

The University of Akron  
Minutes of the Graduate Faculty  
April 16, 2008

Dr. George Newkome called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Present: Aigbe Akhigbe, Phil Allen, Heather Blake, NJ Brown, Kathleen Clark, Michelle Hoo Fatt, Marlene Huff, Karin Jordan, Kevin Kern, Timothy Lillie, Del Rey Loven, Therese Lueck, Chand Midha, Susan Olson, Timothy O'Neil, Wolfgang Pelz, Kathleen Ross-Alaolmolki, Mark Tausig, and David Witt

Absent with Notice: James Rogers

1. Dr. Wolfgang Pelz moved to approve the minutes of the 2007 Graduate Faculty meeting. The minutes were approved.
2. Reports

Dr. Kevin Kern, Vice Chair of Graduate Council, shared his report from the Graduate Council. A copy of the report is attached.

Ms. Cheryl Kern-Simirenko, Dean of University Libraries, provided a report to those graduate faculty members present. An outline of her report is attached.

- New titles available in the Library
- Library newsletter distributed to faculty and staff and available on the Dean of University Libraries webpage

Mr. Jim Sage, Vice President for Information Technology Services, was unable to attend. A report was provided by his office for the record. A copy of that report is attached.

Ms. Alyison Leigh, President of Graduate Student Government was unable to attend. Dr. Mark Tausig, advisor to this student organization, said that GSG has become more active this year through sponsoring research awards, a graduate student colloquium, and involvement with the Conference on Undergraduate and Graduate Student Research.

Dr. Mark Tausig, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, provided a report to the graduate faculty.

- Graduate student headcount and credit hour production is up.
- Graduate School has started to support efforts by faculty in the recruitment of students from diverse backgrounds through providing funding for attendance at research conferences, etc. that feature undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds.
- Meeting with Lee Gill, new Chief Diversity Officer, to discuss ways to increase diversity among graduate students.

- Doctoral programs (excluding Education) were evaluated as part of the National Research Council Assessment of Doctoral programs. This is done every ten years. Such assessment creates benchmarks and ranks programs. Release of this data tentatively scheduled for Fall 2008.
- A technical writing course will be piloted this fall semester with the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering. The goal is to make certain all graduate students can write competently in English. This is mainly for international students; however all graduate students can benefit.
- Conference on Undergraduate and Graduate Student Research (CUGSR) held on March 27 this year. Approximately 180 students presented research in poster or oral presentations.
- Graduate assistantship stipends will increase by 3% this year. A memo has been sent to the college deans notifying them of this.
- Undertaking a study of attrition and completion rates of students at the master's and doctoral levels. Results not yet distributed; however, there appears to be a pattern across disciplines. Losing master's students around the first and third semesters, and losing doctoral students in the even semesters. This may be related to comprehensive examinations or development of a dissertation topic.
- The Department of Psychology has a new joint degree program with Cleveland State University. This is a doctoral program in Adult Development and Aging.

### 3. Action Items Referred from Graduate Council

#### Amendment to 3359-24-01 Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty

A copy of the proposed amendment is attached. Changes related to application for *Ad Hoc* Temporary graduate faculty status and the issue that full-time tenure track faculty should not be applying for Ad Hoc status when unable to meet the criteria for full-time graduate faculty membership.

Discussion ensued relative to this proposed amendment.

- Suggestion that *Ad Hoc* Temporary status be granted for a brief period of time [one year] for those whose had full-time graduate faculty status and lost it due to lack of publications.
- Suggestion that Ad Hoc Temporary status be granted for a brief period of time [one to two years] for those newly hired full-time faculty coming from industry as exceptional in their field; however, lack publications.

Dr. Kevin Kern cited a section of the *Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty*, which states:

*Persons who do not meet all of the preceding criteria but who are recognized by their departmental/school colleagues as being highly qualified in their special*

*fields of study may be nominated in a specific category by the Graduate Faculty of a department/school for membership in the Graduate Faculty.*

Dr. Mark Tausig responded by stating that departments have this prerogative, and if they are submitting an Ad Hoc Temporary application for a full-time faculty member then a detailed rationale for the request must be provided.

Dr. Mark Tausig reminded those present that for the sake of time a decision needs to be made regarding the proposed amendment. Dr. Phil Allen made a motion to approve the amendment as presented. Dr. Michelle Hoo Fatt seconded this motion. The amendment to 3359-24-01 *Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty* was unanimously approved.

4. Old Business

There was no old business for discussion.

5. New Business

Dr. David Witt questioned whether or not there was a policy on what is appropriate work for graduate assistants.

Dr. George Newkome responded that work undertaken by graduate assistants should be pedagogically in the best interest of the student. A teaching assistant should be teaching, and a research assistant should be conducting research.

Dr. David Witt asked if there is money available for graduate students attending conferences.

Dr. Mark Tausig responded that the Graduate School has no funds to support graduate students attending conferences.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather A. Blake  
Graduate School

## Report of the Vice Chair

2008 Graduate Faculty Meeting

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Since the beginning of the academic year, the Graduate Council has had seven meetings.

- The Curriculum Committee, chaired by Dr. Francisco Moore, has reviewed, approved, and recommended 91 curriculum proposals to Graduate Council so far this year. Graduate Council approved all 91 proposals as recommended by the Committee.
- The Graduate Faculty Membership Committee, chaired by Dr. Hillary Nunn, has reviewed, approved, and recommended 112 applications for graduate faculty membership to Graduate Council so far this year. Graduate Council approved all 112 applications as recommended by the Committee.

The Graduate Faculty Membership Committee was charged with reviewing the section of the *Bylaws of the Graduate Faculty* pertaining to *Ad Hoc* Temporary graduate faculty status and recommending changes to refine language regarding who shall be eligible for *Ad Hoc* Temporary status. Graduate Council approved the proposed changes.

- The Student Policy Committee, chaired by Dr. John Cheh, has been examining the Bologna Process, a plan developed by the European Union wherein the undergraduate degree awarded in Europe is earned in only three years, de-emphasizing broad, general education. Some applicants to Graduate School at The University of Akron have such degrees; however, a policy should be formalized to evaluate these three-year degrees. Currently, all students admitted to graduate programs must hold a bachelor's degree, and this assumed to be a four-year (or greater) degree. The Committee is currently contacting academic departments for feedback related to this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kevin Kern, Associate Professor  
Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences  
Vice Chair, Graduate Council

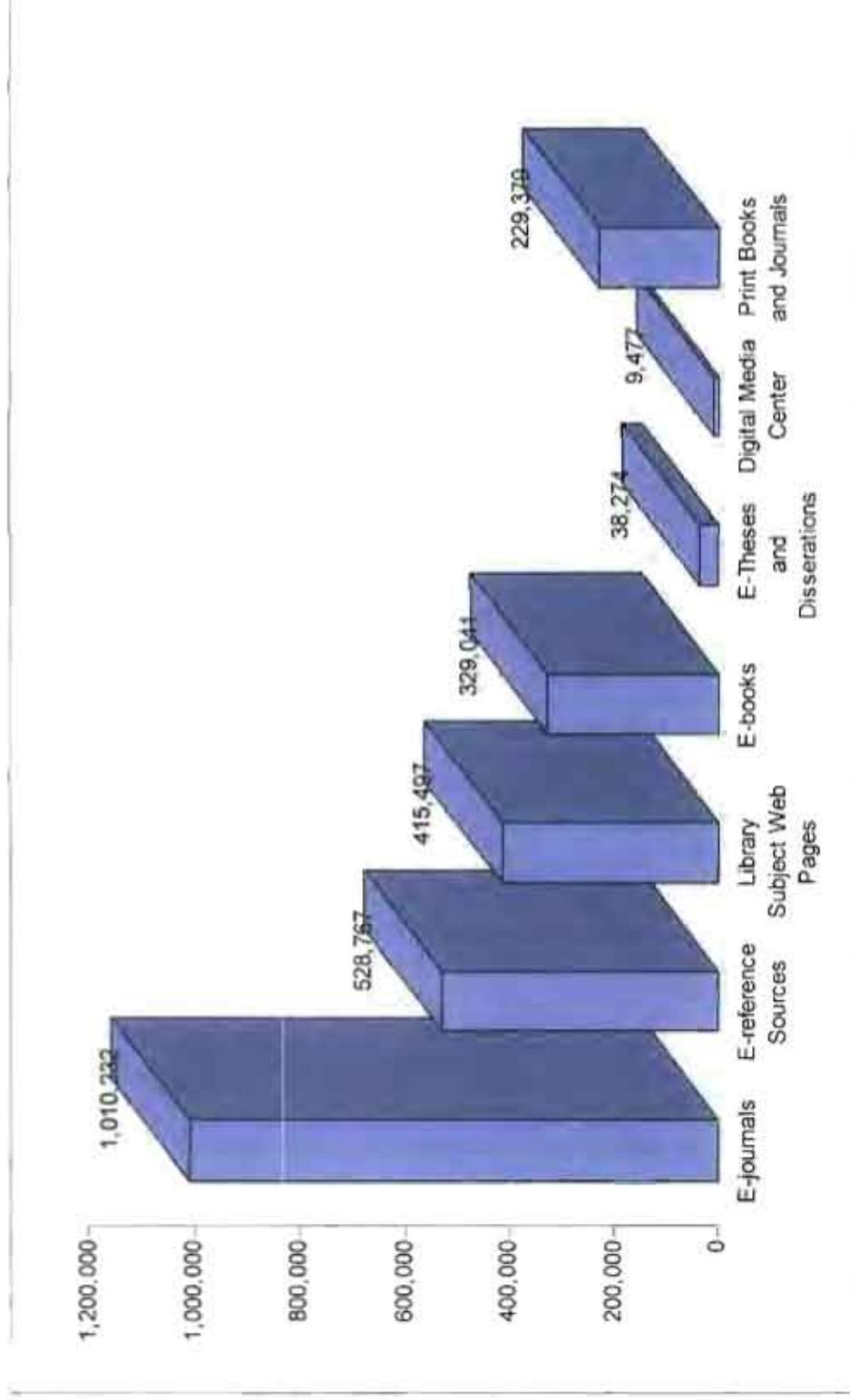
Graduate Faculty Meeting, April 16, 2008

University Libraries  
Cheryl Kern-Simirenko, Dean

- I. Use of Electronic Journal Collection
- II. Overall patterns of content use by UA community
- III. Content enhancement

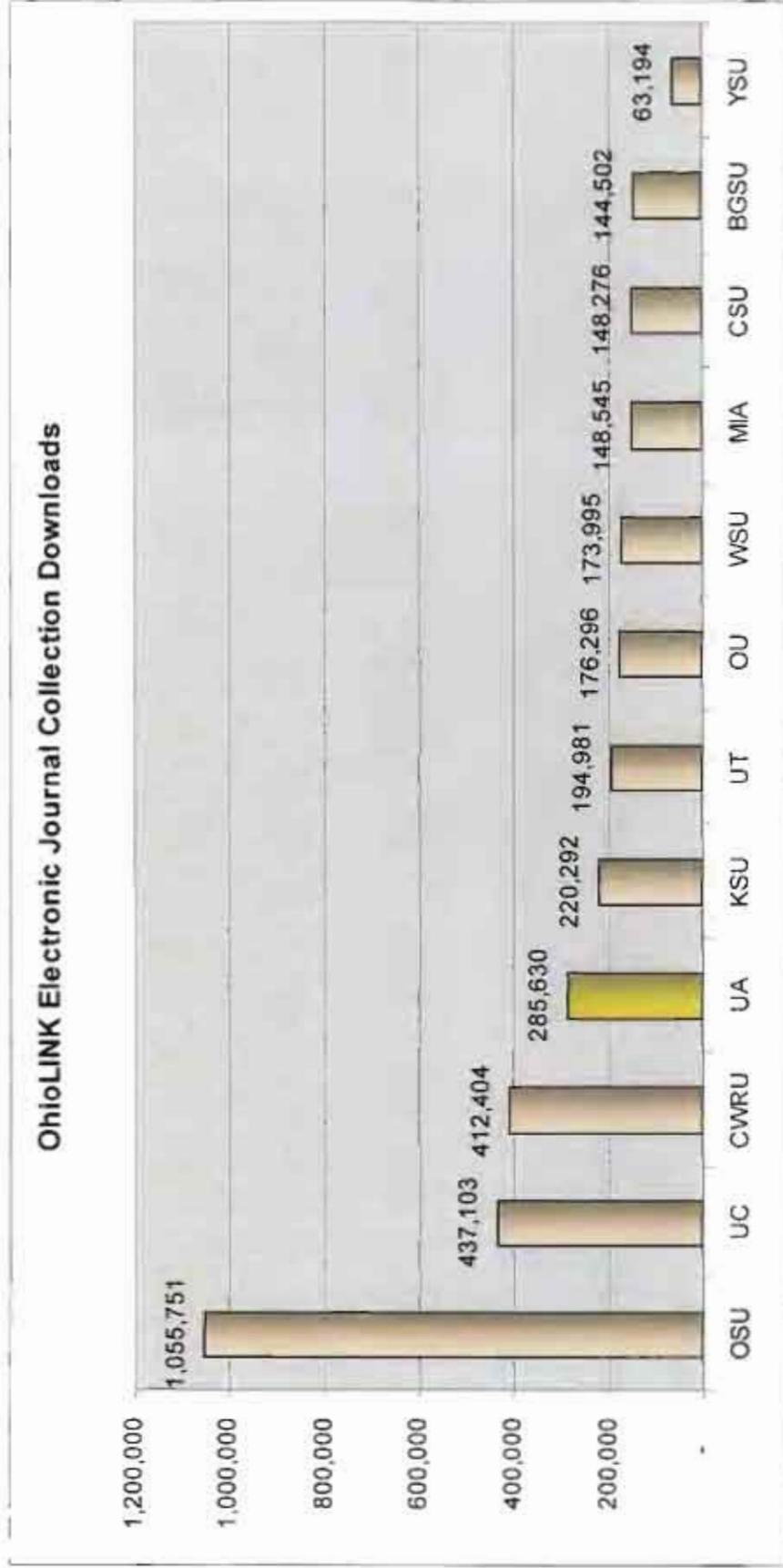
# UA Patterns of Use

--- OhioLINK and Local data



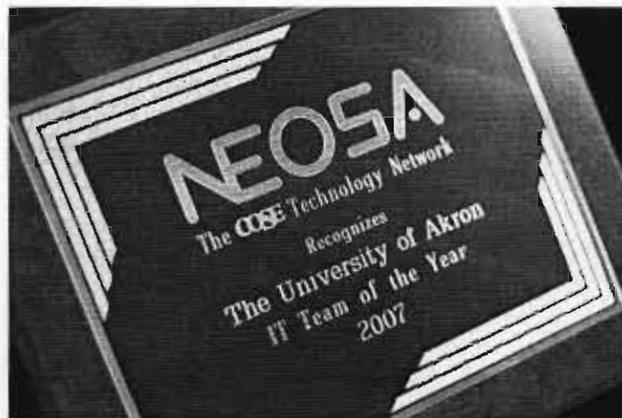
# Use Comparisons

--OhioLINK data



# Information Technology Services

Report to the Graduate School  
April 16, 2008





## Information Technology Services

April 16, 2008

On behalf of Jim Sage, VP Information Technology & CIO, this is a brief look at some of the activities initiated or completed by Information Technology Services.

### **ITS Team of the Year**

The University of Akron IT Department was named as the 2007 Top IT Team in Northeast Ohio and Top CIO of the Year by the Northeast Ohio Software Association (NEOSA). UA is the first university to receive the honor.

The award acknowledged ITS's commitment to student success along with a dedication to outreach activities that enhance the well being and economic development of Northeast Ohio and the state. In selecting UA as the non-profit organization of the year, NEOSA recognized the ITS division's strategic objectives of engaged leadership, enabling infrastructure, and seamless and secure access that empowers the university community, creates a collaborative environment, and fosters engaged outreach.

### **Shared Services**

Share Services is a new technology model for the State of Ohio. The University of Akron is leading the effort and has partnered with Lorain County Community College. Over the last several months, we have developed a process that we expect will serve as a proof of concept for future such relationships among Ohio's various two- and four-year institutions.

In this effort, we are assisting Lorain with their administrative applications implementation. Our prior implementation experience will help to streamline and simplify their implementation. In addition, we propose to host their business applications at Akron thereby eliminating the need for Lorain to buy a new computer infrastructure. This proposal is considered the first step towards a shared service model that will eventually include consolidating the back office functions.

A tentative timeline is being prepared for projecting and tracking activities needed to get ready for the shared services implementation.

### **Architecture Migration & Legacy Application Elimination**

ITS is in the process of migrating from its old mainframe and moving onto a new, more flexible and less expensive system. At the same time, we are upgrading PeopleSoft to its latest version.

In concert with the migration and the upgrade, we are looking closely at many of the older, non-PeopleSoft programs that reside on the IBM mainframe. These older programs, known as Legacy Applications, must be moved from the mainframe before it is completely shut down in June 2009.

Our plan is to outsource the hosting of these legacy applications, until they can be replaced with newer technology.

### **Stadium Construction TV is on the air**

With three webcams now mounted at the InfoCision Stadium - Summa Field construction site, members of the University community and the public can watch the progress as the stadium begins to take shape.

The cameras are mounted in three key locations that provide a sweeping view of the site – two are mounted on the Stile Athletics Field House facing south; one is located at Exchange Street facing back toward the Field House.

These images can be viewed, 24x7 at [www.uakron.edu/stadium/cams/](http://www.uakron.edu/stadium/cams/) and are linked from the Stadium homepage as well as the Skycam site.

Construction of this incredible stadium will be documented by these cameras as images will be archived for future reference. The resulting still photographs will provide a time-lapse animation when the project is complete.

### **Student Portal (ZipLine)**

As the PeopleSoft upgrade to version 9 upgrade moves forward, it will include an upgrade to the new, version 9 portal (ZipLine).

- The new learning environment, Springboard, has been successfully integrated to include single-sign-on and automated enroll/drop features within ZipLine. As such, once users are logged into ZipLine, they are no longer required to reenter their ID and Password in order to move to Springboard.
- During election for Associated Student Government, a new functionality was tested. The feature allowed those running the election to notify and remind eligible voters that voting was going on over the three-day period of the elections.
- New messaging functionality has been added on the login page, allowing the posting of eye-catching messages at the top of the panel prior to login.
- Another area, directly above the login was created for use in emergency messaging.

With the help of the new Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Charles Fey, we are working to identify student needs in ZipLine and to plan how to best provide for those needs.

### **Internet: [www.uakron.edu](http://www.uakron.edu)**

Designs for the University's new Web site have been approved and the entire Web Team is focused on the next step, which is creating the content and producing the pages for the new, improved [www.uakron.edu](http://www.uakron.edu).

### **ITS Organization Assessment**

An organizational assessment of ITS is moving steadily forward. While discussions continue about the future shape of ITS, an organizational committee is researching various models to identify the best, most appropriate service model for UA. At its conclusion, the committee will provide a final report that will include findings and recommendations for senior management. The report will contain an organizational structure recommendation, transition plan, and suggestions for further actions.

## Learning Management

Implemented this semester, the new learning management system at UA, Springboard!, provides a wide range of features and functions to extend the physical classroom into an online environment. Every course in the Spring 2008 semester has a site based on the standard UA Springboard! template.

Springboard! is integrated with PeopleSoft, our student information system. Updates are made daily at 2:30 a.m. to reflect roster changes. Instructors or students who log into ZipLine — the UA portal — will see a link for Springboard! Clicking that link connects them to Springboard! without requiring an additional log in.

Additional information:

- The address for Springboard! is <http://springboard.uakron.edu>.
- First-level support is provided by the Support Center at 330-972-6888. For additional assistance, send an e-mail to [springboardhelp@uakron.edu](mailto:springboardhelp@uakron.edu). For urgent issues, call the Springboard! hotline at 330-972-2734.
- Training sessions on all aspects of Springboard will be offered in the coming months -- ideal particularly for instructors who will be using Springboard for summer courses.
- Self-directed video tutorials are available within Zipline through Atomic Learning. Search for tutorials on "Desire2Learn." Note: Springboard! is our branded version of Desire2Learn.