

University Council

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

3 – 5 PM

STUDENT UNION 312

MEETING CALLED BY	Harvey Sterns, chair
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
PRESIDER	Harvey Sterns, chair
NOTE TAKER	Kim Haverkamp
ATTENDEES	<p>Member: Phillip Allen, Linda Barrett, Megan Bodenschatz, Julie Cajigas, Mike Cheung, Brianna DiMichele, Elizabeth Erickson, Tonia Ferrell, Nick Golina, Diane Gorse, Marjorie Hartleben, Nancy Homa, Kristin Koskey, Kristine Kraft, Isaac Lampner, Chand Midha, Ruth Nine-Duff, Marina Pelemis, Rex Ramsier, Jeanne-Helene Roy, Shiva Sastry, Michael Spayd, Harvey Sterns, Cassie Verardi, Matt Wilson</p> <p>Absent with notice: Michelle Byrne, Nancy Marion</p> <p>Other Attendees: Jessica DeFago, John Green, John MacDonald, Nathan Mortimer, Zak Steiner</p>

Agenda topics:

3:00 – 3:02 CALL TO ORDER HARVEY STERNS

DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The chair called the meeting to order. He asked for additions to the agenda. There being none, the agenda was approved as distributed by unanimous consent. The chair asked for additions or corrections to the August 9 University Council (UC) minutes. There being none, the agenda was approved as distributed by unanimous consent.
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3:02 – 3:06 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT HARVEY STERNS

DISCUSSION	The chair reviewed the attached August 16 UC Executive Committee minutes .
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3:06 – 3:14 PRESIDENT’S REMARKS MATT WILSON

DISCUSSION	<p>President Wilson thanked members for their service to University Council. He asked members to look at issues/ideas with shared responsibility and to be flexible, creative, and innovative. Doing things for the sake of tradition may not be the best route.</p> <p>He talked about a Japanese company he worked for that challenged employees to find something within their division/department to improve upon – this is the mentality he would like everyone to have. He encouraged members to think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What best serves our students • What can we do to make something better • How can we be more efficient <p>He is happy to be part of the UC and looks forward to working with everyone to better the institution.</p>
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3:14 – 3:25	<p style="text-align: center;">PROVOST'S REMARKS REX RAMSIER</p>
	<p>Provost Ramsier discussed the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) visit scheduled for mid-February (Valentine's Day). The campus community (including undergraduate and graduate students) has been asked to submit evidence from their own experience that demonstrates that we meet one or more of the HLC's criteria. He stressed the importance of campus participation and asked members to complete the survey. He also asked USG and GSG leadership to encourage students to participate.</p> <p>The UC Bylaws were approved by the Board of Trustees in June 2016. Now, we must prove to the HLC team that University Council is functioning effectively.</p> <p>There are UC members on the HLC writing teams. A draft of the HLC report will be posted online for a 10-day public comment period in November and the final report will be submitted to HLC in mid-December. During the HLC site visit, there will be an open forum for students, faculty and staff.</p> <p>More information is available at www.uakron.edu/hlc.</p>
3:06 – 3:25	<p style="text-align: center;">UNFINISHED BUSINESS HARVEY STERNS</p>
	<p>There were none at this time.</p>
3:25 – 3:45	<p style="text-align: center;">BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE IN-DEPTH STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NATHAN MORTIMER AND SHIVA SASTRY</p>
DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nathan Mortimer and Shiva Sastry presented the attached FY16-FY18 Budget Conversation PowerPoint. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following is a summary of the discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FY16 financial metrics for higher education were discussed. Nathan will share the FY17 metrics with the Budget and Finance Committee in November. • \$18 million of university reserves will be used to stabilize the FY17 budget. We will manage the budget through position control. • Ernst & Young will provide a snapshot of UA's financial situation and help us find ways to save money and generate revenue. • Ohio put a freeze on tuition. The Legislature may put a cap on fees. The Senate has challenged Universities to develop a plan to reduce the cost of attendance by 5%. • The Budget and Finance Committee will bring the FY18 budget proposal to the UC. 2. The following motion was made regarding IDC funds: <p>WHEREAS, the University Council Budget and Finance Committee finds that there is approximately \$1.8 million in 270 accounts accumulated over the years that comprise the current faculty component of Indirect Cost Recovery (IDC) distribution; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the members of the Budget and Finance Committee believe that the release of these said funds is important for supporting research of the individual investigators; and</p>

WHEREAS, the members of the Budget and Finance Committee believe that releasing these funds to the individual Principal Investigators will not cause excessive burden on the finances of the University of Akron; and
WHEREAS, the members of the Budget and Finance Committee recognize that it would be better to delay the creation of policies governing the finances of the institution until the upcoming review of the finances has been completed by the externally engaged party Ernst and Young; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Budget and Finance Committee, after due consideration, find that the release of these said funds will help to improve the morale among faculty; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the University Council Budget and Finance Committee unanimously recommends the release of said \$1.8 million in 270 individual accounts to the respective individual Principal Investigators for use in accordance with the policies established for expenditure of IDC funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University Council recommends that released IDC be expended in a manner which facilitates the PI's research activities and research portfolio and, it is expended prudently as it is University Council's desire for the released funds to remain available for PI expenditures should the funds remain unexpended on June 30, 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University Council Budget and Finance Committee recognizes this resolution as a tactical fiscal decision and not as an enduring permanent policy. The University Council further recommends that a broader institutional policy be pursued and implemented regarding the intended purpose of IDC and its collection, allocation, and expenditures.

The motion carried by a secret ballot vote of 18 in favor and 2 opposed.

3:45 – 4:50

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE
CHAIRS

DISCUSSION

Communications: The committee is working on developing goals and elected officers.

Information Technology: The committee discussed a laptop refresh and the idea of changing student emails from Gmail to Office 365.

Institutional Advancement: The committee is working on developing goals and will electing officers soon.

Physical Environment:

1. The following motion was made:

At the September 8 meeting, the Physical Environment Committee recommended the following resolution to be presented to the University Council.

The Physical Environment Committee supports the move of the Graduate School offices from Polsky to the 5th floor of Leigh Hall pending the final assignment of office space and the move of Institutional Research into new office space in Zook Hall. The move is recommended contingent on the availability of funds to support such move.

The motion carried by a secret ballot vote of 17 in favor and 2 opposed.

	<p>2. The following motion and amendment was made: At the September 8 meeting, the Physical Environment Committee recommended the following resolution to be presented to the University Council.</p> <p>The Physical Environment Committee supports the request from Dean John Green to move Geography from CAS to Crouse Hall, rooms 213 and 217. The move is recommended contingent on the availability of funds to support such move. The amendment carried by a secret ballot vote of 16 in favor and 3 opposed. The motion carried as amended by a secret ballot vote of 16 in favor and 1 opposed.</p> <p>Student Engagement and Success: The committee finalized goals. The administrator thanked UC members for their support of Blue and Gold Day. A UC member commended the Student Success Team on the success of New Student Convocation.</p> <p>Recreation and Wellness: The committee finalized goals and discussed a UC Clinic Integration proposal.</p> <p>Talent Development and Human Resources: The committee is continuing to look at performance evaluations at other universities. They are planning to meet with the Williams Honors College dean to discuss training workshops. They are planning to meet with the Recreation and Wellness Committee to discuss benefits.</p> <p>Chair Sterns reminded the standing committees that they should be fully functional and actively involved in the governance process as soon as possible.</p>
4:50 – 5:00	<p style="text-align: center;">NEW BUSINESS</p> <p style="text-align: right;">HARVEY STERNS</p>
DISCUSSION	<p>There were none at this time.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. by unanimous consent.</p>