

University Council

MINUTES

AUGUST 12, 2025

3:02 – 4:09 PM

LH 208 AND TEAMS

MEETING CALLED BY	Tonia Ferrell, chair
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
PRESIDER	Tonia Ferrell, chair
NOTE TAKER	Heather Loughney
ATTENDEES	<p>Members: Marilia Antunez, Stacia Biddle (SES chair), Stephanie Davis-Dieringer (TDHR chair), Ed Evans (UCEC), Blair Everett (UCEC), Tonia Ferrell (chair), Dan Friesner, John Huss (IA chair), Kris Kraft (secretary, CW chair), Nate Meeker (vice chair), Gwen Price (ex-officio), Linda Saliga (BF chair), Madilyn Shaw, Sonya Wagner</p> <p>Members Absent with notice: Tracie Epner (UCEC), Faii Sangganjanavanich</p> <p>Members Absent without notice: Karima Elgarroussi (IT chair), Brant Lee, Ally Temsey, Amy Trunko, Bethel Tsige, Alison Winters</p> <p>Other attendees: Matthew Akers, Alex Bailey, Suzanne Bausch, Christine Boyd, Jennifer Davis, Aimee DeChambeau, Jared Deeds, Megan Delong-Borick, Becky Handley, Patti Huth, Walter Jevack, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Sarah Kelly, Wendy Lampner, Janis McCracken, Steve McKellips, Meredith Merry, John Messina, Jordyn Miklinski, Patricia Miller, Paula Neugebauer, Fedearia Nicholson-Sweval, Tatiana Nikitina, Melissa Olson, Jesse Redwine, Lisa Sabol, Christin Seher, Michelle Smith, Mark Stasitis, Michael Trivisonno, Tom Waltermire (BOT), Nick Weber,</p> <p>AA – appointed administrators BOT – Board of Trustee member UCEC – members of the University Council Executive Committee</p>
CALL TO ORDER TONIA FERRELL	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The vice chair called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. 2. The agenda was approved as distributed. 3. The minutes of the July 8, 2025 meeting 2025-7-8-minutes-university-council-final.pdf were approved as distributed.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TONIA FERRELL	
	<p>UCEC met on July 22nd.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic submissions – we had a new one, about Workday issues. The submission addresses how staff are unable to correct/edit own timesheets and the strain on supervisors as well as feelings of staff about this. The UCEC discussed and forwarded to TDHR and IT to respond jointly.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speakers for fall – Provost today. For fall will continue with student focus, working to book those now. If you have an idea for a student group, reach out to us. • UC participation- discussing restructuring ideas, have been discussing for over a year and had shelved it through the administration changes. Will come to committees for discussion and then to the full UC for vote. More to come on that. • Discussed Strategic planning and UC role in that. Working with CSO to figure out roles and how UC can best advise. Will be part of the restructuring conversation. • Discussed the March 10, 2026, meeting to be moved a week further out to avoid BOT meetings. The December meeting is also off schedule for same reason.
PRESIDENT’S REMARKS	
	<p>Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you, Chair Ferrell.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking forward to robust fall. Summer has been busy, and commons are underway, looking forward to its completion this fall. Campus was busy with visitations and campus visits. Excited to welcome new Akron Zips, first time in increased headcount. • College side – policy setting and work – thank you for your work for our university. • Brand rollout – at convocation next week. Working to distribute to campus. Search for CBO is in the interview process. Pat Roberts came on board as ??. • Chief planning officer search continues, interim on board to work. • Princeton review – online school of law, • Last month had Brazilian executives in attendance on campus – largest cohort ever. One of two to host in USA. Will welcome cohort back in Feb 2026. • Thanks to large partnerships we continue to grow our reputation. Shoutout to CHHS for leading the charge in increased headcounts • We hosted Streamer University over the summer; we made around 1 million on rentals and purchases made and left for campus. Campus damage was minimal, and we were compensated for it. Millions of views online, I was interviewed by Time Magazine, Kai was on cover and mentioned UA in interview. <p>Questions: Do you think we could get an estimate on earned media?</p> <p>Nemer - Asked 160/90 to look into that. Interview in Time Magazine ended with question, interviewer intrigued by UA and</p> <p>Construction on campus – concerns about accessibility – any dates for completion and how to address accessibility concerns.</p>

	<p>Nemer – supposed to be done in year. Inner corridor is supposed to be open until October. We talked to Dean DeChambeau about accessibility of library. That is a concern. It's all ADA compliant.</p>
<p>PROVOST'S REMARKS</p>	
	<p>Enrollment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-year freshman enrollment: ↑ 4% vs. 2023 • Transfer enrollment: ↑ 21% • Total enrollment: ↑ 6% vs. 2024, ↑ 3% vs. 2023 <p>Vice Provost Introduction: Nidaa Makki will oversee academic affairs, curriculum, state reporting, low-enrolled programs, SP1 groups, and the School of Graduate Studies. She will also serve as HLC liaison.</p> <p>Thanks to Dr. Ann Usher for coming back to campus to help out as the Interim Dean for BCAS.</p> <p>Dean Searches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College of Business search launching soon • Arts & Sciences search to begin mid-fall <p>Goal setting – Academic Affairs goals align with presidential priorities. Faculty are not involved in Workday goal setting, which has caused concern. Colleges were in different places when goal setting came, OAA has been working with them to establish and update their goals.</p> <p>Convocation: Scheduled for next Friday at 11:30 AM. Excited to see the students coming back to campus.</p>
<p>GUEST SPEAKER – PROVOST GWEN PRICE – SB1 INFORMATION</p>	
	<p>Provost Price shared her presentation: https://uazips-my.sharepoint.com/personal/hl_uakron_edu/Documents/University%20Council/Guest%20Speakers/Presentations/Provost%20SB1%20presentation%208-12-25.pptx</p> <p>Resource Page: Available on UA website with FAQs and a question submission form.</p> <p>Workshops: ITLA will host sessions on August 20th and 22nd (online and in-person).</p> <p>Information Sessions: Provost and Mia will visit colleges and host a university-wide session on September 3rd.</p> <p>Working Groups: core group, steering group and faculty-led working groups established</p> <p>Focus areas: syllabus changes, intellectual diversity, civic literacy, student and peer evaluations</p> <p>Compliance Timelines:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public syllabi: by Sept 2026 • Intellectual diversity: immediate • Civic literacy: by 2030 • Student evaluations: immediate • Annual evaluations: by Dec 2025 <p>Provost Price emphasized the April deadline for ensuring all publicly posted materials are accessible. Yuja Panorama will be used for training and compliance.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>In terms of accessibility, is it just stuff that's public, or is it everything like email communications?</p> <p>Price – heard it would be everything, emails included. The Digest, digital signage should be included. New website will be accessible. A lot of things being produced by Microsoft are accessible.</p> <p>If my department is sending out messages to Alumni, do we have to be compliant?</p> <p>Price – Wendy Lampner asked to weigh in.</p> <p>Lampner – Everything that any public entity puts out to the public has to be accessible. Had a statewide group meeting on Tuesday, there is a lot more coming and we have a lot more done than most are aware. Social media posts, even a staff email needs to be accessible. At the end of the day, this will actually help a lot of people. Megan is asking how to check for accessibility; Panorama will help with that. Brightspace is already showing things that are needed. Staff can also use this. Will automatically correct some things and will give us percentages of how many things have been improved.</p> <p>Appreciate the presentation from the faculty side, but students will have questions too. Are there plans to have FAQ or sessions for students?</p> <p>Price – we should think about how to best get information out to our people, we don't want to burden them with a lot of "legalize" but want to answer their questions.</p> <p>Messina – there is going to be a competition for design for accessibility, competition to see who gets their area onboard first.</p> <p>Price – appreciate that there are people getting focused and competition going. We will have more information to come.</p>
COMMITTEE REPORTS	
	<p>TONIA FERRELL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget & Finance – met in July, working on gals and talking about policies; 60-plus program, what can students use their UA discount on, merit scholarship monies, graduate assistant fees. • Campus Wellness – meeting Friday.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Technology - update on Windows 11 update – required by Microsoft, given option with extended support, can continue to use Windows 10 with that. Have started effort for labs, quite a while since all 175 labs will be Windows 11 compliant. Update in Digest today. Part of first phase we identified high use labs, phase 2 with start of school to complete by winter break, for employees – about 200 will need to replace their devices. <p>A question was asked about faculty with computers in instructional labs and how those will be updated.</p> <p>Corby - a lot of special use computers – will have to address those, a lot of loaners out there that will need to be addressed as well. Shared workstations also will need to be updated. If you have a concern, please put in a ticket or reach out to me.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Environment – met in July and have a meeting next week to discuss goals. <p>Chair Ferrell mentioned that the CFO was asked to attend the next UC meeting and give a report during committee reports on campus projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talent Development and Human Resources – met in July to address the topic submission about Workday access, main concern with 7-minutes rule and address process for lunch clock in and out.
<div>CONSTITUTENCY REPORTS</div> <div>TONIA FERRELL</div>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSG – no report. USG – hard at work this summer prepping for upcoming year; onboarding, internal processes, updating bylaws, welcoming large group to USG. A lot of freshmen attending orientation sessions. A lot of questions and interest. Looking forward to the start of year, I will be speaking at convocation and welcome them to campus. Heavily planning New Roo Weekend. We are excited for everyone to be back on campus too. PSAC – met three weeks ago, welcomed new reps and will welcome more at the next meeting. We hosted a professional staff outing at a recent Rubber Ducks game and had 63 in attendance. Thank you to the Office of the President. Will meet next week. SEAC – in process of receiving nominations, good turnout and hopeful to fill vacancies. Faculty Senate – did not meet. Chairs – no report. Deans – we are busy doing most of the things the Provost talked about, SB1 has been a big time suck but working get part-time faculty hired to teach.
<div>GOOD OF THE ORDER</div> <div>TONIA FERRELL</div>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Today is the last UC meeting for Linda Saliga, stepping down from UC. Founding member, Faculty Senate chair, been a great support and encouragement to me,

thank you to Linda for her service to UC and advice and hugs over the years. We will miss you at meetings.

- Thank you to outgoing to BOT Tom Waltermire and Max Pastoria. Thank you. Tom you always have your camera on and contribute to conversations. Thank you for being our liaison.

Tom – thank you Tonia, you’ve done a great job and it’s been great to hear all the activity on campus.

- Thank you to everyone for your work on UC, new year begins in a few weeks, working to be more effective as shared governance.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 pm.