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SENATE ACTIONS

- Agreed to hold a special meeting of the Senate to discuss the University Council Exploratory Committee on November 8th at 3:00 pm. in BCCE 201 Page 6
- Motion to request a liaison from Graduate Council to report their activity to the Faculty Senate, as prescribed in the bylaws. Page 11
- Motion to invite the President and Provost to attend the November 8th meeting to continue the dialogue on the proposed University Council. Page 19

Any comments concerning the contents in *The University of Akron Chronicle* may be directed to the Secretary, Richard Stratton (x7440).

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Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of October 4, 2007

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate took place Thursday, October 4, 2007, in Room 201 of the Buckingham Center for Continuing Education (BCCE). Senate Chair Harvey Sterns called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Of the current roster of fifty-four Senators, 30 were present for this meeting. Senators Arter, Bagatto, Bohland, Broadway, Clark, Hallett, Ida, Lyons, Oswald, Sadler, Sancaktar, Schantz, Vierheller, Vollmer and Williams were absent with notice. Senators Elbuluk, Elliott, Elman, Gilliland, Halter, Keltyka, Maringer, Tabatcher and Vinnedge were absent without notice.

I. Approval of the Agenda – **Chair Sterns** called the Senate to order and asked that the agenda be approved. Senator Gerlach moved to approve the agenda (second Senator Gandee). The agenda was approved.

II. Approval of the Minutes – **Chair Sterns** indicated that Dr. Gerlach desired to make corrections to the May 3rd Chronicle before the minutes of September 6th, 2007 are considered. He also noted that according to Robert's Rules of Order such corrections are appropriate at any time.

Senator Gerlach requested the following corrections be made to the May 3rd Chronicle. First item is on page ten, the middle of the page, the opening of the first paragraph starting at the end of the first line the minutes should read; "our current president reported in our last executive meeting that from the Development Office she was informed..." The president is female not a male. Second, on page 24, Senator Gandee should be recognized as providing the second for Senator Gerlach's motion. Currently the second is noted, but not attributed to Senator Gandee. And finally, at the top of page 28, the third line from the top should read "and appeal the decision of the Chair" not "appeal the Chair".

Chair Sterns thanked Senator Gerlach for these corrections. He noted that the latest version of Robert's Rules of Order allows the Chair discretion to interpret the will of the body. If in the Chair's view the will of the body is positive, a second is not always necessary. The Senate then turned to consider the minutes of September 6th and Chair Sterns asked if there were any additions or corrections.

Senator Gerlach indicated he had just received the final copy today and had not had time to review them carefully. He wondered if others had received their copies.

Chair Sterns replied "anticipating this concern I asked the administrative assistant to e-mail all faculty senators the minutes and then the copy of the Chronicle appeared in my office three days ago, so it was immediately printed so I'm sorry that you didn't get it. We're going to have to get a direct service to your home I think."

Senator Gerlach acknowledged getting the unedited copy, but found so many errors that it was not particularly helpful. He wondered if it would be appropriate to lay this over for consideration until the next meeting to provide ample time to check out the corrections that need to be made.

Chair Sterns indicated a preference to keep things moving. If there are no additions or corrections at this moment from the body as a whole, he would like to see these minutes adopted if possible. Based on the precedent just set, corrections can be introduced at the next meeting. In the spirit of more timely action, Chair Sterns prefers not to routinely lay such items over.

Senator Gerlach moved the minutes be adopted as received. The motion was seconded by Senator Lillie and passed without dissent.

III. Chairman's Remarks & Special Announcements – **Chair Sterns** recognized colleagues who passed away recently. [This occurred later in the meeting, but is placed here at the direction of the Chair and the consent of the Senate for consistency with the Chronicle's traditional format.] "There are two people who we are memorializing today. Pravin Singh Bhakuni otherwise known as "Doc", age 38, of Copley, Ohio, died Friday, September 14, 2007 on the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania. He worked as an Attorney and Counselor at Law and was a University of Akron Adjunct Faculty. The second individual is Attorney Anthony La Salvia who passed away October 1st. He was part-time faculty at The University of Akron. He received his J.D. from The University of Akron and his MSW from The University of Michigan. I ask you all to rise for a moment of silence in the memory of these two individuals. (Senate observed a moment of silence) Thank you."

Chair Sterns remarks: "I'd like to make my remarks today brief. I again want to thank Senator Rudy Fenwick for all his good work over the last few years. He would be with us today to report on the Ohio Faculty Council but some group called Student Success Committee was scheduled at the same time as the Senate. It will not be looked kindly on at this time, but as I understand the rules of the Senate are such that no other meetings are to be scheduled in this time frame. We're being deprived of a number of Senators as a result. This is directed at no one in particular. It's unfortunate we had this scheduling conflict and hopefully with some coordination we can avoid the problem in the future.

One of the things I'm going to try to do, and I know that we may have some objections, is to move the Senate into the 21st century. I'm going to try to have us use some techniques that facilitate the gathering of committees of the Senate and also of our body. We are exploring either the use of Microsoft Calendar or Meeting Maker as a device to have our committees come together. This will not work for everyone, but it will work for many many people. In a brief survey we have found that many of you are not yet using Microsoft Calendar but that capability exists for everyone on campus. So I'd like to say that I'd at least like to try to make it easier on Heather in terms of our deliberations and approaches. Instead of making endless phone calls we can do this in a much more organized fashion. So for those of you who do not use these types of programs, I think you should speak with us and we'll try to come up with a way of contacting you.

As I was preparing for this meeting, we have had a meeting of the Executive Committee which will be reported on in a moment, my concern is that we have an assessment of our existing committees and how are they functioning. One of the most important things that we can do is to take over the responsibilities that the Senate is to fulfill. And the only way the Senate can be successful and involving is for us to do the jobs that we are called upon to do. I feel a little bit like Sam Irvine, from Watergate days, the very strict constitutionalist who almost looked radical because he insisted the Senate follow the rules. I did ask that an electronic version of the by-laws of the Senate be sent to all Senators. So I'd like to remind us of a few of these charges. I promise I won't read more than a few.

“Duties: As delegated by the Board of Trustees of the university, the Faculty Senate is the legislative body of the faculty regarding it's academic mission and is empowered to: 1) formulate suitable rules requirements and procedures for the admission, government, management and control of the students, courses of study, granting of degrees and certificates and other internal affairs of the institution necessary to meet the objectives of the university, subject to the approval of the board of trustees, in accordance with the established policies of it's board. 2) Review and offer recommendations concerning proposals for the creation, abolition, or rearrangement of colleges, departments, schools, or divisions of instruction, proposals from university-wide committees, and such other matters as may be referred to the senate by the president of the university. Such proposals shall be forwarded to the executive committee for inclusion on the agenda of senate meetings. 3) University-wide committees which are created by the senate, shall report to the senate unless otherwise indicated by the senate; other university-wide committees shall report to the parties or body creating them and shall file an information copy of such report with the executive committee, except that the president's advisory committee, the provost's advisory committee, appropriate grievance committee, dealing with personnel matters, and other committees where the president of the university determines sensitivity is required shall not file such information reports with the senate.” And so forth. These are serious responsibilities that we all have. And so I want to remind us that we have a very important scope of work. So with that in mind I will stand down. Are there any special announcements at this time? If not, let's turn to the report of the Executive Committee.”

IV. Reports –

a. Executive Committee – **Senator Stratton** reported “the Executive Committee met on September 20th and the following items were discussed. The offices of the Senate are being moved from Carroll Hall to Schrank Hall North; we discussed the timing of that move. We also discussed issues with respect to membership in the Senate. We recognized that several colleges have yet to have their elections certified by the Executive Committee and some colleges had unfilled vacancies. We explored ways in which we might get higher participation in those areas. Some Senators had to resign because of the change in their duties that occurred within their Senate term. As the Chair has just mentioned, we talked about the need to review the Senate by-laws and committee structure to make sure that we are aware of our duties. Some of the tasks the Executive Committee included in the agenda for this year are to work on the committee structure, making sure that we understand the charges and descriptions of these committees, to improve the curriculum process which was something that we had tried to do last year and did not finish.

We also discussed the need for a special meeting some time in the near future. We did not have the Senate orientation meeting that we normally have for new senators because of what was going on last month. So we need to have an orientation and we also need to have an education meeting for the university council proposal. There was a short discussion by the Executive Committee on the university council proposal and some of the responses that we received concerning it. We also set the draft agenda for today's meeting. That concludes my report."

Chair Sterns thanked the secretary and proposed the date of November 8th for the special meeting of the Senate to discuss the university council proposal.

Senator Erickson moved that a special meeting of the Senate to discuss the university council proposal be held November 8th at 3:00 pm. (Second by Senator Gandee). The meeting is on Thursday at our traditional time and location. The motion passed.

Chair Sterns invited the President to make his remarks.

b. Remarks from the President – President Proenza: "Thank you Mr. Chairman and once again congratulations on your selection. Professor Sterns' comments to you about the seriousness of your charge brought to mind some words that I read some time ago and which I'll be echoing tomorrow as I give the convocation address at Ford International University and that is that we really need to consider ourselves as faculty as a sort of academic venture capitalist. Which by the very actions that we take seriously we can insure the success of our institutions and therefore help ourselves and our institutions so it's a charge that I do reflect upon with you Harvey and take equally seriously.

Just a few remarks this afternoon colleagues, as some of you have heard me say on some occasions, that we live in interesting times is probably the understatement of our modern age. And that certainly appears to be the case in matters relating to higher education in Ohio within the last several months. At our last meeting doubtless you'll recall that I reviewed for you Senate Bill 2, the appointment of the Chancellor, the creation of University System of Ohio in name at least, the appointment of this collaborative and study commission that we've been participating on, the Governor's and the legislature's request to the Governor that the Chancellor develop a 10-year master plan and indeed a number of such things. Clearly, in the last few weeks so you've seen in the press some ideas circulating. And what I need to share with you today, as I did with the campus community and I hope you read, is quite simply that of course these kinds of ideas are nothing new. I heard them upon my first arrival in Ohio when visiting colleagues in Cleveland and they had this notion that if only we would merge Kent State and Cleveland and Akron and Youngstown we would solve all the problems of higher education in Northeast Ohio, if only with this and that. So these kinds of ideas are nothing new. And it's no surprise therefore that it is in the air recently and in the press that perhaps one of the things that would make sense is to somehow or other come together between The University of Akron, NEOUCOM and Cleveland State in some fashion.

Now, what you do need to know is that there are certainly a lot of ideas being tossed around. The commission was asked to examine the issues relating to collaboration, to opportunities for cost-savings and efficiencies, opportunities for better serving our students and creating access and

affordability and accountability, and the Chancellor added to that the opportunity for us to really be a partner in our region and our state's economic success. Members of the commission including ourselves, and by the way three of our trustees also serve on that commission, our chairman, Dr. Demas, vice chairman Philip Kaufmann and trustee Richard Pogue, all of us were asked to submit bold ideas. And believe me there were some doosies amongst them in various forms and shapes and some of them will perhaps survive in some fashion or other some piece of here or there or some idea. But this in turn has to go through a huge process and what will emerge at the other end believe I have no way of predicting. If I predict from the perspective of what has happened in other states, the answer is nothing. If I predict from the perspective of what I hope will happen it is that we have a singular opportunity with a governor, a chancellor and a legislature that overnight saw the light and decided that higher education is important. If that is the case, and I underscore if, the question is whether they are prepared as I sincerely hope they are, to make the investments that they have foregone the last forty years. If they are then I am interested and I think we should be as well. If they do not, thank you very much we're doing very well, get out of our way. Leave us alone. That's my position and I hope you will share that because the success we have enjoyed over the last several years is unprecedented, students are voting with their feet, they're coming here not elsewhere. We are being recognized in several untold ways. And therein lies some of the danger. I was literally just at a luncheon in Cleveland that Mayor Jackson convened among a very small group of community leaders regionally and I heard one of those people say to the assembled group "have you seen what they've done in Akron? It's just fantastic, the university's completely transformed, they're doing great" they're you know technology transfer is great it's going to be recognized as it is by the National Science Foundation in the next few days okay and so on and so forth. And wow! In short people know that we're on the move and guess what, when people think you're on the move they want to borrow some of that success. And that's okay with me provided that they do not interfere with our continued success. I'm happy colleagues to entertain any questions that you may have but I certainly know that some of you have been asking what's going on. The ideas are not new, lots of other ideas are circulating which haven't made it to the press and some of them probably should and some probably should not. So let's just keep an open mind, not get swept up in rumor or innuendo or any of the kinds of things that you find often than not in the press. So with that I invite any questions that you may have and wish the very best in forming these committees that are important to the success of the institution. Mr. Chairman, any questions?"

Chair Sterns observed that "one of the [ideas] that I think is a real departure from the past is this discussion at the two-year college level. That branch campuses and other institution may be pulled apart forming a two-year college system."

President Proenza responded: "Again Professor Sterns it is and it isn't. The two-year colleges for a long time have felt that they really belonged apart and in some respects they do. They've certainly advocated for that. With the perversity of the formula it isn't actually fully funded, my colleagues have thought that the two-year institutions were siphoning money away from the four-year institutions. That's not actually what happens, it happens that they're growing faster and that they're gaining more money than we. But all of those kinds of concerns have led to the possibility that indeed as is the case in many other states, that the two-year institutions might be better in a separate system from the four-year institutions. I don't happen to believe that, certainly some of you know

in Alaska we actually merged the two-year community colleges into the university system while I was there, to a considerable amount of cost savings and no deleterious impact, in fact possibly an improvement. Secondly, as you know, earlier this year we formed an innovation alliance with Lorain County Community College which we hope to expand to other four-year and two-year institutions precisely because we believe that there are important qualities and services the two-year colleges provide to students and communities that we do not. And equally important things that we do that they do not and if we combine the best of both in an appropriate collaborative endeavor, we can better serve our students and our communities. But again the ideas have been around. It's certainly very much in the Chancellor's mind, but I think frankly the story of how he thinks about it is changing quite regularly. Just a few days ago I know Rex Ramsier was at a meeting where he heard something slightly different about how some of these elements more in terms of the apportionment of degrees if I remember correctly your note Rex, so hold your powder dry don't worry about it quite yet, let's get good ideas into the mix whatever you hear nonsense, call it such because honesty and transparency is important. Any thing else colleagues?"

Senator Gerlach: "Mr. Chairman in view of the recent news that keeps burbling along about the investigation on the Virginia Tech University's murders, I wonder is this university prepared to deal effectively with faculty and staff reports of adherent behavior of individuals who have obvious emotional problems so as to deal with that and to deal with I understand we have restraints of privacy laws which interfere with the effective action to prevent outbreaks of violence and mayhem. Have we done something to set in motion a safeguard for the campus and so on?"

President Proenza responded: "Quite a lot Senator Gerlach. I don't know that we want to spend all that time to [fully address] that. More importantly I'm not sure I can remember everything we've done off the top of my head. Suffice it to say briefly we convened a number of committees, we also participated in the Chancellor's statewide process which enabled us to learn from others, and we have a very rigorous process in mind. FERPA is an issue, as MIT recently found in a significant suit that was filed against it, but nevertheless that is the law and it is something that we have to be concerned about. That said, one of the underlying questions is colleagues how do you rationally address or prepare or respond to an irrational act? Typically there are no warnings, you can argue that many of us have had acted randomly and capriciously perhaps quite extremely and should we be sent to a psychiatrist's office or prescribed Prozac or whatever it is, I doubt it/ So many of these things are truly truly very difficult to address proactively but nevertheless believe me all of our security, our counseling, our legal office etcetera etcetera, Provost's office have been very actively engaged. We are literally in better position than any other Ohio university save one or two and then were about the same place and we're making as much progress as I've seen possible to make. So we are addressing all of those issues. There's no question that that incident created a very national sense of increase awareness and need and those things are taken very seriously. If there's nothing else with your permission I've got to go finish my speech and get on a plane, good day!"

Chair Sterns Thanked the President and asked Provost Stroble for her remarks.

c. Remarks from the Provost – Provost Stroble reported: “At the first meetings of the year I generally do introductions of people who are new in leadership roles and three of those individuals are present so I’ll start with the person who just arrived on campus Monday. Dr. Charles Fey, the new Vice President for Student Affairs. He was recently appointed; he comes to us from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County an honors university with high achieving students and a recently awarded Phi Beta Kappa chapter, where he was Vice President for Student Affairs. He was responsible for the development and management of a comprehensive student affairs division serving a diverse student body and prior to that he was the Dean of Students at the University of Texas at El Paso and earlier Vice President and Dean of Student Life at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas. He received his undergraduate and master’s degrees from the Pennsylvania State University and his Ph.D. in Administration of Higher Education at Texas A and M. And welcome Dr. Fey.

And two individual whom we know more personally because of their time here on campus, Dr. Helen Qammar. Helen Qammar joined the university in 1989 after serving as a fellow with resources for the Future in Washington, D.C. and as an engineer with Exxon Research and Engineering Company. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Syracuse University and a master’s and Ph. D. from the University of Virginia, all in Chemical Engineering. She holds academic rank as associate professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering. In 2007 Helen was named a faculty fellow to help define and develop the design principle of assessment. She served as the ABET accreditation coordinator for the Chemical Engineering program and participated in many university committees including Executive Committee of Faculty Senate, Student Success and Retention, General Education Advisory Committee, Higher Learning Commission Assessment Academy, Student Success Planning Committee and more. In 1995 Helen received a prestigious NSF career award to develop, in part, an innovative vertically integrated team experience for all chemical engineering undergraduate students. This innovation opens student’s eyes to the engineering profession, enhances their intellectual development and increases first year retention by twenty percent. So I am grateful for Helen’s new role. And thirdly today Dr. Rex Ramsier. Rex received his BS and MS in Physics from The University of Akron and his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Pittsburgh. After about two years working as a senior scientist in materials technology for Westinghouse in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania he came back to The University of Akron as an assistant professor in 1996. He holds tenure at the rank of professor in the Physics Department with a joint appointment in Chemistry. Rex received the university wide outstanding teacher award in 2001 and the outstanding researcher award in 2005 and recently served in Helen’s current role, Director of the Institute for Teaching and Learning in the 2006-2007 timeframe and I’m glad to have Rex in his new role as associate provost.”

The Provost proceeded with a few topics selected from things her office is working on at the current time. “Quaker Square space allocations: I was asked to assemble a committee and we did tap two people from the University Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Facilities Committee, Chair Sterns but we did tap some membership from that committee as well as others to review the proposed ideas that had come in to me through a variety of channels. We met once, we looked at the list of ideas and we said we truly don’t have enough information here to make any sense of what the priorities would be for the space available. So a subcommittee met this week, they have developed a request for

proposals that include the criteria of what we think the priorities should be for allocating space in Quaker Square. That should go out Monday afternoon if everyone gives the feedback for that proposal in time. So Monday afternoon I think the campus community can anticipate getting a document that says if you have programmatic space needs that you think are aligned with this description of criteria for space in Quaker Square please submit your proposal. We'll review those if we need more information we'll ask for it but we'll try to use a process that makes this opportunity widely available with clear criteria for how the decisions will be made.

Next, some searches underway or close to it. Helen and I have been working and very soon we will post the position for associate director of ITL who will function in the lead role for the student success work. University Press Director, I'm assembling the search committee now that should be posted soon. And I met with the search committee today and gave them the charge to move forward with the Chief Diversity Officer search with the exact title of Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Equity. We have employed a search firm to help us with this search this time, put together the committee from the people that had served previously as well as some new individuals. We're ready to go and hope to have someone onboard by January, that's our goal.

Another piece from ITL as I met with Helen this week, you've seen the announcements about the fact that WebCT will no longer be our course management system, we have a new systems that we've called Springboard and we created opportunities between the ITS and ITL for many people to learn how to use the new system. Right now our enrollments, but this was yesterday, were at 110. That continues to grow. I take that as a great sign of how interested people are in ITL and ITS doing collaborative program offerings and how truly engaged we are as a faculty in using technology to support teaching and learning.

The NCA self-study process you will have recently seen a Provost's Perspectives that was co-authored by Rex Ramsier and Rudy Fenwick. Many people in this room are helping to prepare case studies as part of that self-study. We think that's a process that the NCA will think is a really great way to show the progress we've made as well as the challenges we have. And we update you with more about that as the fall goes on.

And then finally another ITL event that's co-sponsored with University College. We knew out of the student success work that we needed to give more systematic attention to supporting people who function as advisors, particularly the people at the faculty advising roles. So the first event that will give us an opportunity to get some necessary support is on December 7th; more information will be coming out about that. We're working with advisors in University College who are members of NACADA (National Academic Advising Association) the national organization for academic advisors. Charles Nutt is coming as the speaker; we're told he's quite dynamic in the topic of academic advising and faculty advising role. And it's another good example of where partnership across university entities makes it possible to do some really robust programming that's responsive to what people have told us they need to know. And I will stop at that and take questions if there's time."

Chair Sterns asked if there were any questions for the Senior Vice President and Provost.

Senator Lillie suggested the Senate recognize and show our appreciation for those who were introduced with a round of applause. The Senate did so recognize our new colleagues with applause.

Provost Stroble excused herself to retrieve her car from the repair shop and return in time for the reception that the Deans are hosting for tenure-track faculty. She apologized for not staying.

Chair Sterns thanked the Provost and officially welcomed Dr. Fey on behalf of all of us and thanked Dr. Qammar for all of her past service to the Faculty Senate and expressed our appreciation of Rex's past work and that we look forward to working with him in the future.

d. Committee Reports – The Senate then turned attention to committee reports. The list on the agenda was used as a checklist to determine the status of the work of our various committees. There was no report from **The Faculty Rights and Responsibilities** committee.

There was no report from the **Graduate Council**. This is an important function because we theoretically have a link to Graduate Council. Chair Sterns thought it was decided during last year's term that the Senate would be updated on a regular basis on what was going on in Graduate Council.

Senator Erickson moved that

the Senate request a liaison from Graduate Council to be able to link what is happening in that body with the Faculty Senate, as prescribed in the bylaws.

The motion passed without dissent.

Chair Sterns asked permission for Dr. Ramsier to resent the report for the **Academic Policies Committee**. Permission was granted.

Dr. Ramsier reported the "Academic Policies Committee has met once this semester. We have biweekly meetings scheduled. We've had good attendance at the first meeting. We have no action items to bring to the Senate at this time but we are working. Our first request was to work on an issue with the Student Success and Retention Committee. We're in the process of doing that. Thank you."

Chair Sterns asked permission for Dr. Ramsier to resent the report for the **Curriculum Review Committee**. Permission was granted.

Dr. Ramsier reported the "Curriculum Review Committee has met twice this semester and we have biweekly meetings scheduled with good attendance. We've dispatched with the distance learning review committee work that was carried over from 2007. We are now in the process of looking at 2008 proposals that are just beginning to come out. Thank you."

Chair Sterns recognized Senator Lillie to report on the **Athletics Committee**.

Senator Lillie indicated he thought a short written report about the Athletics Committee had been sent to the Senate office, but apparently it had not been received. So he orally reported that the committee “met once this year. We received a report about some new areas that the athletics department would like to be involved. You received those things in a report from the NCAA representative Dean Carro a couple of weeks ago. But I do believe there’s an interest on the part of the Athletics department to involve the faculty and staff a little bit more, to be more proactive in terms of intercollegiate athletics and especially the academic end of intercollegiate athletics and so I think that’s a welcome thing. We have to see how that’s going to work out but I think it’s safe to say we’ve got a good start. Pat Millhoff, as she announced at the meeting, is looking into some issues in terms of women’s athletics and we’ve had a couple of other people who’ve expressed interest in perhaps research or reporting on some other areas. So how this will all play out I’m not quite sure, but I think we’re off to a good start. We have a meeting in I think two weeks.”

Chair Sterns thanked Senator Lillie. There being no questions for Senator Lillie, Chair Sterns ask for the report of the **NCAA faculty representative** (Dean Carro). Senator Lillie indicated Dean Carro was not present. Chair Sterns reminded the Senate that not all these committees report at each Senate meeting. Our purpose today was educational, to remind ourselves of the work the Senate is to do, so we can be aware of all the different things that are going on and if we have concerns about that area we can request clarification. Chair Sterns recognized Robert Huff to present the report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Facilities Planning Committee.

Senator Huff, committee vice chair, reported for the **Ad Hoc Committee on Facilities Planning Committee**. “We had a brief meeting and I have a brief report. We discussed the agenda for upcoming year and the committee membership. Historically this committee has had representation from across the campus; we wanted to review the membership and see what constituencies might need representation that had not been participating recently. This year we’d like to review the parking task force recommendations and report to the Senate. We had discussed again the dangerous intersection at Grant and Exchange. Just as a follow-up to that, it wasn’t part of our meeting, but we did notice after the meeting that there have been some improvements: crossing lines were painted. There are still some very confusing signs so it continues to be an issue. The committee thanked Harvey Stern for his years of dedicated service to the committee and all the good work that he did for the university community through the committee. And John Vollmer is the Chair of the committee.”

There were no questions for Senator Huff. Chair Sterns indicated that this was an ad hoc committee and as such will expire on completion of its work. There was agreement that the committee’s work is not complete and it should continue.

Senator Sotnak reported the **Libraries Committee** met one time this semester, but has no action items or issues to raise at this time.

Chair Sterns took this opportunity to remind everyone that, for the ease of the Secretary, it would help if Senators would please rise when speaking to the body and clearly identify themselves. To

carefully listen to and transcribe our deliberations is a demanding job. So anything we can do collectively to help Heather is appreciated. The Chair's job includes reminding everyone to speak up and to recognize them formally so that members know who is speaking.

Senator Gerlach observed that the Libraries Committee's report does not indicate if they have a chair and asked if they have a chairman?

Senator Sotnak replied that he had been elected chair.

Chair Sterns thanked Senator Sotnak for accepting the responsibility. He hoped the Senate will find some challenging activities for the committee this year, including increased resources. The Senate is interested in the state of the library: what is happening with our book purchases? What's happening with our journal support? Is the library growing or stabilized; or are we really being dramatically transformed? In the past there has been recognition of the limited resources available to the library, but this is important and he hopes that more attention is paid to that area.

Chair Sterns asked for a report from the **Reference Committee**.

Senator Gerlach indicated he is "a member thereof, I guess by appointment but as far as I know we've had no meeting and I think it's time someone prompt someone on that committee to assemble the members or ask them to elect a chairman so if the committee needs to proceed there will be someone in the chair."

Senator Rich explained that he plans to call a meeting of the committee. Last year the committee was unable to gather a quorum, thus was unable to elect a chair. He will be contacting the people and is "currently searching for a carrier pigeon with which to communicate with Senator Gerlach."

Senator Gerlach: "There are telephones you know."

Senator Rich: "But you don't have an answering machine at your house."

Senator Gehani reported for the **Faculty Research Committee**, though he is neither the chair or vice chair. "I've attended one meeting. We had some important decisions such what should be the amount, how many research grants (we used to have fall, spring and summer). I think we're going for two a year. We also had some discussion whether visiting faculty should be annual research grant award and whether people who are on sabbatical should be eligible. So we've had some discussion hopefully the chair would file a report on that."

Chair Sterns asked for the name of the chair of the committee and Senator Gerlach indicated that Laura Gelfand was listed as the chair.

Senator Gamble reported the **Student Affairs Committee** had not yet held a meeting and there was no report. An organizational meeting will be scheduled soon.

Senator Erickson rose to address some issues for the Student Affairs Committee. As a member of the Executive Committee she has had occasion to review the charges to different committees and she finds the charge to the Student Affairs most confusing. She questioned if it is relevant to the real needs in student affairs. She asked the committee to look at the charge, to determine if any changes need to be made. She also asked the committee to discuss with our new Vice President of Student Affairs (Dr. Fey) how the committee could work more effectively. She suggested that the relationship between Vice President Sage and the CCTC might be used as a model. Since EC is working to get a set of committees that really look at the important issues, they would welcome suggestions on how the committee might represent more effectively the views of students, faculty, staff.

Senator Gerlach rose on a point of order. “Mr. Chairman. I wish Senator Erickson would address the Chair when she speaks and speak forward to the room. As close as I am sitting to her today, it’s a little bit difficult to hear what she’s saying when she’s talking to someone in the back of the room. I think if she would address the Chair and speak up so we could all hear then I think that would be a help too to all of us.”

Chair Sterns, to clarify what was described as a strange charge, read the charge: “the Student Affairs Committee “Recommends policy, subject to approval of faculty senate, regarding the granting of scholarships, awards, grants, and loans to university students; and b) proposes regulations concerning all extracurricular activities (except athletics) to faculty senate. Recommends to the senate the extension of official recognition of student organizations.” That’s the official charge which is not all that mystical.”

Senator Moritz reported that he is a member of **Computing and Communication Technologies Committee**. The “chair is Phil Hoffman from Z-TV over at Kolbe Hall. He’s not a senator but we’re actually meeting regularly with IT. A subcommittee of that committee (CCTC) helped get the laptop refresh done over this past summer. And right now we’re just talking with Vice President Sage about what kinds of input he would like from us and what we can help him with and we’ll continue to have regular meetings. I noticed our page is not updated on the web so I’ll talk to Chair Hoffman about that, but we normally post the minutes regularly on the website.”

The Senate next turned to the **Ad Hoc Committee on University Planning**. This committee has not been active recently and there was not report.

There was no report from the **Ad Hoc Committee on University Budgeting**, also not currently active.

Dr. Ramsier was given permission to present the report for the **General Education Advisory Committee**.

Dr. Ramsier reported the “General Education Advisory Committee has met once this semester and dispatched with all the old 2007 proposals in the system. We have bi-weekly meetings scheduled and we’re now looking at the 2008 proposals. Thank you.”

Chair Sterns thanked Dr. Ramsier. He then indicated the “**Representative to the Ohio Faculty Council**, Rudy Fenwick asked me to extend his regrets because of this double scheduling this afternoon, which we will try to avoid in the future. Rudy actually wants to be able to present the previous month’s minutes and so he will providing them to us so that we can have a better understanding of what’s going on in the Ohio Faculty Council.”

Chair Sterns invited Senator Lillie and Associate Provost Ramsier to report on the status of the **University Council Exploratory Committee**.

Senator Lillie began: “Guess I’ll start and Rex just jump in. You should have a report that we wrote that looks something like this. After our last meeting Chair Sterns suggested that we report to the Senate. So I wrote down, in a sort of a stream of consciousness way, some things that had been happening to give a history and context to what we’ve been doing in terms of the University Council Exploratory Committee since this time last year because it has been in existence since just over a year. Rex looked over these comments and then we sent them out to the University Council Exploratory Committee itself, received a little bit of feedback and some editing. So what you have represents pretty much what the University Council Exploratory Committee sees as the history and current outstanding of issues that are facing us. A couple of points that I’m going to make with regard to this, I will not read it, is that the history of this goes back to about 2002 or 2003. And the first report for the Decision Making Task Force, which was I think is still on the Provost’s web page, came out in 2005. Subsequently the following year the Senate decided to have an ad hoc committee to discuss this, which Liz Erickson chaired. In April of 2006 the Senate accepted a recommendation to set up what is now the University Council Exploratory Committee. We were set up at first as a University Senate Exploratory Committee; decided for reasons that seemed clear at the time to change the name to the University Council Exploratory Committee which we have done. So if you are coming in in the middle, that’s sort of a real quick outline of the history. So there is quite a bit of history in terms of looking at different kinds of decision making and of having people talk to each other and so on.

In the course of that time, last fall we met very very frequently fall semester last year, every other week, we produced a proposal for a new model for institutional governance by unanimous vote as a committee. Now that doesn’t mean that everybody agreed that it was the final product that could not be improved, but it was one that everybody on the committee at the time agreed to send forward. I think that’s important to understand because, some of you may know, we had quite a few constituencies: ASG, the graduate student government, the deans, the vice presidents, the Faculty Senate, SEAC the staff employee advisory committee, and CPAC the contract professional advisory committee. Maybe I’m missing somebody but we had a lot different perspectives and very large group of points of view so I think it’s important that we did have this one thing that we happened to agree on.

I was on sabbatical then in the spring of last year, not because of this committee but it was planned anyhow and Dr. Dukes was chairing the committee. He then left and Rex Ramsier took his place and then I came back and Rudy Fenwick told me I was back being Chair of this committee again. So Rex and I met over the summer just sort of to bring each other up to date on what had happened.

We have met twice then in the past month or so, and what you see in point four indicates that some of the constituencies actually look at the December 2006 proposal and saw it in positive terms, in particular ASG although I don't think that there was a vote but it was reported that the Associated Student Government Senate looked at it and had positive comments. CPAC and SEAC also were very positive in their review of it. Other responses were not quite so positive.

One of the critiques that have been made is that it appeared that the feedback that was received from each of the bodies was very small, for instance I think that in the department chairs, the forty-eight department chairs that only nine chairs responded to the body. There were other similarly small responses in terms of feedback from the other groups although I think something like 250 people from SEAC responded which is somewhat ten percent of their population. On the other hand, we also wanted to make clear that if we're going to move forward in a process then the people who were actually involved and who are actually taking the time to look at it are the ones who actually make the decision about whether or not to approve these things. We wanted to make sure that that was something that we were making clear. There are different points of view on whether it's necessary to reach a critical mass in terms of the feedback from each of the constituencies before going forward. I have a list on item six of some of the areas that we had agreed on last fall, which seemed to be important to state. For instance, this body (the University Council Exploratory Committee) would have no role whatsoever in materials relating to areas reserved under collective bargaining laws or agreement and so forth. So we're trying to establish that the University Council Exploratory Committee's role would be distinct from that of already existing bodies. The most complete and detailed response so far that we have received at the University Council Exploratory Committee is from the Deans and Vice Presidents who have issued a response in two parts. Part one came in May and part two just came a couple of weeks ago. In essence, and this was in consultation we were told with the President and the Provost, they are seeing a somewhat different role and function for the University Council Exploratory Committee than the University Council Exploratory Committee saw.

As we were exploring where the issues really lay, it appears that that one of the big ones was in the issue of authority. What is the authority of this proposed body, what can it do? What is its specific responsibilities and to whom does it report? Does it report to, for instance a proposed entity called the President's cabinet or does it report to the President himself or herself? Those were some areas to us that seemed to make a difference in the substantive nature of the university council and one of the things that we had pretty much agreed on is we felt that this body, this University Council, needed to be substantive and needed to be seen to be substantive. And that that's part of what we're struggling with, how do we do that and stay within the bounds of the appropriate state laws and collective bargaining agreements and all the other kinds of issues that are out there. So we're working on that. At one point it looked like we were sort of comparing our draft with the Deans and Vice President's draft and we recognized with some feedback from our other constituents that no, the process we have in place is to ask for feedback to the December 19th draft, receive that feedback, make changes that the University Council Exploratory Committee thinks are wise and then bring it forward once again.

So our current task is to clarify our understanding of these issues that have been raised. One of the ways in which it looked to us that we might do that would be to examine the committee structure that we proposed and that has also been discussed by other people to see if we could figure out what is the function that we want committees to perform, rather than just set up a committee to have a committee.

So we are in the process of doing that, we are spending a lot of time on those issues, we're trying to address some of the, some of those concerns. Once again, it's been a remarkable experience for me because of the number of different perspectives and the way that we've been able I think to keep people pretty much on a civil, even keel; it's been pretty good. Viewing all the different points of view and perspectives I think that part of its positive and I think that at present what we're thinking is we need to figure out where we go from here."

Dr. Ramsier added: "I think Senator Lillie summarized it pretty well from my limited experience. I too see it as a very positive atmosphere although there are some contentious issues, authority is one of them. I think that having heard Chair Sterns discuss the standing committees that are already available and what the actual charges are is helpful. Senator Erickson at these meetings has brought this issue up. We really need to know what we already have and what were supposed to be doing before we can really come up with what this proposed committee and maybe its subcommittees will have as a charge. So I think is a real issue we all have to work on."

Senator Lillie: "I'll say one more thing, one of the things that we found very difficult in the early days was to try to make sure that were clear on the distinct roles of the various already existing campus bodies. So one of the things that we're trying to make as clear as possible is the proposed University Council Exploratory Committee would not duplicate any already existing body. And that's very difficult I think for folks to understand because we're proposing something that seems to have some overlap with others and so just bear with us while we're trying to see if we can make that as clear as possible, but that's part of what we're trying to do."

Chair Sterns: "Are there questions? Senator Erickson."

Senator Erickson: "Senator Lillie and I are both representatives for the faculty on this committee. While Senator Lillie was away, in May I think it was the date, we had some discussion of the University Council and those of you who were on the Senate at that point all got far too much I suspect, especially at that time of the year, material on the University Council, both the background documents and also the actual suggested structure and the committee purposes, objectives and charges. And those you who are new, you haven't had that and we understand that that puts you at a disadvantage to the rest of us; but perhaps not as much as you would might expect because one thing that people have said since that meeting is that what you provided was confusing. We understand that. We could hear Senator Lillie say exactly how the structure of the committees can work in a substantive and effective way is important and legitimate for the Faculty Senate before we want to vote on this kind of a proposal. You really need to know a lot about it and that's why we're having this special meeting on November the 8th, we're sorry that it wasn't in September but we couldn't do it given that the timing of the vice presidents response. And we need to provide you with as clear

a pattern of what is the structure that we have now, what is the structure that our presentation of University Council and what is it that the vice presidents and deans are suggesting so you have some way of discussing it. It is a really important issue; it is one of the major issues that the NCA is coming in April to look at: how effective governance is. This is a really an important part of the governance structure. It needs your feedback and as soon as we've got material we'll send it out to you. I want to say to those of you who got the first one and said that was not clear we'll have hopefully a better set of them because we've done a lot more work on being clear ourselves. Then what we have said as the way of getting things out to the faculty, we figured it was no good trying to send out just the material to the faculty. It needed to be a matter of the Faculty Senators, after they understood what it was about, going back to their constituencies and gaining feedback from them in kinds of issues that they have with the whole proposal."

Chair Sterns recognized Senator Gerlach.

Senator Gerlach: "Well Mr. Chairman, I have listened to this sort of stuff for months and there's no clear light being shown on anything. You'll remember those of you who were here in May, that Senator Gandee and I moved to postpone indefinitely the discussion of this business, we ruled in effect out of order on the motion because there was no motion on the floor for discussion. Now Mr. Chairman, I warn you, that if we have a special meeting on November 8th or any other time, I want to see a specific motion put on the floor to do something; to adopt a plan; to consider a plan. I want to make sure there's a motion on the floor to discuss anything. That's the only way Robert's Rules proceeds. And I want to repeat once again the things that I think I've said twice before; if we're to best understand where a proposed University Council in whatever shape it may take how it will stand in relationship to this Senate we need a further clarification: someone must sit down and say okay we've got a council over here so we're going to revise the Senate by-laws; we'll get rid of some of it's committees, they won't be necessary with the council presumably. We need to see what the Senate will amount to alongside of a council. Make sure that there are no overlapping functions or committees. So far as I understood the plan suggested is that if the council we're set up this body would add a certain number of representatives to the council. That's what's been proposed in the draft ideas that I've read so far.

So we need to see, as I said, the exact relationship. People have got the idea that the Senate became ineffective somehow when the collective bargaining thing was on the table and the Trustees ruined us by destroying various committees. And when it comes to the North Central Association, if I were on campus I'd tell them tell the Trustees to restore the powers of the Senate that you took away. We had all the committees that we needed in place it would just function, just function. But that's what I'm concerned about so please get down to brass tacks and let's get a specific motion to do something or consider something a concrete idea that can then be amended and alongside of that a view of what the Senate would look like if this other program were adopted. That way I think we could sort things out far more expeditiously and agreeably than I feel we can do now. I feel now that we're in midst of mare's nest, so clean it up please. Thank you."

Chair Sterns recognized Senator Matney.

Senator Matney: “I was wondering if the President and the Provost will be attending the November 8th meeting. If our charge as Senators will be to go back to our constituency, present this plan and get their feedback the first question that they are going to ask me is: is it going to have any effect? Which is the same as the question: is the President and the Provost signing on to this? So the simplest question is: will they be at the meeting participating in the discussions?”

Senator Lillie responded: “I don’t really know that for sure, I think you’ve raise an excellent point and I think it is the central point. We keep coming back to that, what is the substantive role of this body and is it the kind of thing that will have the support of the administration and Trustees or not? I think we are coming to a point where we’re beginning to understand this issue of how did we put it? I think the authority and also the reporting lines have to be clarified, but whether or not they will be here and they will answer those questions precisely I don’t know.”

Senator Matney made a motion

that the Senate invites the President and Provost to attend the November 8th meeting to continue the dialogue.

If they’re unwilling to come to the meeting then I think we have our answer. Senator Bove provided the second.

Chair Starns: “Second by Senator Bove, okay the motion is that we invite the President and Provost to the special meeting on November 8th. Is that the motion? Any further discussion on the motion?” There being no further discussion the motion passed.

Vice President Case requested and was granted permission to speak.

In an exchange between Vice President Case and Senator Matney, the motion and the meaning of Senator Matney’s comment were clarified. The motion is to invite the President and Provost to attend. The comment was that if no one from the office comes, the answer is we can’t have a dialogue with them.

Vice President Case just wanted to remind senators that both the Provost and President have very busy schedules. Those schedules may preclude their attendance on Nov. 8th. That should not be construed as a lack of interest on their part.

Dr. Ramsier stated “I think Tim would agree we felt that the Deans and VPs put a lot of effort and a lot of serious thought into the response that we received in part 2 and although it presents a different model than what was thought of in the December 2006 proposal we recognized that there was a lot of input and lot thought put into their report and we were informed that both the Provost and the President were in agreement and done due diligence on that version of how they thought things could look. So I that, at least in my opinion, they are interested in this. Whether they can show up on November 8th having just heard the date announced today that’s only six weeks or five weeks from now, who could say. But I’ll be there representing the Provost’s office for sure because I’m on committee.”

Senator Lillie responded: “I don’t think there’s any doubt that they had a serious interest in this. I think, we keep coming back to the process, it’s published somewhere, that we use in the committee, which basically says: we’re going to take feedback and based on the feedback we’ll make changes and go forward. So even though I think the President and Provost have been closely involved as Provost Ramsier said in actually creating, what I call a counter-proposal. My understanding is it’s not a final stand; it’s here’s what we’d like to see and it is different from what we had proposed and we’ve got to figure out where we go from here. As far as I’m concerned, some of the principles that we actually agreed to last fall, which include for instance this body must have a substantive role, still remain the way I see the University Council Exploratory Committee framing its work. If it doesn’t have a substantive role, then I think we’ve got some very serious thinking to do.”

Senator Matney explained “My point was partially addressed to Senator Erickson’s request to take this back to our constituencies. I don’t know about the rest of the Senators, but I have a hard time getting my faculty terribly excited about listening to me talk about this. Which I’ve been doing now for a year, partially it’s because you may know that know that there’s interest from the higher administration on this, but I can’t show anyone in my constituency anything that’s demonstrative of that, and that’s what I need before I can go back. I’ll go back and talk to them again.”

Chair Sterns stated “Heather checked the Provost’s schedule and she is not available on the 8th. Senator Rich, can I call upon you to act as Chair because I wish to step out of my role as Chair to make a comment.”

Senator Rich assumed the chair and recognized Senator Sterns.

Senator Sterns commented: “I would just like to point out that the whole purpose of this committee has been to interpret and deliberate, so when you bring the President and the Provost into the room, you’re basically subverting the whole process of the committee because you’re asking them to directly address issues that the committee has deliberated on for months if not years. So I don’t know what will be accomplished by having the President or the Provost present because I think we first have to get our house in order before we do that, can somebody help me with this line of thinking?”

Senator Matney responded: “My understanding from Senator Erickson was that that’s what was going to happen, things are going to be in order, we are going to have a written proposal submitted as Senator Gerlach requested before that meeting so that we do have something, our house would be in order, am I misunderstanding?”

Senator Erickson replied: “No I don’t think that you’re misinterpreting. I think the idea was that we would have those materials. I think there are two pieces to this meeting. One is to educate people on exactly what Senator Gerlach said. We should show what the idea of University Council, as proposed, mean for the Senate. That’s an educational role. As a faculty representative on University Council Exploratory Committee, I would be arguing, as I did back in May, that the University Council would in fact add not subtract from the Senate. This would be made clearer if you saw the proposed governance structure compared to the actual committee structure of the Senate now, not

as it was before 2003. To address Senator Gerlach's concern, I think we would bring a motion asking that the Senate support the University Council proposal as put out by the Exploratory Committee; modified if you like by any kind of suggestions that you have.

What makes the meeting a little more complex, as I see it, is that we need to say we're behind or not behind the idea that the Exploratory Committee brings. Then there is a counter proposal of the vice presidents and deans. I'm sure people want to know what it is. If you want dialogue between the President and the Provost they would be part of that discussion. Senator Sterns is right in saying that in some sense that is the dialogue that's going on in the committee but you asked that they be part of it to show that they are involved in the dialogue. Maybe in this particular case we just want them just to listen. Their presence would say: we are carrying on this dialogue. I do not think it's the process of that meeting to decide how to go to integrate what the vice presidents and deans have proposed with what the committee has presented. That's not what that meeting is about."

Acting Chair Rich observed "that there is no motion before the body right now. The body passed the motion to invite the President and the Provost. If there's a motion to reconsider we can reconsider. Otherwise the Chair is unclear what the debate would address at this point. Does anyone wish to make a motion?"

Senator Gerlach rose to the challenge. "I'll try one, Mr. Chairman, that is that this exploratory committee when it presents its material to us on the 8th of November will give a specific proposal outlining the University Council system and alongside of that where the Senate stands. And lay that before so we have something concrete to look at."

Acting Chair Rich requested the motion be restated.

Senator Gerlach obliged. He moved

that the committee when it presents its material to us on November 8th write out a specific proposal outlining this university council system and what the Senate would look like with the council in place.

Senator Gandee provided a second.

Acting Chair Rich recognized Senator Sterns.

Senator Sterns rose to speak to the motion. "I think one of my personal concerns about this is that one session may not do the job. The issues may be so complex and the various types of things that need to be discussed may not be able to reach closure in just one session. So I think that's something that greatly concerns me that idea even as a motion right up front the expectation that we can process multiple years of deliberation seems to me that we really this is the first of special meetings of something as critical as this."

Acting Chair Rich recognized Senator Lillie.

Senator Lillie wished speak against the motion and to clarify his “position vis-a-vie Senator Erickson and others. Senator Erickson speaks, I think, as a faculty member and a member of the Faculty Senate. I am in that role, but I’m also the co-chair of the University Council Exploratory Committee so I am trying to bear in mind that we also have other constituencies on that committee besides faculty. So Senator Erickson can say exactly what this committee is going to bring but she’s not the co-chair of the committee and so while we will listen very carefully and with great respect with what she has to say and to the things that are needed, I would actually like to point out that we have made a proposal, December 19th, 2006 of what the University Council Exploratory Committee is, you may not like the proposal, you may think it needs more work, but there has been a specific proposal that has been responded to by the Associated Student Government, that has been responded to by the Contract Professionals Advisory Committee, whose representatives sit here, that has been responded to by the Staff Employee Advisory Committee whose representatives sit here as well. So it’s not as if there has not been something proposed. Now, I think, from where I sit, I think that there is a lot of explanation and education that went on in our committee that would be valuable for this group to understand and that what this has been an attempt to begin. But I would just like to point out that from where I sit, we already have made a proposal, it does not include all that you have said Senator Gerlach, and if this body decides to pass it we’ll do our best to comply, but I felt that that should be part of the discussion.”

Acting Chair Rich hearing no further debate called the question and asked the motion to be repeated.

Senator Stratton read: “that the University Council Exploratory Committee when it presents its material to us on November 8th writes out a specific proposal outlining this university council system and what the Senate would look like with the council in place.”

Acting Chair Rich: “All those in favor of the motion please signify by saying aye. (aye) Those opposed by opposite sign? (nay) We have a division of the house. All those in favor of the motion please signify by raising one hand. All those opposed raise your hand. The motion fails by vote of 12 against, 11 in favor.”

Acting Chair Rich returned the gavel to Chair Sterns: “Okay the cloak of impartiality is now returned. Senator Gerlach makes an excellent point we must all prepare for this meeting and one of the reasons why I wanted us to carefully go through our committee structure today was for us to review what are the charges of the Senate, what is our role before we can carefully consider what a new governance structure looks like we better understand the old one. So I think I’m probably speaking out of order now. Any further questions for the committee co-chairs? If not thank you very much and we appreciate all the work that that committee is doing. We are at the Student Success and Retention Committee, which I believe is meeting as we speak. So I think I made the point about that. Is there any unfinished business?” Chair Sterns recognized Senator Bove.

Senator Bove: “I just would like to report on an ad hoc committee that is omitted from that list. The Ad Hoc Committee on Student Disciplinary Procedures consists of senators Lillie, Rich, Bohland, Boal and myself. I’m chairing the committee and we met once this year. Something that should be

happening within relatively short span of time is that there is a Student Code of Conduct Review Committee that has put together a set of recommendations that is now in the hands of general counsel. Mr. John Riley is looking at it and in a week's time is going to come back to the committee with his perspective on some of those issues. Then after that it should be presented to the Senate for comment and approval."

Chair Sterns thanked Senator Bove and asked for questions.

Senator Gerlach: "Mr. Chairman, that is just my title of unfinished business I would remind you sir that this started way back in April 2006 and we've been waiting for the revision of the student disciplinary and conduct code. We were to make sure that we the Senate had a role in changes to the student disciplinary code and that it wasn't just left up to the administration to do it, after that crucial murder. I have kept my eye on this because if there's anything that suggests that this Senate is less than effective it is this kind of business we lose track of it. So I thank our Senator and colleague for keeping track of it this way and I still hope the Senate is going to see a revision of the student disciplinary code so that we can put our stamp of approval on it as is our right according to the by-laws."

Chair Sterns: "Thank you Senator Gerlach, your sage advice is always welcome and how fortuitous that Dr. Fey is with us today to hear that." Dr. Fey asked and was granted permission to speak to the Senate.

Dr. Fey: "Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask an indulgence of the Senate to have an opportunity to at least see it and read it so that I can give my input as well, I have had 25 years of experience in student discipline and appreciate that opportunity to provide feedback. Thank you."

There being no further unfinished business the Senate moved to New Business.

VIII. New Business - **Chair Sterns** recognized Senator Gandee to introduce House Bill 315 and begin the discussion.

Senator Gandee: "Over here there are some papers for you that are relevant to House Bill 315. [House Bill] 315 was introduced September the 18th, 2007 and it is the result of many many hours of planning and over several years. But what the proposal is, I don't want to take too much time here because the hour is late. The proposal is to provide a dedicated stream of revenue into the healthcare of STRS, which many of you are members or active members of. This would be separate from your pension. Your healthcare is separate from your pension. Your pension is guaranteed, your healthcare is not. By approximately 2011 the healthcare fund will start paying out of the principal and by 2018, if nothing's done to provide a dedicated income stream, healthcare will evaporate. So read this over. We need your help if you are of the mind so to help us. Also there's a letter here from the IUC supporting the bill, I encourage you to read that and then the latter pages is suggestions on how to contact your school board members. If you'll note the Beacon Journal the school board is opposing this bill and their state organization is opposing the bill the state organization of school boards are opposing the bill because basically they're maintaining it's another un-

funded mandate. But nevertheless read this over, if you have any questions in the latter pages there's a Laura Eckler and her e-mail. She's in Columbus; feel free to contact her, ask her any questions. If you are opposed to this, what do you suggest as a remedy? Are there any questions? Thank you Mr. Chairman."

Chair Sterns: "Thank you Dr Gandee; and I think that this is a very important issue to look at very carefully. Good of the Order"

Chair Sterns: "I think Good of the Order is an important part of the opportunity for a body like us to spend a minute to deliberate about important issues. Usually everyone is happy to leave here as soon as possible but I'd like to start this by just saying that the next few months are extremely important.

The question I keep asking myself is when North Central comes to visit us next April, if we are to be interviewed as a Faculty Senate and its membership and we're asked questions about governance at The University of Akron, I'd like to see us be in a position where we can have some good things to say. But we have to get there because we have some unresolved issues. So I think that one of my personal goals, and hopefully you will join me in this, is that we can move ourselves ahead in terms of our governance, the Senate and whatever expanded approaches that we come up with, so that we can feel as though we are having a working and functioning faculty governance structure. For those of us who've had a long history at the university, we have seen it work. We know what it looks like when it's operating. We know what can be accomplished with the input of all of the faculty and working with collaboration of college at all levels. So I hope that we can begin to march in that direction. Any other comments for the good of the order? Okay well then we can entertain a motion for adjournment."

VIII. Adjournment

Dr. Gandee moved and Senator Matney seconded the motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Verbatim transcript prepared by Heather Loughney

*Transcript edited by Richard Stratton,
Secretary of the Senate*

APPENDICES TO MINUTES

FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF OCTOBER 4, 2007

APPENDIX A

Report of the Senior Vice President and Provost
October 4, 2007

Introductions:

Dr. Charles Fey

Dr. Helen Qammar

Dr. Rex Ramsier

Quaker Square Space Allocations

Search Updates:

Associate Director for Student Success, ITL

University Press Director

Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Equity

ITL/ITS Springboard Course Enrollments

NCA Self-Study Process

ITL/University College Faculty Advising Event

APPENDIX B

Proposals Approved By Provost
New Programs to Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees
October 2007

Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences

Proposal No.	Department	Title
AS-07-049	Political Science	New undergraduate certificate in Cross-Cultural Negotiation
AS-07-055	History	New undergraduate certificate in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

College of Business Administration

Proposal No.	Department	Title
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College of Education

Proposal No.	Department	Title
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College of Engineering

Proposal No.	Department	Title
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College of Fine and Applied Arts

Proposal No.	Department	Title
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School of Law

Proposal No.	Department	Title
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College of Nursing

Proposal No.	Department	Title
NU-07-07	Nursing	New graduate certificate program: Post MSN Child and Adolescent Health Nursing-Acute Care
NU-07-08	Nursing	New graduate certificate program: Adult Gerontological Health Nursing Clinical Nurse Specialist-Post MSN

College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering

Proposal No.	Department	Title
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Summit College

Proposal No.	Department	Title
SC-07-89	Pub Svc Tech	Add Forensic Study of Behaviors certificate

University College

Proposal No.	Department	Title
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Wayne College

Proposal No.	Department	Title
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APPENDIX C

Proposals Approved By Provost
To Faculty Senate October 2007

Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences

Proposal No.	Department	Title
AS-07-085	PAUS	Add course 3980:645 Public Sector Labor Relations
AS-07-098	Mod Lang	Change credit for 3580:340

College of Business Administration

Proposal No.	Department	Title
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College of Education

Proposal No.	Department	Title
ED-07-06	Phys & HE	Add on-line option, change title to Sport Behavior, and remove prereqs for 5550:409
ED-07-41	Ed Found	Add on-line option to 5100:600
ED-07-48	Counseling	Change admission requirements for Community Counseling Master's program
ED-07-52	Phys & HE	Change title of 5550:452/552 to Foundations of Physical Education

College of Engineering

Proposal No.	Department	Title
EN-07-40	Elect Eng	Remove undergraduate prereqs for graduate courses
EN-07-50	Elect Eng	Remove undergraduate prereqs for graduate courses
EN-07-60	Mech Eng	Remove undergraduate prereqs for graduate courses
EN-07-89	Biomed Eng	Add course 4800:665:001 Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering Methods

College of Fine and Applied Arts

Proposal No.	Department	Title
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University Libraries

Proposal No.	Department	Title
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School of Law

Proposal No.	Department	Title
LS-07-01	Law	Change course title for 9200:621

College of Nursing

Proposal No.	Department	Title
NU-07-01	Nursing	Change course titles, course credit hours, and add courses for RN/BSN program
NU-07-02	Nursing	Change course sequencing for BSN program
NU-07-03	Nursing	Change title of Behavioral Health Nursing Nurse Practitioner track to Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing and revise curriculum
NU-07-06	Nursing	Change title of Post-MSN certificate to Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing-Post MSN

College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering

Proposal No.	Department	Title
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Provost Office

Proposal No.	Department	Title
PR-07-02	Women's Studies	Remove undergraduate prereqs for graduate courses
PR-07-03	Women's Studies	Add courses to graduate certificate program

Summit College

Proposal No.	Department	Title
SC-07-53	Bus Tech	Add web-based delivery to 2540:271 Desktop Publishing
SC-07-63	Pub Svc Tech	Change title and courses for Addiction Services Option to Community Services Technology associate program
SC-07-76	Bus Tech	Add web-based delivery to 2440:140, 2440:201, 2440:202, 2440:203, and 2440:204
SC-07-90	Pub Svc Tech	Add web-based delivery to 2200:110

University College

Proposal No.	Department	Title
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Wayne College

Proposal No.	Department	Title
WC-07-07	Wayne	Suspension of the Computer Network Engineering Technology associate degree program
WC-07-09	Wayne	Suspension of the Environmental Health and Safety Technology associate degree program.

APPENDIX D

Report of the Athletic Committee
Faculty Senate
The University of Akron
October 4, 2007

1. The Committee has met once this academic year and has received information about the following Athletic Department initiatives:

- i. Athletic Department Class attendance policy
- ii. Athletic Department policy on offering scholarships/letters of intent
- iii. Student-athlete recognition programs. The Committee will be part of the process by which these two (one male, one female) student-athletes are chosen.
- iv. Honorary Coach program: The athletic department will provide recognition and tickets to selected athletic events for members of the Athletic Committee and other members of the faculty and staff.

2. Pat Millhoff announced that she is interested in working with the Athletic Department on issues in Women's Athletics.

3. Election of Chair, 2007-08:

Timothy Lillie was elected as Chair for the 2007-08 year.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Lillie, Chair

APPENDIX E

Report to the Faculty Senate
The University of Akron
October 4, 2007

University Council (Senate) Exploratory Committee

Rex Ramsier & Timothy Lillie, Co-Chairs

1. This is a report of the co-chairs to the Senate, the body under whose aegis we were formed.
2. Brief history: The roots of this effort go back to the Decision Making Task force, chaired in succession by Mike Cheung, and Char Reed, and Ginny Gunn, and with many members who made its work possible and which made a report in 2005. Later, an ad hoc Senate committee, chaired by Liz Erickson, was formed and reported to the Senate in April 2006. The Senate responded by forming the present body, originally chartered as the "University Senate Exploratory Committee". The committee renamed itself in the fall of 2006, since it felt that the new name better represented the task of the committee. Thus, there were three or four years worth of discussions about the nature of decision-making on campus and a lot of study of other models, as well.
3. The Committee met every other week or more frequently during the fall semester, 2006, and, at its last meeting (December 19, 2006) produced a proposal for a new model of institutional governance by a unanimous vote of the committee. At the same time, it was also agreed by the committee that the proposal would be reviewed after receiving feedback from constituencies. During the spring 2007 semester, feedback was solicited from the constituents; Dr. Lillie, the co-chair, was on sabbatical during that time, so Dr. Dukes chaired the committee during that time. He, later, left the provost's office, and was replaced by Rex Ramsier.
4. It is our impression that, while there were some positive responses from some constituencies (specifically, ASG and CPAC, and SEAC), other responses were not quite so positive. However, it is not clear that a significant number of each constituencies' membership participated in the feedback. While everyone would have preferred feedback from more people, the nature of democratic decisions is that those who take the time to comment or vote are those who make decisions. The Senate discussed elements of the proposal during the Spring 2007 semester, without specific resolution.
5. After discussions this summer (between Rex Ramsier and Tim Lillie, as co-chairs) and so far in the two University Council Exploratory Committee meetings this fall, it appears that the single most important issue to be resolved is that of authority. The place of the proposed University Council in the governance structure of The University of Akron and, specifically, whether or not it will have a substantive and guaranteed consultative role in specific areas which are of concern to the entire campus community, seems to be the major question.
6. There are some things that, during last fall's discussions, the UCEC agreed upon, regarding authority:
 - a. First, this body would have no role whatsoever in materials relating to areas reserved under collective bargaining laws or agreements.
 - b. Second, the function of this body would be advisory to the President (or other officers, as defined) of The University of Akron.

- c. Third, even though advisory only (in terms of having specific power) the UC was nevertheless envisioned as a body whose advice would represent important aspects of campus thinking about university-wide issues and therefore its recommendations would be considered seriously. This would be guaranteed, it was felt, by ensuring that UC and its committees had specific charges and powers in given areas, as delegated by the Trustees. Ultimately, it was understood that the Trustees would be required to approve any UC bylaws, whenever they were approved.
 - d. The inclusion of elected representatives from each constituency was seen as critical to the credibility of such a body.
- 7. The Deans and VPs have responded to this proposal with the most complete and detailed response so far. The President and Provost have been consulted about the Dean/VP response, and are thus clearly “in the know” about where this process is. The Dean/VP response provides feedback suggesting a different direction for the UC than that proposed by the committee, with the biggest issues those of authority, responsibility, and reporting lines. The task before the UCEC appears to be one of reconciling these two different visions for future institutional governance, in areas not specifically covered by collective bargaining agreements. It must be clear however, that even though the Deans and VPs have provided the most comprehensive and substantive feedback (so far), the committee still needs to weigh ALL feedback from each constituent group as we start our next version to be redistributed. We are not only looking at two “drafts” of the document; we are looking at the one and only draft provided by the UCEC and deciding how we want to incorporate the feedback from all of the constituency groups, including the most substantive feedback from the Deans and VPs.
- 8. We are clarifying our understanding of UC committees and will be working on how these might be changed or reconceptualized in light of the responses we have received to date.

APPENDIX F



A Legislative Initiative That Preserves Health Care Coverage for Ohio's Current and Future Retired Public Educators

Proposed by the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS Ohio)
and

Supported by the Health Care Advocates for STRS

This member-driven initiative calls for increasing public teachers' contributions to STRS Ohio by 2.5% and their employers' contributions by 2.5% of teacher payroll to create an ongoing, dedicated revenue stream for the STRS Ohio Health Care Program. These increases would be phased in over a five-year period, in .5% increments. Legislative action is needed because both member and employer contributions are already at the maximum levels allowed by law — 10% and 14%, respectively.

This legislation:

- Has the **majority support** of Ohio's public educators — even among those who are 15 years or more away from retirement.
- Is **endorsed by the Health Care Advocates for STRS** — a coalition of major management, professional and retiree organizations representing Ohio's public K–12 and higher education teachers.
- Provides an **ongoing, dedicated revenue stream** for the STRS Ohio Health Care Program, which currently serves more than 114,000 retired educators and their family members.
- **Continues** to provide health care **coverage for disabled teachers and retirees with preexisting conditions** who would otherwise be uninsured.
- Prefunds the Health Care Program, **ensuring its long-term solvency** on a 30-year funding basis, as prescribed by Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements 43 and 45.
- Helps employers **recruit and retain** the **quality educators** that are needed in Ohio's classrooms.
- Proactively **involves employers in managing their workforce and accompanying payroll and health care costs**. Without affordable health care in retirement, teachers will work longer. This translates into higher medical costs and higher wages — increased costs that will have to be paid by their employers, the public schools, colleges and universities of Ohio.
- Provides for a **gradual phase-in** that will generate approximately \$94 million in the first year and about \$500 million for the health care fund at the end of five years on an annual, ongoing basis.
- Provides a **member-driven solution at the statewide level** for a national problem — the ever increasing number of uninsured Americans.

Advantages of This Health Care Funding Initiative

This initiative generates approximately \$94 million in the first year and about \$500 million for the health care fund at the end of five years on an annual, ongoing basis. There is no “guarantee” with this proposal, as it is impossible to predict how fast health care costs will rise. However, based on available data, this contribution increase should enable STRS Ohio to keep pace with increasing costs to ensure that affordable health care coverage continues for thousands of current and future retired Ohio public educators well into the future. Its potential benefit to current teachers, retirees, employers and taxpayers is significant.

This is a member-driven initiative; active teachers want to do their part to keep off the rolls of the uninsured in retirement, plus help their current retired colleagues.

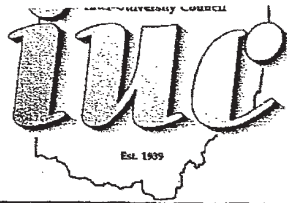
- For a teacher earning \$40,000 a year, the proposed contribution increase means an *additional deduction* of about \$8 per paycheck during the first year. By the end of five years, the total deduction per paycheck will be about \$40 (assuming there was no change in salary and based on 26 pay periods per year). *Nevertheless, active members support this proposal.*
- During a Member Education and Engagement Campaign conducted by STRS Ohio and the Health Care Advocates for STRS, more than 12,000 STRS Ohio members provided input through postcard, online and meeting surveys. In all instances, majority support was expressed for the proposal. This support was confirmed through quantitative random sample telephone surveys that have been conducted periodically since fall 2005. Again, majority support has been tallied, with **six out of 10 active members favoring the contribution increase.** (All data was collected and analyzed by Saperstein Associates, a Columbus-based research firm.)
- Teachers understand that by requiring the employer to contribute an additional 2.5%, money for salary increases may move off the bargaining table.

This plan helps preserve the financial security of current and future retired educators and their contributions to their local economies.

- STRS Ohio’s benefit recipients receive almost \$4 billion in retirement, survivor and disability benefits each year. This is money that they spend in their communities, helping to fuel their local economies. The demise of the health care program would severely impact the purchasing power of these retirees.
- In 2007, STRS Ohio retirees will pay 48% of the health care program’s estimated cost of \$485 million through their premiums, deductibles, copayments and other out-of-pocket costs. No other Ohio retirement system requires its current retirees to share such a large portion of the cost.

This plan recognizes the impact rising health care costs are having on the employers of Ohio’s public educators, taxpayers and the economy of this state.

- The impact on employers’ payroll of educators working longer due to the unaffordability of retiree health care can be significant. These educators are at the top of the salary schedule and thus “cost” more than less experienced teachers. The higher health care costs that often accompany an aging population can also start to impact employers’ medical premiums. While there is a “cost” to employers for this increase in contributions, there is also a “cost” to employers of an aging workforce.
- Ensuring affordable health care coverage in retirement for Ohio’s educators also prevents additional Ohioans from being added to the rolls of the uninsured — a growing liability that is impacting all taxpayers.
- A critical component of turning Ohio’s economy around is an educated workforce that is prepared for the jobs of the future. Only through quality educators is this workforce going to be created. Preserving the retirement security that STRS Ohio offers to its members — in lieu of Social Security — is one of the key elements to ensuring Ohio’s classrooms have the best and the brightest educators.



INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF OHIO
10 West Broad Street, Suite 450
Columbus, Ohio 43215-7415
(614) 464-1266
fax (614) 464-9281
www.iuc-ohio.org

September 12, 2007

The Honorable Ted Strickland, Governor
State of Ohio
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Bill Harris, President
Ohio Senate
Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Jon Husted, Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Gentlemen:

I would like to thank you again for your support of higher education in the biennial budget bill and for recognizing the importance of higher education to Ohio's economy. Ohio's public university system is more competitive than ever before because of your support. A fully funded and solvent health care system for retired faculty is important to maintaining this competitiveness. Without it, Ohio's public universities will not be able to compete for the best and brightest scholars who have a choice of teaching anywhere in the world. That is why the Inter-University Council of Ohio (IUC) believes that the healthcare program for STRS retirees must be continued and should not be allowed to expire.

We support the STRS/Health Care Advocates (HCA) proposal which calls for increasing public teachers' contributions to STRS Ohio by 2.5% and their employers' contributions by 2.5% of teacher payroll to create an ongoing, dedicated revenue stream for the STRS Ohio Health Care Program.

Representative Scott Oelslager is drafting legislation to implement the proposal, which includes phasing in these increases over a five-year period in .5% increments. Legislative action is needed because both member and employer contributions are already at the maximum levels allowed by law – 10% and 14%, respectively.

The IUC supports the proposal for the following reasons:

- A viable, fully funded and solvent program is critical for attracting quality faculty to Ohio's public universities

The University of Akron
University of Cincinnati
Miami University
Ohio University
Wright State University

The Public Universities of Ohio

Bowling Green State University
Cleveland State University
Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine
Shawnee State University
Youngstown State University

Central State University
Kent State University
The Ohio State University
The University of Toledo

STRS/HCA Proposal
September 12, 2007
Page Two

- The proposal involves the retirees in the solution – due to the eligibility changes made in the recent past, STRS retirees shoulder almost half of the overall cost of healthcare for retirees and dependents
- The proposal involves the active teachers and faculty in the solution – contributions to the healthcare fund will be required during their active career
- If the program were to expire, our institutions would be negatively impacted, in cost and quality of talent

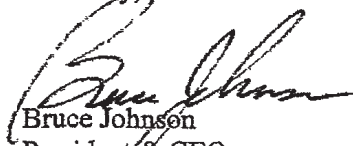
The Inter-University Council of Ohio has been a steadfast member of the STRS Health Care Advocates (HCA) since inception, and has followed the work of the HCA with significant interest. Larry Lewellen, our appointee to the HCA, serves as one of the co-chairs, and we have invested staff expertise and funds for actuarial studies. We believe those have been and continue to be very worthwhile investments.

Our support for a solution is unwavering, but is dependent on the following considerations:

- STRS and Health Care Advocates must ensure changes will be made which reduce the future cost of retirement benefits and healthcare
- There may need to be some flexibility regarding the proposal, in order to gain the support needed across the employers and the legislature
- Funds for compensation are limited; therefore, these contributions need to be considered when compensation targets are established

On behalf of the IUC Presidents, who voiced unanimous support for this proposal at their September 11 Council meeting, I appreciate the opportunity to share our support for this proposed solution. I look forward to continuing the dialogue on an issue critical to attracting quality talent to Ohio's four-year public universities. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Bruce Johnson
President & CEO
Inter-University Council of Ohio

BJ/ms

Cc: State Representative Scott Oelslager
Jeff Chapman, Chair – State Teachers Retirement Board

Contacting Legislators

There are several ways you can contact your legislator:

- Write a letter.
- Send an e-mail message.
- Schedule a meeting in Columbus or in the district.
- Invite a legislator to a meeting of your group.
- Have a casual conversation, such as at a county fair or other event in the district.

If you are having a meeting with a legislator, plan your visit carefully:

- **Be prompt and be patient.** It is not uncommon for a legislator to be late, or to have a meeting interrupted, due to the legislator's crowded schedule. If interruptions do occur, be flexible. When the opportunity presents itself, continue your meeting with the legislator's staff.
- **Be prepared.** Be clear about what you want to achieve in your visit; you are there to discuss the health care funding initiative only. Don't assume the legislator knows all the details of the proposal. Use the one-page initiative summary to assist you in your presentation.
- **Be polite.** Don't degrade your legislators or the opposition, and don't impugn their motives.
- **Be politically astute.** Demonstrate the connection between what you are requesting and the interests of the legislator's constituency.
- **Be responsive.** Answer questions or provide additional information if requested. However, don't be afraid to say "I don't know" if you are unsure of an answer. STRS Ohio staff can provide you with an answer to provide to the legislator or staff member.
- **Ask the legislator if he/she supports the legislation.** If the legislator does not, ask what it would take to gain his/her support, or if he/she has an alternative solution.
- **Follow up.** Write a "thank you" letter that outlines the different points covered during the meeting, and send along any additional information and materials requested.

If you are writing to a legislator, many of the same tips apply:

- **Make your message short and succinct; focus on the topic of health care funding.** Try to keep your letter to one page, stating the purpose at the beginning. Don't send a form letter or card.
- **Include commendation for past actions by the legislator;** don't threaten or degrade the legislator.
- **Ask the legislator for his/her position on the initiative.**
- **Include your address and sign your name.**
- **Follow up if you receive a reply.** Thank the legislator for responding. If he/she agreed with your position, ask the legislator to take a leadership role. If the legislator expresses opposition, ask what he/she would propose as an alternative solution. Also offer to provide additional information to help make the case.

How to find your legislators:

Web site links have been provided on the Health Care Champions Web site. If you do not have Internet access, call STRS Ohio's Governmental Relations office at (614) 227-2983 and staff will provide the information you need.

Additional considerations:

Let us know if you have a meeting or hear from a legislator. You can do this by completing a meeting feedback form available on the Health Care Champions Web site. You can also mail or fax a copy of the completed form to: Terri Biedeman, STRS Ohio, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771; fax, (614) 744-3341.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



Writing Letters to the Editor

Reasons for writing a Letter to the Editor:

- **Reaction to a news story or editorial.** You may want to voice your agreement or disagreement with news coverage about the health care initiative or to an opinion expressed in an editorial.
- **Opportunity to express your opinion during the legislative process.** As the bill winds its way through the legislative process, there will undoubtedly be committee hearings and subsequent votes. You can use a Letter to the Editor to voice your position and to encourage legislators to take the same position.

Tips for writing a Letter to the Editor:

- **Stick to newspaper's submission guidelines.** These guidelines vary from publication to publication, but most include a word limit (more concise letters are most likely to be printed). Begin by choosing the newspaper you are going to write to and review the Letters to the Editor submission guidelines for that paper.

If you're checking online, these guidelines are not always found on the newspaper's home page. They are likely to be included under "Contact Us" or on the "Editorial" link. In the hard copy of the newspaper, you can often find submission guidelines printed on the editorial page. You can also call the newspaper to get submission information. Most publications accept online or e-mail submissions as well as those sent by U.S. mail.
- **Include your contact information.** Most newspapers require you to include your name, address and a daytime telephone number and will only print your letter after calling you to verify your identity. They will not share the contact information and usually only print your name and city if your letter is published.
- **State your point early.** Identify the topic and your interest up front (e.g., "I am a retired teacher who taught for 35 years in South-Western City Schools and feel it's time for the state legislature to support the health care funding initiative. . .").

Your message could include:

Your letter should express your thoughts about the need for the health care funding initiative. Points you might want to consider including:

- This initiative was developed with the support of the Health Care Advocates for STRS — a group of organizations representing active and retired educators as well as employers throughout Ohio.
- The initiative calls for increasing public teachers' contributions to their retirement system by 2.5% and their employers' contributions by 2.5% of teacher payroll to create an ongoing, dedicated revenue stream for the STRS Ohio Health Care Program to keep pace with increasing health care costs.
- These increases will be phased-in over a five-year period.
- Passing this legislation would help keep teachers off the rolls of the uninsured in retirement.
- The initiative helps the financial security of current and future retired educators and their contributions to their local economies.

Additional considerations:

- **Let us know if your letter appears in print.** Please send STRS Ohio a copy of the letter with the newspaper name and publication date so we can add it to the Health Care Champions Web site and share it with key stakeholders. Send us the link to the newspaper's Web site (e-mail to ecklarl@strsoh.org) or drop a copy in the mail to: Laura Ecklar, STRS Ohio, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771.
- **Don't worry if your letter doesn't appear in print.** Newspapers are limited by space and not all letters make it to print. However, all letters are read by the editorial department and can make an impact with editorial writers.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



Contacting School Boards

Reasons for contacting school boards:

- Many school boards are not very familiar with the proposal. We want to prevent an information vacuum about retiree health care at local school districts, and we want to eliminate any misconceptions about our retiree health care proposal.
- We hope to preempt negative messages about the proposal by opponents that could lead to adverse public comments by school officials or formal school board statements of opposition.
- We want to encourage open and informed dialogue with school boards on this issue.

How to conduct a discussion at your local board of education meeting:

- First, call the board office to learn the procedure for getting on the board's public meeting agenda. This usually involves a request in writing.
- Write an informative letter to the president of the board of education, with copies to the other board members, to draw their attention to the retiree health care issue. Follow up with a courteous phone call to explore board member interest.
- Include the one-page initiative summary and mention the STRS Ohio Web site presentation. Also indicate that you would like to provide more information in person in order to answer any board questions.
- Find out whether there are time limits for questions and comments from the public at your local board public meeting, and plan your comments to fit into that time frame, allowing time for questions.
- Be organized and to the point at the school board meeting. Base your discussion on your perspective as a current or former educator.
- If someone asks a question you cannot answer, acknowledge that you will have to follow up with someone at STRS Ohio or with HCA. It's a good opportunity to call back with the answer and keep the dialogue going.

Key points to use in letters and presentations to school boards:

- Availability of health care coverage in retirement is an important component of the compensation and benefits package that is used to recruit and retain teachers.
- This plan is a member-driven initiative; active teachers want to do their part to keep off the rolls of the uninsured in retirement, plus help their current retired colleagues. The proposal asks teachers to fund retiree health care while they are working with an equal contribution by the employer.
- There is majority support for the proposal from Ohio's public educators and by a strong coalition of management, professional and retiree organizations representing Ohio's public K-12 and higher education teachers.
- The plan proactively involves employers in managing their workforce and accompanying payroll and health care costs. Without affordable health care in retirement, teachers will continue working until age 65 or until they believe they can afford to pay for health care in the open market. This translates into higher medical costs and higher wages — increased costs that will have to be paid by public schools. While there is a "cost" to employers for this increase in contributions, there is also a "cost" to employers of an aging workforce.
- The plan provides for a gradual phase-in that will generate approximately \$94 million in the first year and about \$500 million for the health care fund at the end of five years on an annual, ongoing basis.
- If board members express opposition, ask if they have some alternative ideas in mind, or if they would be willing to work with STRS Ohio and HCA to improve the proposal.

Additional considerations:

Let us know if you have a meeting with any school board members or speak at a school board meeting. You can do this by completing a meeting feedback form available on the Health Care Champions Web site. You can also mail or fax a copy of the completed form to: Laura Ecklar, STRS Ohio, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771; fax, (614) 227-5203.

