-election, sharing his appreciation of service and moving the university along in a short period of time and looking forward to working with them.

Enrollment – the provost shared that there are a lot of positives in the data. Focus on getting to goal on applications and we succeeded in that, then getting everyone registered and showing up for fall. Broadscale engagement in this work and very impressed with the eagerness to get involved. Continue to do that, pushing out our new goals soon. We

	<p>had the largest Honors College class in the last 4 years; 490 students admitted into Honors. Academic profile has increased this year, mirroring or exceeding pre-COVID numbers. All time lowest summer melt. Kudos to all those who worked with parents and students over the summer. We have seen a 5.7% increase in matriculation, 5.1% increase in students seeking degrees. International student enrollment would have been higher but due to VISA issues we saw a slight decline. But still up 40%</p> <p>A lot of positives, still facing downward momentum as student classes have been small and ranks are going down. We are roughly 7% down and not surprised by that. In conversations with Steve McKellips and feeling pretty good about where we are. We are on a trajectory for improvement.</p> <p>HLC visit – felt the visit was about as smooth any visit I have seen. Thought everyone did an excellent job, shoutout to Jenny Hebert and Janet Bean for the great presentation. Think we are going to get a positive response and hopefully ideas for improvement. Want to also thank Joe Urgo, Patti Huth and Avril Leavy. Cher Hendricks did a lot of the writing and coordination. Well over 50 people involved in writing the self-study.</p> <p>IDC funds – Discussion on carry-forward funds, acknowledged in Faculty Senate that it was a mistake and want to engage in a long-term discussion of IDC funds and have a discussion about those funds moving forward.</p> <p>Thank you to our three Provost fellows who worked diligently over the summer, improving the website that will explain our strategic plan. We have accomplished a lot, more than half of what we set out to do. President will highlight that in his remarks to campus.</p> <p>Questions: Update on compensation study related to WorkDay effort. Provost – don't have details, Sarah Kelly is working on it, and has made significant progress. There has been some significant turnover, some related to compensation and some related to other issues. Will ask Tonia to reach out to Sarah to see if she's ready to give an update. Working with consultant to implement changes as we roll out WorkDay.</p>
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS TONIA FERRELL	
	<p>The chair reminded everyone that committees will be asked to report next month on activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Talent Development and Human Resources committee reported that it had elected a chair-Matt Dowd and vice chair-Melissa Dreisbach. Working on the secretary position. Will meet again in two weeks. Compensation study to be completed in December, after Phase 1 WorkDay done.
CONSTITUENCY REPORTS TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSG – Swanson –currently have several open spots within our Senate; in process of contacting various representatives from the appropriate academic college to help get the word out and fill these positions. Pleased to welcome Dr. Hazel Barton from Biology as our faculty advisor for the 2022-2023 academic year. In process of compiling information and suggestions for updates to the GSGS web page on the university website.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USG – The College Tour Showing - thanks to University Communications and marketing for showcasing some of the best and brightest at UA and USG’s Cecilia Mainzer. USG has applications now for Executive branch positions as well as the first-year senator applications. Homecoming is coming up, many members from USG in nominations. Voting starts at 8 am tomorrow and closes Monday 9/19 at Noon. USG sponsoring events for a homecoming show with ZPN, The Black Excellence Commission, RHPB and RHC to host Wild N’ Out. USG is collaborating with NSO to bring Wes Woodson to UA to do a leadership workshop focusing on mental health and wellness and how to balance being a student leader. Lastly, RooClusive Spaces applications are open again, many student organizations have benefited from this space, feel free to reach out if you know of a student organization who use this space. • CPAC – has completed appointments to committees. • SEAC – many know that SEAC has been in discussion to include staff who are in the union, a letter was sent to President Miller to provisionally represent bargaining staff, we will reach out to those groups in the next months and will look to revise our bylaws with help of the general counsel. There will be a lot of work ahead in the next few months. • Faculty Senate – held first meeting last week, also held elections for EC seats. Majority of meeting discussed IDC issue, as a result of that and other conversations, have come to a good conclusion of the issue. Moving forward with conversation on that. • Deans – no report. • Chairs – no report. 	
UNFINISHED BUSINESS		TONIA FERRELL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
NEW BUSINESS		TONIA FERRELL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferrell – Meetings for Fall semester - meeting in Teams is convenient for constituency groups, but once per semester will meet in person; for fall that will be the November * UC meeting with a social component to it. Interpersonal interactions before and after. We’ll try it and see how it goes. If things are looking good for COVID and feedback is to go back to in-person meetings, we will discuss that then. 	
GOOD OF THE ORDER		TONIA FERRELL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. • The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm. 	