

The University of Akron
Staff Employee Advisory Committee (S.E.A.C.)
Minutes for May 27, 2009

Members and Attendance:

Name	Position	Attendance
Jean Andrick		Absent w/notice
Gary Beckman		Present
Mary Dingler		Present
Jeri Farwell		Absent w/notice
Lissia Gerber	Vice Chair	Present
Jim Shuster		Present
Laura Spray	Treasurer	Present
Bob Stachowiak	Chair	Present
Mary Tabatcher	Secretary	Absent w/notice
Lindsie Webb		Absent w/notice
Pam Woodall Caine		Present
Joy LiCause	Ex-officio	Absent w/notice

Meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of the month at 12:30 PM. However, May's meeting was rescheduled for 5/27/09.

Meeting called to order at 12:45 PM.

Review minutes for April 16, 2009 at Wayne College.
No comments April minutes accepted.

Awards & Recognitions Sub-Committee Meeting of October 24, 2008 (Joint meeting with 2 members of CPAC) - Mary Dingler, Chair (reporting), Jean Andrick, Jeri Farwell, Jim Shuster & Pam Woodall Caine

Mary Dingler indicated that she felt that there should be an opportunity to have SEAC input on what type of gifts are given. HR liasions to talk to A.G. Monaco to determine if SEAC can contribute. Discussion about persons who were "missed" and not given service awards and why. Overall considered a good event with a good turnout.

Benefits & Wellness Committee - Laura Spray & Jeri Farwell:

Nothing to report

Board of Trustees - Gary Beckman & Jeri Farwell reporting (www.uakron.edu/bot/):

Copier management program approved by board of trustees. Lake Business Programs is the approved vendor. Is not a mandatory program. After that the board went into executive session.

Budget Hearing Committee – Lissia Gerber

Units presented two scenarios – current budget and a 10% cut budget. Looking for common themes or areas where savings could be implemented. Presentations rated, (still in process) then to be turned over to budget executive committee.

By-Laws - Laura Spray (reporting), Jeri Farwell, Lindsie Webb & Joy LiCause (ex-officio):

No Report

Faculty Senate - Lissia Gerber & Mary Tabatcher (reporting)

(<http://www.uakron.edu/president/facultySenate/>): Following are the activities from the Faculty Senate meeting held on May 7th.

The Faculty Senate awarded Dr. Elizabeth Stroble a plaque in gratitude for her good service to the University of Akron and the Faculty Senate during her tenure as Senior Vice President/Chief Operating Officer.

Approved minutes from the April 2nd meeting.

The Executive Committee met on 4/23 with the president ; Faculty Senate chair Sterns congratulated the president on exceeding the goals of the capital campaign. At the 4/30 meeting, a discussion ensued regarding faculty who were denied Professional Development Leave. Faculty Senate was told that all leave requests were evaluated in accordance with the terms of the AAUP contract. Those denied PDL were sent letters advising them on requesting leave for next year.

The President discussed the success of the capital campaign and indicated that \$218,000 is in specialized engineering software which was the result of a new partnership with the software company after they dropped a number of high-level universities. Dr. Proenza was quite pleased that UA was the beneficiary.

UA will not likely see a difference in the state budget for the rest of this fiscal year; even though the state is anticipating a budget shortfall of \$600-900 million next year, the language is still hopeful regarding higher ed. Many are concerned that the budget is one-time dollars from the federal stimulus. We are enjoying success – it is the best of times and the worst of times and we have been shoring up for some time through the strategic planning steering committee process. Thanks UA for a good year!

Dr. Stroble expressed appreciation for the plaque and resolution; it was meaningful and she has enjoyed her years at UA and working with Faculty Senate to advance the cause. Dr. David Baker and she are walking in tandem for the remainder of her time here in order to pass the baton in an efficient manner.

Student appreciation day is scheduled for September 9th.

Unfinished business regarding summer voting was brought to the attention of the Faculty Senate. A proposed Faculty Senate bylaw change would specify, “When necessary, act on behalf of the senate during summer, etc.” This would give the Executive Committee permission to act for faculty senate in summer and report any action taken at the first fall meeting. Faculty Senate would then be able to ratify those actions. Without this rule, the Executive Committee would not be able to act during the summer. The proposed change was passed unanimously.

The University Council Bylaws were brought before the senate. Senator Gandee proposed that Faculty Senate representation be increased to six members. Senator Rich pointed out that trying to increase Faculty Senate seats on the University Council at this late date would be a poison pill

because other constituencies would not approve it because it would give Faculty Senate more power.

A motion was made to approve the University Council bylaws as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

Questions came up regarding whether instructors and lecturers are part of the electorate in Faculty Senate and whether they are eligible to be elected. Since they are not considered "regular" faculty, they currently cannot be senators. Should instructors and lecturers be part of apportionment, voting, membership in Faculty Senate? The issue is that part-time instructors ARE represented, so why should full-time instructors and lecturers be excluded since they are members of the bargaining faculty and fully benefitted. What happens to tenure-track faculty who do not receive tenure? Most college lecturers and instructors are in Arts and Sciences and Fine and Applied Arts. The Executive Committee promised to review it and bring the results of the review to the body for consideration. A motion was made to postpone this discussion until Faculty Senate finds out how many instructors and lecturers are involved. Faculty Senate meetings are always held on the first Thursday of the month, except during summer. Faculty Senate will start again in September.

OSCHE (Ohio Staff Council on Higher Education) - Bob Stachowiak (Chair) & Lissia Gerber (Vice Chair) and (Lindsie Webb alternate):

Business meeting discussed election by-laws, web site and general business. Afternoon session reviewed a report of the fire that occurred in the LCC tunnels. Hot topics revolved around layoffs and economic concerns.

Summer Conference is June 18th and 19th in Dayton.

Chair and Vice Chair as reps should go if approved by supervisors. Alternates should notify the treasurer by Monday.

Performance Evaluation Committee - Lissia Gerber & Mary Tabatcher:

Safety Committee - Bob Stachowiak (reporting):

Draft of Visual Surveillance system policy presented. Student survey results on feelings of crime and safety discussed.

No more meetings until September.

Social Committee - Jean Andrick (Co-Chair), Gary Beckman (Co-Chair) reporting, Mary Dingler, Pam Woodall Caine:

Should be getting together soon to discuss Eday. 15 page Draft document will be presented

Treasurer's Report – Laura Spray (reporting):

\$1988.48 in the account with no outstanding expenditures.

This will still need to cover OSCHC costs which could run no more than \$400.00

University Council - Bob Stachowiak & Joy LiCause (ex-officio) reporting:

By-laws were approved at the last Faculty Senate meeting, now headed to the BOT

Web Team - Jim Shuster:

March meeting minutes missing but now updated.

Jim to have training soon on new web template.

New Business:

All members received anonymous letter. Due to the fact that the letter was anonymous the committee felt that there was no recourse that the committee could take.

Old Business:

Elections

Nominations begin ASAP end on June 9th, Elections start 11th end on the 25th, Notify the president and hope to have results in time for attendance at the July meeting.

Motion made to move the June meeting to the 25th due to conflict with the OSCHE conference.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made to move the July meeting to the 23rd passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 PM.

Next meeting is on 25th at 12:30 PM in UAPD Conference Room.