

## **Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of October 4, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate took place Thursday, October 4, 2012 in Room 201 of Buckingham. Senate Chair Rich called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Of the current roster of 59 Senators, 41 were present for this meeting, Senators Buldum, Cerrone, Cushing, Lazar and Sancaktar were absent with notice. Senators Chronister, Ducharme, Hamed, Klein, LiVecchi, C. Miller, Newton, Opoku-Agyeman, Rostedt, Scotto, Speers, and Zhe were absent without notice.

### **I. Approval of the Agenda**

Chair Rich asked if there was any objection to adding the adoption of the minutes of the September meeting to the agenda. There was no objection. Chair Rich called to adopt the proposed agenda.

**The agenda was adopted without dissent.**

### **II. Approval of the Minutes**

Senator Clark moved to adopt the proposed minutes of the September 6, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Senator Lillie.

**The minutes were adopted without dissent.**

### **III. Chairman's Remarks**

Chair Rich began his remarks by stating that it is time for the Faculty Senate to reassert its primacy as the academic policy making body at the University level. This is partly because of the recent changes in the University governance structure and is also something that needs to be done from time to time. The resolutions the Executive Committee will bring forward at this meeting are consistent with this perspective.

Triggered by his work on the Criminal Justice baccalaureate proposal, Chair Rich anticipates a substantive discussion in the Faculty Senate this year regarding the role of disciplines within a university and the role of interdisciplinary studies.

### **IV. Special Announcements**

Chair Rich reported the deaths of 4 members of the university community:

*Dr. George Prough*, Professor Emeritus of Marketing, died September 15<sup>th</sup>. He was 67.

*Alan N. Gent*, Professor Emeritus of Polymer Engineering and Polymer Physics, died September 20<sup>th</sup> in Ravenna. He was 84.

*Dr. Patricia Parr*, Professor and Program Coordinator of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program in the Department of Counseling in the College of Education, died September 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Sharon Butts Hays*, Project Director in the Department of History, died September 27<sup>th</sup> in Canton. She was 63.

The Senate stood for a moment of silence in memory of our deceased colleagues.

## **V. Reports**

### **Executive Committee**

Senator Bove reported as follows on behalf of the Executive Committee:

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on September 14<sup>th</sup> to certify the Senate election results from the College of Business Administration and to prepare for the meeting with the President and Provost later that afternoon. With the President and Provost, we discussed many items such as the status of the five Dean vacancies and plans to fill those vacancies, last year's changes to the undergraduate admissions policies, and the status of the Faculty Senate bylaw amendments with the need for a reporting mechanism back to Senate for enacted changes. We also discussed the Summit College regional campus issue, inquired about planning for faculty retirements in 2013 and 2015 in light of the recent Ohio pension systems revisions, and also the new UA Online initiatives. The EC also inquired about UA Culture Quest and how that intersected with academics. The Provost will ask Vice President Tressel to speak to the Faculty Senate about the Akron Experience & Culture Quest. We look forward to the presentation. The Provost informed us about his involvement on the Board of Regents' Complete College Ohio Taskforce and the President announced that Olivia P. Demas was recently appointed to the UA Board of Trustees.

The EC met again on September 27<sup>th</sup> to set the agenda for today's meeting. We also made appointments to the Ad hoc Committee on Part-time Faculty Issues and the UC Student Engagement and Success Committee.

The Executive Committee has three resolutions to bring forward (Appendix A) for the Senate's consideration:

#### Resolution 1

Whereas, faculty participation in decisions about the organization, mission, and naming of academic units is fundamental to the principle of faculty governance; and

Whereas, the faculty directly affected by such decisions have the greatest expertise to bring to bear on them;

*Resolved*, That the Faculty Senate will not approve any proposal to merge, consolidate, or reorganize academic units if the faculties of those units have not had an opportunity to deliberate about and vote on the proposal, nor will the Faculty Senate approve any proposal to rename an

academic unit or to substantially redefine its mission if the faculty of that unit has not had an opportunity to deliberate about and vote on the proposal.

Senator Clark moved to waive the one week rule which requires that action items be submitted to the Faculty Senate a week in advance of the meeting. Senator Erickson seconded the motion.

**The motion to waive the one week rule was adopted without dissent.**

Chair Rich called for debate on the resolution. There was no debate.

**The motion was adopted with one dissent**

#### Resolution 2

Whereas, Under University regulation 3359-10-02 (the bylaws of the Faculty Senate) “the Faculty Senate is the legislative body of the faculty regarding its academic mission and is empowered to 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 the board”;

*Resolved*, That although the Faculty Senate welcomes any ideas, suggestions, or proposals that the University Council or its committees may offer, the Faculty Senate has exclusive legislative jurisdiction at the university level over matters of academic policy, including academic advising and intervention with students to promote academic success.

Senator Steer moved to waive the one week rule which requires that action items be submitted to the Faculty Senate a week in advance of the meeting. Senator Witt seconded the motion.

**The motion to waive the one week rule was adopted with one dissent.**

Chair Rich called for debate on the resolution. Senator Lillie, as elected co-chair of University Council, rose to endorse the resolution.

**The motion was adopted without dissent**

#### Resolution 3

Whereas, The University of Akron would like to explore more cost effective measures to provide classroom clicker technology; and

Whereas, the faculty and students directly affected by such decisions have the greatest expertise to bring to bear on them;

*Resolved*, that the Faculty Senate create an ad hoc committee composed of faculty and student users of classroom clicker technology, to be appointed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, in order to craft an RFP, to vet vendor responses with open demonstrations for all faculty and students to attend and provide written feedback on, and to bring forward a recommendation to Faculty Senate for approval.

Senator Clark moved to waive the one week rule which requires that action items be submitted to the Faculty Senate a week in advance of the meeting. Senator Wesdemiotis seconded the motion.

**The motion to waive the one week rule was adopted without dissent.**

Chair Rich called for debate on the resolution. Senator Clark moved to amend the resolution by replacing “craft an RFP” with “review an RFP.” Senator Elliot seconded the motion to amend the resolution.

**The amended motion was adopted without dissent.**

**The main motion was adopted without dissent.**

### **Remarks of the President**

The President began his remarks by concurring with Chair Rich’s comments regarding the importance of clarifying the role of disciplines within a university and the role of interdisciplinary studies. He further encouraged the audience to read Stanley Eikenberry’s book, *Beyond Academic Departments*.

The President expressed great interest in the work of the ad hoc committee reviewing the criminal justice program and the role of Summit College. He provided a brief history of Summit College. In 1964 the former Municipal University of Akron Board of Directors created The University of Akron Community and Technical College. In 2004 the Board of Trustees changed the name to Summit College.

The Ohio Board of Regents and the Chancellor have expressed a desire to have low cost community college options in Summit County. As we explore the future options for Summit College, there is a possibility of converting Summit College into a branch campus to meet the Chancellor’s call.

The President also mentioned that Governor Kasich charged a small committee, chaired by Gordon Gee, to address education funding issues by constructing the SSI formula that will determine our funding levels for the next biennium.

The President reported on the Board of Regents visit to the university on September 13<sup>th</sup>. They held the regular meeting on campus and invited presentation from the President and the Provost to about The University of Akron. The President and Provost reviewed the university’s progress over the last decade and discussed future plans, such as Vision 2020.

On September 14<sup>th</sup> The Ohio Higher Education Technology Transfer and Commercialization Task Force met at Quaker Square for its fifth report on higher education. The session was well attended and the

President and Provost shared some of the Universities successes in this area. The President received many positive comments, especially centered on our engineering endeavors and the partnership with the Timken Company.

The President announced the appointment of Olivia P. Demas to the Board of Trustees as well as a newly appointed student trustee, Ryan Thompson.

The President also announced the formal dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Timken Engineered Services Laboratory in the new Engineering and Research Center on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

The University of Akron received two awards. The University has been designated as one of the *99 Best Places to Work in Northeast Ohio* for a fourth year in a row. The University was also ranked in the top 15 percent in the nation as a military friendly school.

The President concluded his remarks by announcing the date of the next Board of Trustees meeting, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Senator Witt asked the President to expand on how the state share of instruction (SSI) will impact the overall budget. The President stressed that the SSI formula is not a funding formula, but rather an allocation tool. Senator Witt asked that if we improve performance in areas, would SSI increase. The President believes that SSI will continue to decline in the foreseeable future.

Senator Loth asked for the President's thoughts on the University of Phoenix model now entering the top-end schools, like Stanford and MIT. The President is very sensitive to this topic and believes the University needs to move in this direction immediately; next month is too late.

Senator Sterns thanked the President for his support in bringing Dr. Ken Dychtwald to campus to interact with faculty and students.

### **Remarks of the Provost**

The Provost began his remarks by stating that the academic year is off to a great start and that the University's success is contingent on the success of our students. Student retention is an essential high priority, especially in light of the University's retention being down approximately 3% from last year. The Provost stressed that it is all of our responsibility to optimize the potential for our student's success in continued enrollment at The University of Akron.

The Provost also stated that the University is anxious to interact with faculty to clarify the University's role in the online arena. Some aspects of online learning will intersect with the retention strategy, because students can and enjoy learning through that interface.

The Provost highlighted the efforts to offer courses and programs to students at alternative hours of the day and days of the week. Currently there are 881 evening sections and 144 weekend sections that reach about 20,000 students.

The Provost also discussed the Achieving Distinction Initiative to foster and fund interdisciplinary activity. Twenty-seven proposals were submitted, all with great merit. The Biomimicry Program was one of the inaugural programs awarded funding.

The campus welcomed sixty-six new faculty to campus this year. By the end of the month, the Provost and VP Cummins will have more information regarding the allocation of faculty positions for FY13.

Senator Schaeffer alerted the Provost that students are having a difficult time purchasing text books because of the timing of financial aid awards. The Provost promised to look into this issue.

Senator Witt asked the Provost if new faculty hires are contingent on the instructor's ability to enhance revenue through grants or online instruction. The Provost said that no particular set of criteria or standards have been established.

## **VI. Senate Elections**

### **Vice-Chair**

Chair Rich called for nominations. Senator Moritz nominated Senator Miller. Senator Erickson moved that the nominations be closed and that Senator Miller be elected by acclamation. Senator Schaeffer seconded the motion.

**The motion was adopted without dissent.**

## **VII. Committee Reports**

### **Curriculum Review Committee**

Senator Hajjafar reported a motion from the committee to approve a list of curriculum proposals (Appendix B). These proposals had no objections filed against them.

**The motion was adopted without dissent.**

### **Ad hoc Committee on Part-time Faculty Issues**

Senator Osorio reported that the committee met on September 18<sup>th</sup> (Appendix C) and discussed several issues. The first of which was the August 2012 faculty orientation. Although some current part-time and new part-time faculty attended the orientation, it seemed to be structured for full-time faculty. Human Resources (HR) did not have information on-hand regarding part-time faculty issues and could not answer many questions posed by the part-time faculty. The committee is looking into ways to correct this for the August 2013 faculty orientation.

The committee is also in the process of compiling the results of the part-time faculty survey and will share the results with the Faculty Senate when complete.

The committee also discussed the idea of presenting a resolution to amend the Faculty Senate bylaws in order to establish the ad hoc committee as a standing committee of the Faculty Senate.

The committee also discussed how part-time faculty can be represented on University Council in order to leverage how decisions are made for the annual review of part-time faculty salary.

### **Report of the University Council Representatives**

Senator Lillie began his report by responding to Senator Osorio's comments regarding part-time faculty representation on University Council. By virtue of membership on Faculty Senate, part-time faculty are represented on University Council by their Faculty Senate Representatives (Senator Lillie, Senator Erickson, and Senator Witt).

Senator Lillie delivered a brief history of the formation of the UC. The UC constituents drafted a set of governing bylaws based on the existing bylaws of the Faculty Senate. Those bylaws were agreed to by every constituency proposed to compose the UC. The bylaws were presented to the Rules Committee of the Board of Trustees who responded with a request to use those bylaws as a principle resource for the creation of a set of bylaws while the University leadership would work on ways to develop the University Council further, including a clearer role and representation for the Provost.

Senator Lillie stated that there is now a fundamental confusion over the function and future of the University Council. In stark contrast to the original bylaws proposed by the UC Exploratory Committee, the UC is viewed by some as being purely advisory to the administration and only if the administration wishes to consult the UC. The UC steering committee is in the process of clarifying this issue and once clarified will shed light on other issues and the future direction for shared governance at The University of Akron.

### **VIII. New Business**

There was no new business.

### **IX. Good of the Order**

There were no comments for the good of the order.

### **X. Adjournment**

Senator Hajjafar moved to adjourn the meeting. Senator Raber seconded the motion.

**The motion was adopted without dissent.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Any comments concerning the contents in *The University of Akron Chronicle* may be directed to the Secretary, Frank J. Bove (x5104).

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October 4, 2012

**APPENDIX A**

**Resolutions brought by the Executive Committee to the Faculty Senate October 4, 2012**

**Resolution 1**

Whereas, faculty participation in decisions about the organization, mission, and naming of academic units is fundamental to the principle of faculty governance; and

Whereas, the faculty directly affected by such decisions have the greatest expertise to bring to bear on them;

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**Resolution 2**

Whereas, Under University regulation 3359-10-02 (the bylaws of the Faculty Senate) “the Faculty Senate is the legislative body of the faculty regarding its academic mission and is empowered to 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 the board”;

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**Resolution 3**

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**APPENDIX B**

**Curriculum Proposals**

Curriculum List for Faculty Senate  
October 4, 2012

Has attach?	Description	Activity	Received	Proposal Type	Proposal Title	Degree/Certificate/ Minor Type	Notes
Yes (5)	A&S-PSYCH-11-0688	FSEC Review	5/18/2012 10:34	COURSECHANGE	History of Psychology		
Yes (1)	A&S-MATH-12-3563	F5 Review	5/21/2012 10:23	COURSECHANGE	Analytic Geometry-Calculus I		
Yes (2)	SUMM-PUBSVCTECH-12-2367	F5 Review	5/21/2012 13:44	COURSENEW	Crisis Leadership		
Yes (2)	A&S-SOCIO-12-3191	F5 Review	5/22/2012 9:49	COURSECHANGE	Introduction to Sociology		
Yes (13)	A&S-CLASS-12-2914	F5 Review	5/22/2012 13:22	MINORCHANGE	Interdisciplinary Anthropology	BACCALAUREATE	
Yes (3)	BUS-BUSDEAN-12-3214	F5 Review	6/26/2012 12:46	PROGRAMCHANGE	Business Interdisciplinary	MASTERS	

**APPENDIX C**

**Minutes of the ad hoc Committee on Part-time Faculty Issues**

COPTI (The Ad hoc Committee on Part time Issues) met on September 18, 2012.

Present were: Shannon Osorio, Kathy Cerrone, Parizad Debjord Sawan, Michael Lyndall, Eric Mundy, Lawrence Weigle

1. Discussion of Faculty Orientation held August 21, 2012
  - a. Passed a motion to present a Resolution to the Faculty Senate regarding Part time Faculty Orientation. Committee will gather more information and create wording for a future resolution.
2. Part-time Faculty Survey—report tabled until October when Eric Mundy will have the results compiled in tables.
3. Discuss actions to make COPTI a Standing Committee in the Faculty Senate
  - a. Passed a motion to present a Resolution to the Faculty Senate. Committee will investigate further what is required to change the status and create wording for a future resolution.
4. Discuss action steps to move forward with getting part-time faculty representation on the University Council
  - a. Committee recognizes the importance of the UC, particularly as regards fulfilling the requirement of the Rules that PT salaries be reviewed annually. Committee will investigate further the possibility of representation (PT Faculty) on the UC. Committee will work on drafting a brief for the UC requesting that PT salaries be reviewed.