

SENATE ACTIONS

Received reports from

- * Graduate Council which indicates they are contemplating a change in the rules pertaining to granting of ad hoc graduate faculty standing page 12
- * Academic Policy Committee indicating they are working on the issues of residency and academic reassessment page 13
- * Curriculum Review Committee which is working on distance learning proposals page 13
- * Reaffirmed actions at the December 6th Senate meeting that required a quorum. page 20

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 February 7, 2008

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate took place Thursday, February 7, 2008 in Room 201 of the Buckingham Center for Continuing Education (BCCE). Senate Chair Harvey Sterns called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Of the current roster of fifty-three Senators, 34 were present for this meeting. Senators Bove, Carroll, Clark, Elman, Gandee, Leigh, Lillie and Ofobike were absent with notice. Senators Arter, Ash, Broadway, Gamble, Gerber, Gurnak, Halter, Hamed, Huff, Ida and Maringer were absent without notice.

I. Approval of the Agenda – Chair Sterns called the meeting to order and asked for the approval of the agenda. Senator Sadler moved (Senator Hajjafar provided the second) to approve the agenda as sent. Motion passed.

II. Chairman's Remarks & Special Announcements – Chair Sterns asked for consideration of the minutes of the meeting on November 1 and 8 and December 6. He noted an error in the minutes for December 6th. At the top of page one, it should state that Acting Chair Rich called the meeting to order. Chair Sterns was absent with notice.

Senator Gerlach asked that the minutes for November 1 be changed as follows: On page 10, the bottom of the page, next to the last line, the phrase “who for adoption needs some things for adoption” be changed to “who for adoption needs something for adoption”. There being no further corrections, the minutes were accepted as corrected.

Chair Sterns proceeded to recognize colleagues who have recently passed away. “Let me start with Ruth Jean Schick who passed away February 4. She retired from the University of Akron in 1982 as an administrative assistant in the residence hall. Margaret Ellen Ball, Margaret was employed by the University of Akron where she worked in the Law Library. She was also active with University Bands while working with UA. John Wolcott Works, Ph.D., passed away November 12 after a long illness. He was a retired Professor of Finance at The University of Akron, following a long career at Duquesne University. He received his M.B.A. and Ph.D. from Northwestern University, a doctorate of juris prudence from Ohio Northern Law School, and a B.A. from Brown University. Patricia M. Moran (Donovan), died November 15, 2007. Patti earned her undergraduate and master degrees from Indiana University where she was a member of Alpha Chi Omega Sorority and had been an instructor at The University of Akron. I know that Dr. Gerlach has one more.”

Senator Gerlach: “Yes Mr. Chairman, Shirley Ann Jackson died January 3rd, 2008. She was the widow of the late Professor Dale Jackson from the Biology Department. She was born in England, took an M.A. in Art History at the University of Durham and came to the United States with her husband in 1962 beginning first teaching at Old Trail School and then 13 years here at The University of Akron in Western Cultural Traditions. Thank you.”

Chair Sterns asked the Senate to stand for a moment of silence in memory of these individuals. The Senate did so.

Chair Sterns continued with his remarks. “I was thinking about this meeting and reflecting on the activities that we’ve all been engaged in the past month. I was finally able to join Rudy Fenwick at the meeting of the chairs of all the Faculty Senates and we’ll do that again tomorrow. We had a chance to meet with Chancellor Fingerhut and hear him speak. I believe tomorrow we’re going to be meeting with the President of the Senate. What I want to say is that as I’ve gone to the various committee meetings that I’ve been a part of over the past month many of them related to assignments that have been given to me by our Provost and others that go with the office, I’m really struck by the important role that all of us can play by working closely together. I think it’s very clear that getting our governance structure in place and refined in view of the history of the last few years is probably one of the most important things because I could see when we are pulling together and working together very positive things are happening. As you know next month we’ll be looking at the new governance structure and I really want all of us to really consider that very carefully. I know that all of us in this room have a special assignment here in being faculty senators. And not a day goes by that I don’t hear from colleagues, “what is that you do in that Faculty Senate?” and what goes on in these committee meetings? And I think that what’s happened is people, as has happened in other governmental situations, have forgotten about the joy and purpose that comes from being a part of and doing. And I think another part of it is really good communication. I think we really need to be sure that we are not only being informed ourselves as senators but we are getting the word out to our colleagues and so that we can get their input in terms of representation in our government structure. So I’m hoping that we will keep our forward movement and that we will bring the activity levels and committee structure involvements to much higher level than what has been true in the past period of time. So with that in mind let me turn to our reports.

Are there any special announcements? I just want to mention that the Hearts for Humanity event is coming up even though you might not be able to participate, their website is still available for donations. So if you would like to contribute to that please feel free to do so. I think at this point I’ll turn to our Secretary for his reports.”

III. Reports – a. Executive Committee – Senator Stratton reported that the Executive Committee (EC) met four times since the December meeting of the Senate. The EC met with the Provost and President on December 14th and January 29th.

At the December 14th meeting, the issues discussed included: the Medina County University Center, the Goodyear Headquarters project, the report and interpretation of the report of the Northeast Ohio Universities collaboration commission report, the University System of Ohio, some facilities planning projects (the Quaker Square project and the stadium). In the discussion of the reorganization of the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the College of Nursing, the Provost indicated that one of her main themes in that reorganization is to minimize disruption while providing the maximum impact. The Provost informed us that the new Vice President for Human Resources was to begin work on February 1st. We explored with the Provost potential Faculty Senate appointments to the Student Success Committee and the representative for the Hearts for Humanity.

On January 29th the EC met again with the President and the Provost. Issues addressed included: continued activities of the Northeast Ohio Commission, clarification of our financial position and the debt financing situation as reported in the press, the case studies for the NCA visit coming up in the spring, the Quaker Square project, and the possible impact of the state budget shortfall and the Chancellor's plans. The Provost was able to clarify the summer schedule and resolve issues caused by miscommunication of the official options available for the summer. The Provost shared some of the lessons learned from the December 18th academic alignment exercise mentioned below.

On December 18th the Executive Committee participated in an exercise with the Deans to demonstrate how available metrics might be used or aligned with the goals and requirements of the Ohio University Systems. Senator Stratton found that project to be frustrating, but enlightening.

On January 31st the EC met to make the agenda for today's meeting. The committee received a letter from John Husted recognizing or acknowledging the receipt of our letter to him about Bill 315, discussed several sections of the Senate by-laws that may need modification or clarification, and discussed an issue [part of the Graduate Council's report today] about the possible change in the process by which ad hoc Graduate faculty standing is granted.

Chair Sterns asked President Proenza to make his remarks.

b. Remarks from the President - President Proenza "Thank you Mr. Chairman and colleagues I hope you realize that Chairman Sterns is making a very appropriate fashion statement with those wonderful wonderful glasses he has brought to campus. They're very special Harvey, we congratulate you. Seriously, I've been admiring them most sincerely; I've said it already privately. I had the privilege of walking down to the Senate with our colleague, Professor Oswald from the College of Education and it reminded me just how very special the life of our faculty is as they are engaged in not only working with our students but at advancing important scholarly opportunities and really aggressive programs that develop standards for state and perhaps even for our nation. And that in turn reminded me of just how very very much you all, the university is doing together to advance our common future. Indeed I know the Provost and I speak every day about just how very much we've been able to accomplish but quite literally how overwhelming some of the many things that were doing are. And yet it all seems so very worthwhile when were able to celebrate together the accomplishments of the university and rise above so many of the challenges. So let me begin by quite simply saying thank you because all of you are engaged in very important activities on behalf of our university, on behalf of our students, on behalf of your personal professional scholarship and I commend you and thank you.

Earlier today at noon, the mayor of the City of Akron, Don Plusquellic, made his State of the City address and I was pleased and you will read about tomorrow I'm sure, that he made several references to the role that the university has played in advancing the wellbeing, the economic future of the City of Akron. He talked about our engagement collaboratively with the hospitals and what I'll talk about in a minute. He talked about the many important projects that are developing that he recognizes and supports. And he talked about the increasingly better and better partnership that we have between his office the university. He also laid out his vision for a plan that in the very near

future we hope will be able to create for every graduate in the Akron Public Schools the opportunity to have a scholarship to attend The University of Akron or an appropriate technical school in the area. This is of course not the only source. Whenever you do something like that you don't want to be the only person at the table especially when there are others that provide funding. You don't want to leave the federal dollars, you don't want to leave the existing scholarships, and you don't want to leave any other dollars on the table. So he had talked with Judy Hummel, the director of our Summit Education Initiative, and he's proposing a plan, a very bold plan, that would yield resources by which this proposal could be made a reality. I hope that indeed he'll be able to bring this to fruition during this year and so please pay attention it would be a tremendous statement not only of the value that all of us believe is held in the young people that are coming through school today, but in the promise of these young people to the city of Akron and the larger community that is greater Akron and the state of Ohio. So I am much in his debt, not only for this remarks of personal recognition, his recognition of the role of the university, but particularly for his leadership in our public schools.

As you are also now aware, yesterday Governor Strickland addressed the general assembly for his second State of the State address, and the Governor's proposals clearly indicate yet again that he understands the critical linkage between higher education and the strength of our state's economy. You may recall that during his first year he created the position of Chancellor, he appointed Eric Fingerhut as Chancellor and then came his proposal enhanced by the assembly to increase funding for higher education so that we could maintain tuition at a constant level for the next two years, last year and this coming year. That clearly is the first time that the state had clearly articulated the compact relationship between what the state does and what were able to do in order to provide for accessible and affordable education for our students. During yesterday's remarks, in case you did not read, I'll just highlight a couple of things; the Governor gave us a small glimpse into the ten-year master plan that Chancellor Fingerhut will unveil at the end of March saying that associate and bachelor's degrees programs in core fields would be available on campus within 30 miles of every Ohioan. For many years we've had a university partnership program with Lorain Community College, our partner in the Innovation Alliance and have had similar programs elsewhere. This would be taking that to the next level and in addition we would be able to host on our campus additional associate degrees in partnership with other colleges and community colleges such as Lorain where we will be beginning that process in the near future.

The Governor also proposed a program called Seniors to Sophomores which would provide academically talented high school seniors the choice of spending their senior year on the University System of Ohio campus very similar to the post-secondary enrollment options program that we offer now at no cost to the student. And he also sought to bring more accountability to the state's K-12 System by proposing that he would create a department of education for the state of Ohio and would ask the state legislature to allow him, the Governor, to appoint the director of that department making the Ohio Board of Education an advisory body as the Board of Regents also has become.

Turning to other things closer to home, there's some very good news. I can tell you through the first six months of this fiscal year our fundraising is advancing at record pace. Between July and De-

ember we have raised 26.4 million dollars and that amounts exceeds the amount raised during the same period in prior fiscal year by fifty-nine percent. Thus that is a significant figure because that previous year was also very strong and it was a record year with a total of 32.4 million dollars. So as you can see were quickly approaching last year's total mark with still nearly six months remaining. Obviously what were seeing is that people are paying attention to our success and they're endorsing the five hundred million dollar comprehensive campaign that we announced in October. In that regard I want to especially acknowledge and thank FirstEnergy Corporation for its recent pledge of two million dollars to create the FirstEnergy advanced energy research center at The University of Akron. It is in support of some significant scholarly research by our colleagues in Engineering and Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering that if you haven't read about you certainly will in the future, it's very exciting. We're also seeing continued support from prospective students who are voting with their feet by applying in record numbers to The University of Akron and also attending The University of Akron in record numbers. Our 14-day enrollment figures for the spring semester reveal continuing strength in our areas of recruitment and retention. Total enrollment for the spring semester was 23,754 which is an increase of four percent or precisely 1,000 additional students over the same time last year. Student credit hour production is up by 5.3 percent.

Now I hope you've been following the news coverage that has appeared in the last few days about the bold proposals that we are making in conjunction with the medical school and our partners at Summa, Children's and General Hospitals to create in Akron an academic medical center and an orthopedic research institute which of course would be one of the first constituent parts of that larger partnership. The proposal for the third frontier, among all of these institutions, left our institution and went to Columbus, as you may have read in the Metro section yesterday in the local section of the Beacon Journal where the size and partnership of that proposal was highlighted. We're hopeful of course that that proposal will be funded; if not this year then again very soon because there's a lot of energy and enthusiasm that I think you might appreciate with the mayor's support and vision for a biomedical corridor extending from Summa to the other hospitals and encompassing the university's own research and capacity in Allied Health Sciences. It begins to create in Akron centers of excellence that could begin to compliment and accent the very fine facilities that are located in Cleveland and with the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals and certainly Case Western Reserve University medical school. Certainly as I hope you understand, this would enhance the allied health sciences programs here and create many many additional opportunities for students, faculty and researchers and I know Provost Stroble will be discussing with you in the very near future the work that has been ongoing among our colleagues in Nursing and other Allied Health science programs such as Audiology, Social Work and so on that would enable us to once again focus our energies very nicely.

Let me end with an interesting kudos for us at the university and for Akron, just a few weeks ago we learned that Stephen Covey, the very well known author of the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People has chosen Akron as one of very few cities to pilot a new program. He has come over the last few years to recognize that universities are vital entities in the wellbeing of their community. We could have told him that as of course we are doing with University Park Alliance but maybe he saw that. And so on February 26th, a Tuesday, he will come to Akron and have three major forums. I hope that you may be able to attend at least one of them; it will be well publicized in a few days.

There is no question that his being here and announcing to the world that universities are important will be a very very significant opportunity for us. His first landing sight is on Monday of that week, the 25th at the University of Cincinnati, his second is at The University of Akron and he's doing a couple of others, but he'll be at only five to seven institutions throughout the country as he pilots this program and begins to advance it. So we'll be well recognized by virtue of his recognition and more importantly I think in his recognizing the very very important work that University of Akron together with the University of Cincinnati and a few others have been doing in advancing the role of universities in their communities particularly in metropolitan settings. So I invite you to certainly be aware of that and just delighted to be able to report that to you. Mr. Chairman that concludes my report and I'd be happy to take any questions."

Chair Sterns asked if there were any questions for President Proenza.

Senator Gerlach wondered if the President has informed the Trustees of the proposed legislation of House Bill 315, as a motion last month requested and he is prepared to report to the Senate his and their response and reactions to this piece of legislation.

President Proenza responded: "I got your request shortly after the Board meeting; I will certainly present it to them at their forthcoming meeting in early March."

There being no further questions of the President, **Chair Sterns** invited Provost Stroble to make her remarks.

c. Remarks from the Provost – Provost Stroble: "Well welcome to spring semester. Today doesn't feel much like spring but we keep having glimpses and surely better days are ahead. I'll give a few highlights and just compliment a few things that the President talked about but because some of our topics are very similar but to give you an update about some of our searches for our institution wide positions. We finished the third of three interviews with candidates for the Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Equity, the Chief Diversity Officer. The search committee I understand will meet tomorrow and make recommendations to me about who we might extend an offer to. I think there was wide enthusiasm for at least two of the three candidates and I'm glad that we think we're close to having an appointment made. And then the College of Education has had a dean search underway. I understand that within the next week they will do airport interviews for seven candidates and then move very quickly by end of the month to on campus interviews. I've looked at who's in the lineup of the seven and some of these people are really quite distinguished. So I think we've done a good job there. And then university of Akron press director we've had a search underway again a fine group of fine candidates and I think that search should come to a completion during late February or early March.

The President gave you some enrollment updates, let me round that out with a few details of some of the aspects of enrollment that are underneath those more general figures. In spring 2008 you heard him talk about the fact that there's going to be much more focus on dual enrollment options where high school students receive credit for high school choice at the same time that they get credit for college degree. Our current avenues for that on this campus are largely post-secondary

enrollment as well as Early College. In post-secondary enrollment we have just blossomed in our enrollment this spring, on the Akron campus we have 392 students doing post-secondary enrollment options this semester; 125 of those or about 30 percent are doing by distance learning. They may be in a Medina county high school where we actually have a distance learning classroom and they don't need to leave their building to do that enrollment; so that's very healthy I think. And on Wayne campus we have an additional 224 post-secondary enrollment option students. Wayne is taking advantage of a pilot program that was created by Ohio Department of Education to actually teach the post-secondary courses in a high school face to face rather than by distance learning and I think that's why their enrollment has grown exponentially really. In Early College we're part way through the first year. Of those 100 students that we admitted last fall we have only lost one and she apparently by all reports was homesick for her friends and her home high school. So we think that's remarkable of the ninety-nine original one hundred and of all Akron Public Schools, this school has the best attendance record than any of them. If you'll recall the main criterion for being admitted to Early College High School is that you were a first generation college student. If you're family does not have a record of college going. You certainly meet some requirements around grade point and those sorts of things at a level slightly below where post-secondary enrollment minimums are, but they certainly are students who are quite serious and have great academic promise and we think they're doing well. Last year when we advertised the 100 person first year positions we had 200 applicants. We just closed the deadline for applying for the next 100 spots, this year we had 350. So the people that in charge of Early College have a daunting task in front of them; to sort through the 350 to get it down to 100. Fifty-percent of that first class by the way are students of color, so I think that the Early College gives us a great opportunity to do many of the things that we're committed to as an institution. And then our other new enrollment opportunity that opened in January is the Medina County University Center. It opened with 120 students, we expect that to hit several hundred by fall and as it continues to grow then we'll consider whether there's a need to actually expand the facility, the grand opening is March 17th I believe. It's a beautiful facility and it was built almost entirely with donated dollars and federal and state dollars appropriations with very little tapping of university funds for this enterprise. We've made the space very flexible for numerous functions. We not only offer courses there for credit, we offer Workforce Development kinds of programs and Medina County community has started to host conferences and workshops and a number of things there so that it really does become our entry to Medina County and our service to Medina County.

Quaker Square, Provost's Perspectives that goes out tomorrow will give the breakdown of which of the proposals that were made we think actually we can create the space for and getting them actually into the space will hinge on logistics and funding to some extent. We have some funds set aside to permit some renovations and some reworking of the space, some of the entities that actually requested space said they had some funds they could put could be put towards it so by end of February I hope to meet with each one of those along with of course Jim Haskell because you know you need Jim Haskell to help you figure these things out, to say who can go where and how quickly can we get those things moved in but I will make that public to the campus tomorrow. I have alerted each of the individual proposers so that they know the news before it goes public.

You heard the President refer to the fact and we've certainly talked about it in here before, that for the last couple of years now the College of Fine and Applied Arts responding to a question I proposed when they had a Dean vacancy undertook serious study of what are the options we could consider for our new organizations of ourselves as he said you know, and as you said, minimum disruption maximum impact and I will say it again just to go on the record here there is no intent in posing that question to the college or in the recommendation I make to diminish resources, diminish personnel to do anything that has a negative impact on faculty, staff, contract professionals, students. The whole intent is to maximize the resources and to bring new visibility more attention and more opportunity to the programs. Whether we'll all agree that's what the recommendations does is of course always open to reasonable minds to disagree. But I am in the final stages of finishing that proposal, I wrote a draft, I've circulated it to three or four people just to do a check for facts for me and I anticipate by next week I will be giving that to you. I've already discussed it with the people in the college of Fine and Applied Arts, I've discussed it with Executive Committee and I think that our next step will be that after you receive it to send it to APC. We hope that that proposal can be reviewed through APC and potentially through Faculty Senate in such a way that we would be ready by next fall to actually launch searches for Deans of two new colleges because that's my proposal: that we create two new colleges out the existing college.

And then finally, higher education is certainly in the news. I didn't catch the Governor's state of the state address yesterday but I've read it with great interest. Certainly if anybody wants to be called an education Governor, I think Governor Strickland's going to have a claim to that and it's all in the details to figure out what this is all going to mean for us, so you heard Dr. Stratton talk earlier about the fact that I engaged Faculty Senate Executive Committee along with Council of Deans to say okay, how would we take the work of the academic alignment group and match it up to the beginning of the Chancellor's master plan? And the Chancellor's master plan is still at such a general level that this is really quite challenging. There are hints now that the kinds of things that the Governor said in his state of the state address yesterday will actually be fleshed out in more detail in the Chancellor's master plan which is due in early March. So I think when we get to see more of that master plan we'll have a much clearer idea of what we have to do. But you can imagine that we need to look our programmatic strengths, our areas of distinction and say how do they accomplish the goals of the master plan? There are really primarily two goals there; on the research side increase our competitiveness for research funding that really enhances the economy of the state of Ohio and then on the teaching and sort of education and service side of the enterprise, how do we prepare for many many more students, I mean many many more students to actually achieve degrees of the type that are needed in the state of Ohio and you can see some of the groundwork being laid for that. The Senior to Sophomore program, expanding dual enrollment kinds of options, associate degrees being available within thirty miles of every resident of Ohio, this is all about how do you expand the opportunities and then how do you make them affordable so that many more people now will consider that getting a degree or some kind of higher ed certificate or credential is an absolutely essential part of being educated. And our own mayor rising to the challenge and making that quite tangible and possible for citizens of Akron means that people are understanding you can't just legislate that that there have to be mechanisms and funding attached to it.

So I'm working through a number of things trying to track all this, I'll be glad to share how I'm tracking it and the kinds of key documents I'm finding. One of the things that we've got to pay attention to right away is the Northeast Ohio Study Commission, I've looked at all those recommendations and there are no fewer than 17 of those that The University of Akron is to take the lead on. What that means really needs to be figured out, what does it mean for us to lead on 17 different recommendations; some of the academic, some of them more administrative in their function and then how do we figure out who among us, because it's going to take many of us to actually help do the intellectual work of coordinating with those four other campuses to make sure we're in some harmony about what those recommendations mean. So it's really an unbelievably dynamic time in higher education, I've also been tracking the federal reauthorization of the higher education act, and representative Sutton asked our office last week to give her some advice about what are the topics that University of Akron cares about. I thought there were some naturals if we could maximize the amount of money that students could get through Pell Grants that would seem a good thing, their talking about simplifying the FAFSA, the online application that students use to get financial aid that would seem a good thing. Additional money for students going into critical fields in science/technology, engineering, mathematics, nursing, teaching, special education a number of areas. So I just sort of sent off an e-mail list with well here are the things I know about that I think are consistent with the values of the university and I just got word today that Representative Sutton mentioned UA on the floor and attributed those ideas to us so it's a nice thing. Paying attention and there's just increasingly more and more to pay attention to and it can't just be a few of us it's got to be all of us, so I want to echo what you said is that the more we all work together and we create the structures that support our work together really means this institution will thrive in serving the people that we need to serve. So thank you."

Chair Sterns asked if there were any questions for Provost Stroble.

Senator Schantz found it "very exciting that the Early College program is taking off and those we have such renewed interest. If all goes well we'll have another hundred of them next year. Do we have any more permanent plans of where to possibly house them?"

Provost Stroble replied: "It's a really good question. You can see that there's going to be tension around that. Stan Silverman and I are talking; I don't know that we have an answer yet. But we understand that one of the proposals that was made that we considered for Quaker Square was relocating it to Quaker Square but that really while there's a lot space at Quaker Square is right for some things and not other things and that wasn't a good fit so it's back to the drawing board now." There being no further questions for the Provost, the Senate continued with committee reports.

c. **Committee Reports** – **Chair Sterns** noted that there was a written report from the **Graduate Council** and asked if everyone had received a copy. He explained that Alyison Leigh, the chair of the committee, was not able to be present.

Senator Erickson remarked that one is very glad to get the committee report, but if the person from that committee is not present then who is to answer any questions. She had some questions on this report but no one was here to answer them.

Chair Sterns replied that there's a very good reason why the representative could not be here today. Questions can still be raised.

Senator Erickson understood that, but suggested that an alternate might attend the Senate meeting to answer questions. She agreed that the report is really a good step, but we need to take the second step of having a representative available to address any questions. This is a really important. If the Chair can't attend, then there should be somebody from the Council here.

Chair Sterns replied: "I did have some mail exchanges with Dr. Tausig regarding the ongoing discussions. The issue at hand for those of you who have not had a chance to look at this is the fact that a memo was sent to a number of department heads throughout the campus informing them that in the future full-time faculty would not given temporary ad hoc graduate status. We had some considerable discussion about in the Executive Committee, a very carefully worded memo was sent to Dean Tausig pointing out that before any such changes can be made they must come through the Faculty Senate. Senator Rich was kind enough to carefully craft the wording and I got a response back from Dr. Tausig saying that he agrees exactly with the interpretation that we made in the Executive Committee which is why going through the steps that are necessary to change it since there is ambiguity; meaning that it could be read either way that the faculty can or full time can have ad hoc faculty status or another reading is that they can't. That lack of clarity is exactly why Graduate Council is indeed engaging in that discussion. So I think that what needs to happen if people have concerns about this coming change it's very important that they make sure that their representatives on Graduate Council are there to express their concern and then raise it again there before it comes here. I don't know if that helps you Senator Erickson."

Senator Erickson appreciated the information, but also wished to raise the more general question. In this case the Senate had an alterative way to have the issue clarified, but that may not always be the case.

Senator Rich wished to clarify "that the wording [of the letter from the Senate] was actually unambiguous and we thought that it required a change in the wording of the legislation in order to allow the categorical denial that was being proposed to occur."

Chair Sterns indicated that Senator Rich's "comment is noted and I will communicate that. I think what's important about that was the fact that some faculty feel that there are times when exceptions are made to any rule and that if a course needs to be covered and in a graduate program and there is no one that can do it that the mechanism that the course can be given with the appropriate instructor.

In any case, this is an example of where existing rules have to be looked at if they are going to be changed they have to be carefully considered and if they are revised then we will have a chance to discuss them here in this chamber before sending them on. I agree with Senator Erickson that it's very important that committee chairs be here and I've asked that to happen." There being no further discussion, the Senate moved to the report from **Academic Policies Committee**.

Dr. Ramsier had submitted a written report and was willing to answer any questions.

Chair Sterns asked "there have been some individuals in the past few years that have done multiple degrees and I did know one gentleman who was trying to make it into the Guinness Book of Records for degrees. I know that we had recently attempted to put some things in place, could you talk a little about that issue of one's first degree and second degree and how one builds degrees?"

Dr. Ramsier replied: "Actually this residency requirement is specifically for undergraduate students. For example I am aware of a student who took a bachelor's degree with something like 167 credit hours. And then needed to take effectively one or two courses to complete the co requirements for a second degree. But the way the residency requirements read the student cannot roll over the extra credits [167 - 128 = 39 credits] he earned during the first degree. You're not allowed to count the extra towards the second degree. It's all new credits after the first degree you can count. You have to have 32 credits for the second bachelor's degree, if it is an associate's it is 16 credits. So that's the way the rules read now that student could not take a second degree unless he completed a 32 credit program, so that's the issue with this requirement. So it does actually place some limitations on the students achieving a second degree because they've already taken courses towards a second major but that took their first degree and that sort of draws the line."

Senator Erickson asked for some clarification. There is some mention of academic reassessment reverting back to previous policies under discussion. She asked what are we looking at.

Dr. Ramsier replied that "we'll definitely bring more information to the Senate floor. Academic reassessment is a process through which the student leaves the university for a time; let's say its three years. And then returns to the university. If they left here with a 2.01 GPA and they have 80 credit hours, they're not eligible for academic reassessment. They come back with 80 credit hours and 2.01 and they have to earn enough "A" grades to get to a 2.5 or a 2.75 to be eligible to go on to most degree granting colleges. With 80 credits at a 2.01, to get to a 2.75 is going to take a lot of credit hours of "A". A student who left at the same time with a GPA of 1.99 and 80 credit hours can come back after three years and undergo academic reassessment and basically start fresh. So, think about an advisor advising this student that's going to leave with a 2.01, best case scenario is he flunks a class before he leaves. The old rule used to allow reassessment. So this so of hard fast rule of 2.0 is what we're now discussing."

Chair Sterns proceeded to the **Curriculum Review Committee Report**.

Dr. Ramsier had submitted a written report, but no Senate action was requested by the committee.

Chair Sterns suggested that in future reports curriculum proposals include a short descriptor to remind Senators of the nature of the proposal. As they are currently presented, only the number, many could not recall the content of the proposal.

Dr. Ramsier said he will do that. He also wanted the Senate to note that “all of these are actually Distance Learning Review Committee work. The Distance Learning Review committee is a sub-committee of the Curriculum Review Committee and we have ever increasing numbers of courses for which people are suggesting they want to change from face to face delivery to primarily one hundred percent online and there are many examples in the subset of those so it’s becoming actually a quite a task to keep up with the number of proposals, but we’re maintaining our vigor if you will.”

Chair Sterns proceeded to report from the **Ad Hoc Committee on Facilities Planning**.

Senator Vollmer indicated there was a written report and was willing to answer questions.

Chair Sterns noticed the minutes stated that City of Akron is responsible for street safety, but wanted assurance that the committee continued to be active on this issue. The committee will be active on this issue.

Senator Erickson asked, since the last meeting of the committee was 12 December, have there been any further developments on the issue of street safety in the West Exchange Street area?

Senator Vollmer replied “there’s no update that I know of. I recall we talked about this, the city being responsible. I think we said that they painted lines.”

Senator Huff was able to provide the following information. “Crosswalk signs were installed there are some automatic crosswalk signs that were not there before. It’s not, it hasn’t clarified anything really about how to get across the street safely, there’s still a turn arrow that turns into the symbol, the crosswalk symbol that some of the students were using so it’s still hazardous. I think the real question since there’s construction project planned for the expansion of that deck the real issue for the future is how cars enter or leave that deck that’s one of the major complicating issues of that intersection and hopefully when that deck construction project is completed the situation will be improved. But I don’t know if the specifics have been worked out.”

Chair Sterns asked if Vice President Case might want to address the issue.

VP Case replied: “Good afternoon, on that topic just let me talk about a couple things. First of all, we do have information for this group, we do have the joint committee with the City of Akron that works on parking and transportation and various issues with the city one for them being traffic flow etc. So that committee based on the Parking Task Force’s recommendation has been in place for about three months. As mentioned the crosswalks were installed as quickly as possible at no expense to the university with this partnership. What were waiting for now and the installation of heated vinyl markers for the crosswalk to make sure the crosswalks are now seen. [Unlike the painted markers, these will be more visible in all weather.] They’re going to be installed across not

only Exchange but Brown or not Brown but the side road going across both ways to make sure at least the crosswalks are visible. It doesn't mean we can change habit but it does mean that it will have crosswalks visible. We'll have lights that are timed to allow student time to get across at this point. That is what we'll be doing. The only reason the crosswalks are not in is because of the weather. We need at least thirty-five to forty degrees weather they have to be dry and that combination hasn't happened as planned. The city has the material ready; they have been very generous in that.

On the deck itself, obviously the deck is going to do one thing it's going to block traffic coming out of that side of Exchange Street once we start construction 'cause it will be fenced off. That will be helpful for the short term at least in terms of not having cars come in and out of that area. Secondly, actually fourthly, one thing that's important is we have a transportation task force that's putting an RFP out for a consultant to come in and look at traffic flows around the university. One of the main needs is a traffic solution on Exchange Street the city and the university will be jointly working through that consultant looking at the proposals and the consultant and one of our people on the committee is Professor Yi that deals a lot with traffic and engineering. He'll be very helpful for that too. So there's about three or four type different things we're working on for that crosswalk. We do know that safety is an issue we have two students who have very active on that committee and they feel that at least we've helped the situation. It doesn't mean we've solved anything and we cannot change behaviors ourselves; we can change the space as best we can."

Chair Sterns thanked VP Case and solicited additional questions. There were no further questions. The next committee to report was the Reference Committee.

Senator Rich reported that he called a meeting of the **Reference Committee** but did not succeed in obtaining a quorum. Senators Gerlach and Rich conferred and discussed some possible by-law amendments. He intends to try again to call a meeting of the Reference Committee prior to our next meeting and one way or another he intend to bring some proposed by-law amendments to this body either in a committee report or if necessary as a motion on his with a second from Senator Gerlach.

Chair Sterns called upon Dr. Gelfand for the report of the **Faculty Research Committee**.

Dr. Gelfand: "Thank you Senator Sterns. I've submitted a report about the faculty research committee and I'm happy to answer any questions. I have one correction which is actually we have more money than I thought so we'll be able to fund between fifteen and sixteen proposals, sixteen if I go to Dr. Newcombe and beg. So, that brings us up to funding more like twenty-five percent which I think is right about where I would like us to be."

Chair Sterns commented: "Well, since we had so many proposals and this is such a wonderful opportunity for our colleagues I was going to make a plea as Chair to the Provost that maybe if we can find some additional funds to do a few more, sixty-two proposals is outstanding. So I will mention it, if you have any extra money lying around that it might be a good idea to give."

Provost Stroble: "I believe it comes from Vice President for research and so I will indicate to Dr. Newcombe that interest."

Chair Sterns thanked the Provost and asked for further questions. He then asked if the committee is planning a similar cycle for next year, so people can plan ahead.

Dr. Gelfand replied that that they are. In addition, “we’ll have a colloquium here in November for all of the successful recipients of this grant and also the academic year grant which is a really wonderful opportunity for all of us to see what research our colleagues are doing which is a really exciting thing but also for people who are planning to submit a proposal that was funded in the past. I’m really hopeful that we’ll have a good turnout for that I would encourage all the senators to attend that as well, so that’s scheduled for November 7th.”

Chair Sterns: “I suppose we could also put in a pitch for people who might want to serve on the committee.”

Dr. Gelfand responded: “I love that you put that out. I will be working hopefully with the Executive Committee on that, currently it’s a composition of the committee is not really perfect this year, so there’s some overrepresentation, some underrepresentation, those in the hard sciences and engineering really got hit this cycle and I would like to increase the number of scientists on that committee and alter distributions. So if you’re serious about research this is a great committee to be on and to see what all your colleagues are doing so I recommend it.”

Chair Sterns: “**Student Affairs**, I do know that related to Student Affairs that there is now an ongoing discussion of the revision of the student conduct code. Do you, permission for Dr. Fey to speak? Would you like to say anything about it?”

Dr. Fey: “Thank you, good afternoon. The code in it’s last revision state has just been given to me by the President’s Office through Candace Campbell-Jackson and I’ve already committed to get it back to her by tomorrow which I’ve just finished reading it by the way. And I think it’s in a condition it will be back to you and I think she has a commitment to bring it back to the Senate probably within the next ten days or two weeks, to the committee. So I think it’s ready for review.”

Chair Sterns: “My understanding is she asked us to suggest some people to serve on a kind of review committee that’s going to meet early next week and then it will then go to the appropriate committee here which would be Student Affairs. And then Student Affairs would then bring it forward to the next Senate meeting.”

Chair Sterns asked for the **Computing and Communications Technology Committee** report.

Professor Hoffman: “Thank you senator, I submitted a report I’m here to answer questions. I can say that we spent most of the fall talking the myriad details of handing out a thousand new laptops and more details about what will happen to the other laptops that were recalled back from service and where those are going so we spent most of our time working on that.”

Chair Sterns: “Would you indulge a personal question? I’d like to know when my iPhone is going to work with Tsunami on this campus.”

Professor Hoffman: “I’ll have to get back to you on that one.”

Senator Erickson asked what is going to be done with the returned computers.

Professor Hoffman replied: “They had a lot more requests than expected from departments to use the recalled machines as labs, mobile labs. So I think when they issued that call they had expected one or two departments and were sort of inundated with requests. So now it’s sort of going through to sort of see do we have enough machines to meet the demand and if not what are we going to do to move forward. They have refurbished many of the machines that were collected right now so they are sort of in process in that.”

Senator Elliott asked if there will be an option to keep the XP operating system, or will Vista be pushed to our machines at some point?

Professor Hoffman replied that “it doesn’t appear at this time that Vista will be anything we need to worry about immediately. It seems that there are other software companies besides Microsoft and those companies don’t necessarily make their software compliant just because there’s a new version of windows. So the challenge is that we have to go through that process of testing everything. So that the testing won’t be completed probably till June and right now I would imagine from where we are it would be fall at the earliest but I do not know that there is plan to say you must take Vista anytime in the near future.”

Chair Sterns commented that that SPSS is not compatible with Vista. For many SPSS is the statistical program of choice. So there are some of those kinds of issues that are there.

Chair Sterns turned next to the **General Education Advisory Committee** report.

Dr. Ramsier: “Happy to answer questions. We really covered two issues so far this semester. We’ve been trying to follow up on the courses that are in the undergraduate bulletin that are labeled in the general education section trying to make sure that departments are actually offering them so that when students see them in the new bulletin that they know that they’ll be able to take them. And second, we have a proposal from the Department of History that would impact many students on campus to modify the world civilizations and area studies courses. Initially our comments went to the department and we’ve opened a rich dialogue really with the department about the role of the general education curriculum on campus. I think we’ll be hearing more about that later in the semester.”

Chair Sterns: “I was curious to know more about the thinking regarding the World Civilizations courses going from 300 to 200, cause obviously that affects upper level distributional requirements. Could you tell us a little bit about how that emerged?”

Dr. Ramsier replied: “Exactly, well that was the proposal was to across the board change all of the World Civilization courses from 300 to 200 level and the prerequisites from 64 credits hours to 32 period, with no changes to the curriculum. I think we sent the committee responded with at least a

page and a half of concerns have a dozen bulleted items. The discussion has then turned to what do the Area Studies courses actually do? If you look across the landscape, world history may be actually better model for bring history up to speed, when thinking about globalization rather than area studies which are very localized. I think that the department is thinking about that as an option now where they may actually just replace the world civ courses with a world history course. That will be up to the faculty of course, but the discussion has been quite rich about what can we really expect these courses to do for our students. So it's back to the department for their consideration."

Chair Sterns thought it interesting that they were going to go from 300 to 200 with no change in the curriculum. He thought some adjustment would be made.

Dr. Ramsier said the committee was similarly inclined. Either the students are not really being challenged at the 300 level currently or they will not be prepared for the challenges of the same course but at a 200 level. It either has to be one or other, that was their main concern.

Senator Gerlach: "Perhaps we ought to know what kind of reasoning or example of the reasoning that the History Department gave to lower the course level from 300 to 200. What is their main argument for doing this?"

Dr. Ramsier: "I don't have the proposal in front of me but I can try to paraphrase. I believe that in the interest of global thinking, giving students the opportunity to take courses about other cultures and parts of the world earlier in their academic career would seem logical. That was the basic premise. Now the prerequisite is 64 credits, so you really have to be Junior before you're even allowed to take it. They thought if they made it 32 credits at the 200 level it would be more attractive to academically younger students which would then engage them into thinking more globally."

Senator Gerlach then asked "which courses in the general education section are no longer being offered. You said you're considering deleting courses from the general education section of the undergraduate bulletin that are no longer being offered, can you give us an example of what's no longer being offered in there."

Dr. Ramsier: "Well, I don't remember the exact course titles, there were about six or seven courses, listed in our bulletin, that have not been offered in at least the last three years. So we did a search of within the last three years or it's been longer so we basically sent out a memo to the Chair of each department asking whether this specific course they had planned to offer it next year and what the rationale was for why they hadn't offered it and if they were on the way to fix that so that they would offer it next year. With the provision that if they weren't going to offer it in the next bulletin we would have it not show up. It would still be on the curriculum but it wouldn't necessarily be on the Gen Ed page of the bulletin and all the chairs except one responded back they fully intend to offer it next year."

Senator Gerlach suggested that when the General Education Advisory Committee next reports to us they might supply further information about the courses that were not being offered and now are to be offered again.

Dr. Ramsier indicated that he has that information, but did not include it in the report.

Senator Bohland: “Dr. Ramsier, in light of some of these confusions and obviously courses not being offered for a few years, are there any plans to start with a blank sheet of paper for the general education requirements and start over?”

Dr. Ramsier: “It would take a lot of faculty to do that. I think that one of the recommendations, we needed to confirm with History, is to really get engaged with the Higher Learning Commission Assessment Academy work that’s online in the Institute Of Teaching And Learning which is exactly about defining learning outcomes, what becomes and what it means to have a general education curriculum and how it helps our students be more successful in their major and the connection of those two. So a blank sheet of paper is probably a little radical. But the type of discussion that occurred when we responded to the Department of History is exactly the kind of thing we want to have happening and if the Department of History proposes the change the proposal such that it has a different vision we would hope that other departments would follow that offer a lot of gen ed courses in the same direction so it might be quite a really interesting year.”

Chair Sterns: “Rudy Fenwick is not able to be here this afternoon so we will wait for his report [Ohio Faculty Council], I will tell you that he and I will journey tomorrow to Columbus for the next meeting of the Chairs of Faculty Senates and representatives.”

Senator Gerlach: “Since you’re going to this meeting would you remind Dr. Fenwick and remind yourself what that the report he gave to us last meeting that he would bring this issue of House Bill 315 before this group with a view of soliciting their support.”

Chair Sterns: “I know that we have good advocacy for House Bill 315 and it’s an important one. Can I turn to the report of the **University Council Exploratory Committee**?”

Dr. Ramsier: “The University Council Exploratory Committee has been meeting often in January we had bi-weekly meetings scheduled and our deadline is to present something for the Senate’s consideration by the end of this month for the March Senate meeting. I think we are actually moving in that direction and I know that Chairman Sterns was at our last meeting, he may have some comments about our approach but I think it looks like we are going to have something that people will understand. We’re merging the written document that the committee generated with the PowerPoint presentation you saw here and then using that merged, as we call it, merged document to respond to the feedback we received from all the constituencies that provided the feedback. That, the revision is what will be presented here in March.”

Chair Sterns: “Any questions regarding the University Council Exploratory Committee? They are busy at work and I’m hoping that in the next month we can really dramatically move ahead. I think we have a model that offers us a great deal and I think if we can convince some folks to join the enterprise in a new way that would be very helpful.”

IV. Old Business - Senator Stratton reminded the Senate that last month several motions were made and passed, but there was some question as to whether or not we had a quorum of the Senate. It was his understanding that this body should reaffirm the motions that were made at the last meeting so to make sure that everything is okay.

Senator Gerlach asked if we have a quorum today.

Chair Sterns and Senator Stratton confirmed there were thirty-one Senators present which is a quorum.

Senator Gerlach indicated that Senator Stratton made a motion for reaffirmation of actions that were taken that needed proper votes at the December 6th Senate meeting.

Chair Sterns called for a vote and the motion passed.

Senator Gerlach: “Just a question Mr. Chairman I should have asked Dr. Stratton this when he made his report. He simply mentioned that you got acknowledgement of communications with the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives did he just say thank you for your communication or commit himself to...

Senator Stratton read the letter, since it was relatively short. [See appendix J]

Chair Sterns noted there was no new business and proceeded to the Good of the Order.

V. New Business - none

VI. Good of the Order - Senator Bohland: “Thanks Mr. Chairman I had just a few brief things today. One is I had the good pleasure today to co facilitate a discussion among twenty undergraduate and graduate students this afternoon with Dr. Bill Lyons, a former member of this body and about regarding race relations on campus and the racial climate. One thing, one consensus that came out of this focus group if you want to call it was that the students felt that our faculty was not as diverse as they would like it to be. So I will bring that up at the Executive Committee meeting and maybe at least the matter will be referred to a committee, to at least research this and see if it’s actually true and see what if anything can be done about it. I’ve also been a part of the hiring process for our new Chief Diversity Officer which I assume would take this up as an issue but it’s not to say that we can not get ahead of the game on it before they come. And secondly, I just want to make the announcement that February 13th our ASG applications are due so if you know of any very ambitious students who would like to come to be a part of Associated Student Government and want to give back to their campus, please send them to the first floor of the Student Union where they can pick up applications. And that’s all thank you.”

Chair Sterns: “I think the whole process of the selection of this new Vice President and Chief Officer of Diversity the act of hearing the various presentations and the discussion; I think that does send us in the right direction. What I have been impressed about in the discussion is that it moves beyond just issues of human resources that it’s affect on campus curriculum, it’s affect on courses, and speakers and the whole set of issues on campus that it really have to do the task correctly. And I think we’ve had always a great deal of interest in diversity here on our campus but I think you’re right, you never can do enough and the issues over time need to be revisited and revisited and revisited. Any other comments for good of the order? Thank you all very much.”

VII. Adjournment - **Senator Gerlach** made the motioned to adjourn (Second Senator Bowman).

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Verbatim transcript prepared by Heather Loughney

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

APPENDICES TO MINUTES

FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2008

APPENDIX A

REPORT OF THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST, COO

FACULTY SENATE

February 7, 2008

- Welcome to Spring Semester!
- Updates about Searches: Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Equity (Chief Diversity Officer); College of Education Dean; UA Press Director
- Update about Enrollment
- Quaker Square: Allocation of Space other than Residence Halls and Inn at Quaker Square
- College of Fine and Applied Arts Proposal to Faculty Senate Executive Committee
- Higher Education in the News: NEO Commission, University System of Ohio, Re-authorization of HEA

APPENDIX B**Report to Faculty Senate from Graduate Council****Feb 7, 2008**

- Monthly meetings are being held and well attended
- All previous minutes and agendas are approved

Business discussed

- The McNair Scholars program has been refunded.
- : Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – H. Nunn presented a log of 35 graduate faculty applications as reviewed by the committee. Thirty-four applications were approved, and one application was referred back to the applicant for further information and clarification. The log of applications was unanimously approved as presented.

Li Jia	Loren Siebert	Robert B. Kent	Ghazi-Walid Falah
Deborah Owens	R. Ray Gehani	Roger C. Mayer	Mahesh Srinivasan
Kenneth Aupperle	Susan Hanlon	Emeka Ofobike	Julia Beckett
Alan S. Kornspan	Ruth A. Oswald	Cheryl L. Ward	John Cuzzocrea
Dena Hanley	Gabriel Giralt	Larry D. Snider	Therese Dowd
Kathleen R. Tusaie	Katharine Kolcaba	Irene Glanville	Harvey L. Sterns
Minel J. Braun	Javier Coronado-Aliegro	Charles Beneke	Matthew Kolodziej
Dimitre Stefanov	Truyen Nguyen	Alberto Montero	Michael Ferrara
Li Wang	Eric Sotnak		

- H. Nunn stated that M. Tausig has asked the Membership Committee to review the language for the rule governing *Ad Hoc* Temporary graduate faculty status. The use of the word “other” in the rule may prove problematic as full-time graduate faculty members, who do not meet the criteria for full-time graduate faculty status, are applying for *Ad Hoc* appointments. *Ad Hoc* Temporary status was not intended for full-time members of the UA Graduate Faculty. (The Membership Committee will submit proposed revised language for this rule at the next meeting for consideration)
- : Curriculum Committee – F. Moore presented a log of 43 proposals reviewed by the committee. Of the 43 proposals 42 were approved and one was referred back to the department. Council approved the log as distributed.
- : Graduate Faculty Membership Committee – H. Nunn presented a log of nine graduate faculty applications that were reviewed by the committee. Also approved were revised membership criteria for the Department of Counseling. Council approved the log as presented.

Jie Zheng	Lingyun Liu	John Huss	Travis M.R. Hreno	Chand Midha
Sherry Simms	Lynn S. Kline	Glenn Lauzon	Mary C. Verstraete	

- H. Nunn presented a draft revision of the procedures governing *Ad Hoc* Temporary graduate faculty status. Council reviewed the proposed revisions. After some discussion and suggestions for further revision it was decided to table approval of the draft until the next Council meeting.

- H. Li distributed a faculty profile for 2005-2006 she acquired from Institutional Research. This outlines the seven graduate degree granting colleges and the number of full- and part-time faculty in each. Discussion centered on the increase in part-time faculty and the effects, if any, on students. It was decided that more information is necessary to determine if this is a trend.

Prepared By: Alyison Leigh, GSG President; recreated from GC minutes

APPENDIX C

Academic Policies Committee Report February 7, 2008

At the time of this report, APC will have met twice this semester. We have bi-weekly meetings scheduled throughout Spring 2008. Issues we are addressing are:

Residency requirements: The number of credits required after the first associate's or bachelor's degree before the second can be awarded is under discussion.

Retroactive Change of Grade Request Policy: A new policy is being formatted for presentation to Senate.

Academic Reassessment: Reverting back to previous policy is under discussion.

Change of name for Department of Military Science: This change would be to the Department of Military Science and Leadership. If there are any concerns, please let the committee know before we prepare for the March Senate meeting.

Change of name for College of Education Office of Student Affairs: This change would be to the Office of Student Services. If there are any concerns, please let the committee know before we prepare for the March Senate meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Rex Ramsier.

APPENDIX D

Curriculum Review Committee Report February 7, 2008

At the time of this report, CRC will have met twice this semester. We have bi-weekly meetings scheduled throughout Spring 2008. Proposals we are addressing are primarily those involving distance learning:

ED-08-13: Drafting a committee response to revised submission

ED-08-08: Approved

ED-08-07: Approved

ED-08-03: Questions/comments sent to originating Dean. Response received and is under consideration.

ED-08-10: Questions/comments sent to originating Dean

FAA 08 033: Questions/comments sent to originating Dean

FAA-08-103: Questions/comments sent to originating Dean

SC-08-37: Not approved, rationale sent to originating Dean. Department responded with further information which is under consideration.

Respectfully submitted by Rex Ramsier.

APPENDIX E

Report of the Ad Hoc Facilities Planning Committee

7 February 2008

The committee met 12 December 2007. Mr. James Haskell of Capital Planning was invited to share updates on various University building projects:

A number of proposals for Quaker Square have been submitted by the deadline of 12 October 2007, but final utilization of retail/office spaces has not been decided.

The City of Akron is studying traffic and pedestrian crossing at East Exchange and Grant Streets. The City is responsible for street safety.

Construction of the stadium will begin in January 2008 and will eliminate a good number of parking spots at the demolished dorms (lot 9) as well as at Student Recreation and Wellness Center (lot 10) where construction materials/personnel will be staged.

A new dorm and associated parking is planned to be added to the stadium complex at Spicer Street.

A new multi-level parking deck is scheduled within two years for the surface lot (38) at Schrank South and Exchange Street. It may tie into the existing Exchange deck (39). Egress out of the existing deck may be reworked.

Committee concern was raised about students living in the Exchange St. dorm parking in the lots (38 & 41) across the street and decks (37 & 39), especially as weather worsens, and leaving cars there all week. Someone at the meeting reported that ASG endorsed out-lying parking for resident students living near campus-central parking.

A campus shuttle service has not been resolved; the committee and Mr. Haskell hope it to be determined before snow comes.

Committee concern was raised about students' safety on campus in the evening; the issue revolves around more and better campus lighting, call boxes, etc. Mr. Haskell shared paper copies of capital requests going forward several bienniums. Campus improvement projects (lighting, wayfinding, etc.) were requested with each budget. He noted that, as sometimes happens, other priorities take precedence.

Carroll Hall will be demolished in January to make room for the new home of The College of Education.

A next meeting was not scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,
John Vollmer, Chair

APPENDIX F

Faculty Research Committee
Senate Report
January 29, 2008

Laura Gelfand (Chair)

The Faculty Research Committee met November 2, 2007 to consider the newly established Academic-Year grant proposals. We had 13 proposals submitted and funded 5.

The Committee will be very busy during the month of February. The changes that we instituted this year have produced results. Historically, the committee has received about 40 summer grant proposals and has been able to fund nearly half of these. By increasing the amount of the summer grants to \$10,000 from \$8,000, and having the proposals submitted in January we increased the number of proposals received to 62. We will be able to fund 12-13 of these bringing our rate of funding to about 20%. The grants have become both more desirable and more competitive, two very positive results.

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs will be working with the Committee on a colloquium tentatively scheduled for November 7. We have reserved a room in the Union and plan to have each of the recipients of a Faculty Research Grant, both the summer and academic-year grants, present a 15-20 minute paper on their research. This will disseminate information gathered by these researchers to the University community and provide those who wish to apply for funding with an opportunity to see what projects the committee funded this year.

I look forward to working with the Executive Committee of the Senate this summer when they select new members for the committee. Currently we have a very hard working group of people but there is not enough representation from those in the sciences and engineering. I hope to be able to work on this with the EC next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Gelfand

APPENDIX G

To: Faculty Senate

From: Phil Hoffman, on behalf of the
Computing and Communication Technologies Committee

Date: February 7th, 2008

Subject: Report on Activities

The Computing and Communication Technologies Committee has met twice in the current academic year. Issues considered include:

The faculty laptop replacement program. This program deployed more than 1,000 computers into the hands of faculty members on the U.A. campus.

Re-deployment of previous faculty laptops. IT has been responding to requests from departments for laptops to be used in mobile student labs.

Roll out of Windows Vista and Office 2007 to university community. IT is testing Vista for compliance with third party software providers used in U.A. colleges. At this time there are several commonly used pieces of software that have not been Vista certified by their makers. IT plans to complete Vista testing and compliance by June 2008.

Office 2007 is available now to any faculty member. Faculty can fill out a request online for Office 2007 and the software will be pushed to their computer.

APPENDIX H

General Education Advisory Committee Report February 7, 2008

At the time of this report, GEAC will have met twice this semester. We have bi-weekly meetings scheduled throughout Spring 2008. Issues we are addressing are:

Deleting courses from the Gen. Ed. section of the undergraduate bulletin that are no longer being offered: Department Chairs were contacted and GEAC will continue to monitor the offering status of these courses to determine if a recommendation to remove them from the Gen. Ed. list is warranted.

Curriculum proposal AS-08-105: The Department of History proposes to lower all World Civilization courses from 300-level to 200-level, and to change the prerequisite from 64 credit hours to 32 credit hours, without any changes to the curriculum. Comments were sent to the originating Dean, and a meeting with the department will have occurred by the time of this report.

Respectfully submitted by Rex Ramsier.

APPENDIX I

**University Council Exploratory Committee
Report to the Faculty Senate
The University of Akron
February 7, 2008**

The committee met twice in January and has bi-weekly meetings planned throughout Spring 2008.

Discussion has focused on the substantive nature of the proposed University Council, committee structures on campus, and election of Council members by their constituencies. The following action steps are in progress:

- 1) The presentation given to Faculty Senate on Nov. 8, 2007 will be merged with the original Dec. 2006 committee proposal into one unified document.
- 2) We will use the merged document to respond to constituency feedback and prepare a new version to share with the campus by the end of February.

The Committee chairs will be prepared to respond to the Faculty Senate regarding the substantive nature of the proposal one week before the March 2008 Faculty Senate meeting (see Faculty Senate motion of November 8, 2007).

Respectfully submitted

Timothy Lillie and Rex Ramsier
Co-Chairs, University Council Exploratory Committee

APPENDIX J



Jon A. Husted
Speaker, 37th House District

December 12, 2007

Harvey L. Sterns
Chair, Faculty Senate
University of Akron
Akron, OH 44325

Dear Mr. Sterns:

I received your letter regarding House Bill 315. I appreciate you sharing your views on this measure and its importance to you as a retired teacher. I would also like to thank you for your years of service as an educator.

As you are likely aware, House Bill 315 sponsored by Representative Scott Oelslager was introduced and referred to the House Financial Institutions, Real Estate and Securities Committee on September 18.

Please know that providing for the well-being of our state's retired teachers is important to my colleagues and me in the Ohio House. As such, I will certainly be mindful of your support for this measure as it moves through the legislative process.

Again, thank you for your letter. If I can be of any further assistance, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon A. Husted".

Jon A. Husted
Speaker
Ohio House of Representatives

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