

The University of Akron
2018-19 University Council Satisfaction Survey Report
September 2, 2019

Summary:

The University Council Satisfaction Survey was distributed to University Council, Standing Committee and Ad Hoc Committee members on August 16, 2019. Survey responses were anonymous.

There were 99 University Council, Standing Committee and Ad Hoc Committee members at the time the survey was distributed. The University Council Executive Committee received 44 responses for a response rate of 44%.

Thirty-four respondents were Standing Committee members, thirteen respondents were University Council members (25-member group) and ten respondents were Ad Hoc Committee members. Of those respondents, five served on University Council and a Standing Committee; three served on University Council, a Standing Committee and an Ad Hoc Committee; two served on a Standing Committee and an Ad Hoc Committee; and one served on University Council and an Ad Hoc Committee.

For the question, “Standing Committees that I have **not** served on have been focused on their goals during the 2017-18 University Council year (Sept. 1, 2018 – Aug. 30, 2019),” 24 respondents said they didn’t know, 12 said standing committees have been very focused on their goals, 6 said they have been somewhat focused, and 2 said they have not at all been focused (page 2).

For the question, “Standing Committees that I have served on have been focused on their goals during the 2018-19 University Council year (Sept. 1, 2018 – Aug. 30, 2019),” 32 respondents said their standing committee has been very focused, 4 said it has been somewhat focused, 0 said it has not at all been focused, and 8 respondents did not serve on a standing committee (page 3).

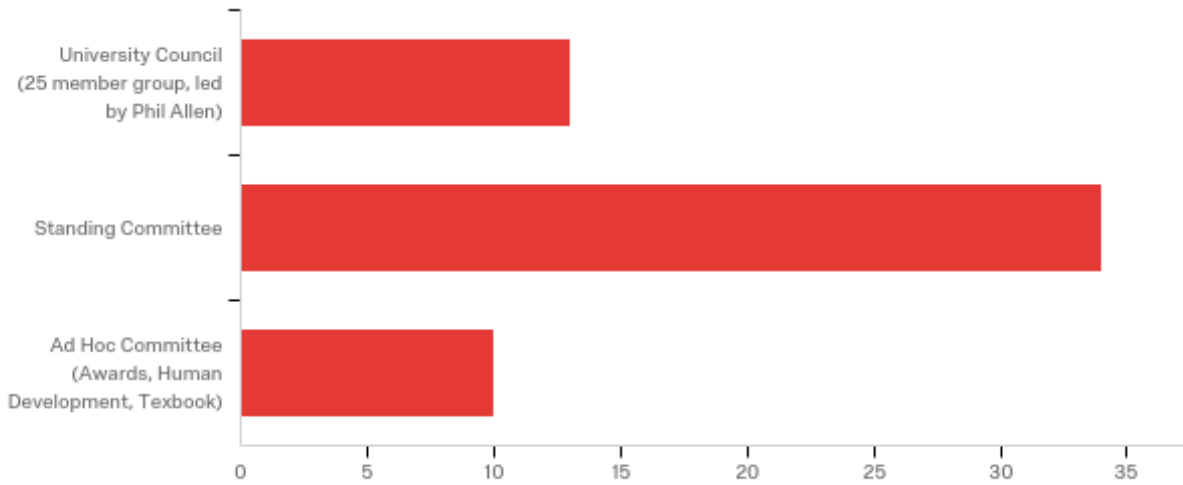
For the question, “The Awards, Human Development and Textbook ad hoc committees have been productive during the 2018-19 University Council year (Sept. 1, 2018 – Aug. 30, 2019),” 20 respondents said they didn’t know, 12 respondents said very productive, 10 said somewhat productive, and 1 said not at all productive (page 5).

For the question, “University Council has been productive during the 2018-19 University Council year (25 member group, led by Phil Allen),” 16 respondents said UC has been somewhat productive, 13 said it has been very productive, 10 said they didn’t know, and 5 said it has not at all been productive (page 6).

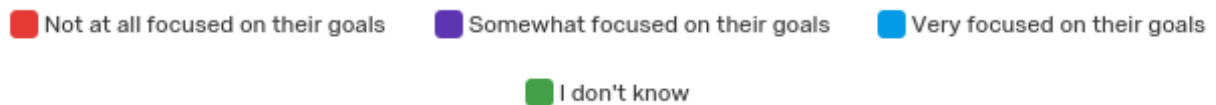
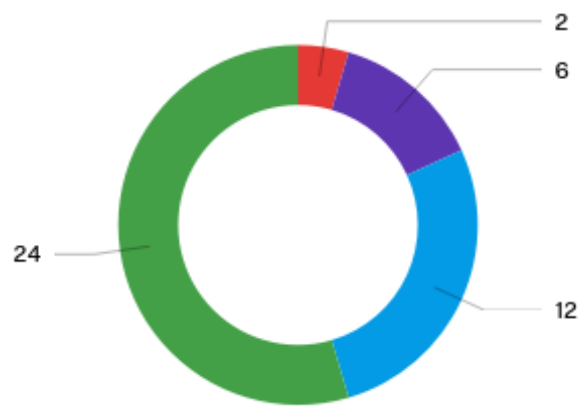
For open-ended questions, responses were organized into the following categories: attendance, goals/priorities, meeting structure, membership, operations, and other (pages 3 – 9).

Complete Survey Results:

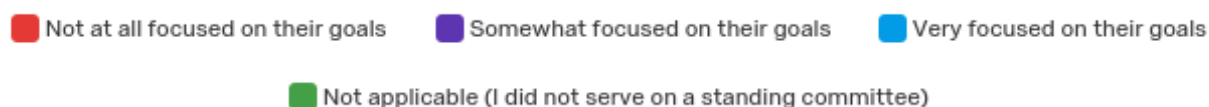
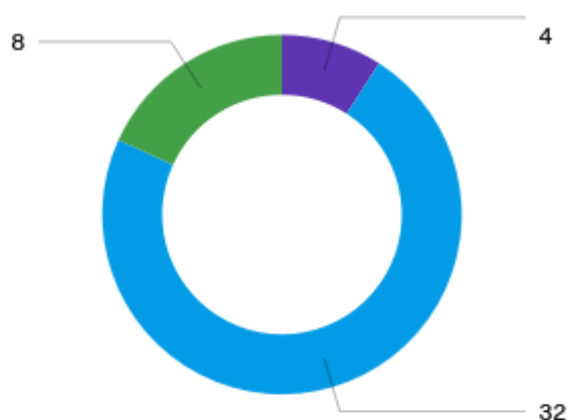
**I am a member of:
(please mark all that apply)**



Standing Committees that I have not served on been focused on their goals during the 2018-19 University Council year. (Sept. 1, 2018 – Aug. 30, 2019)



Standing Committees that I have served on have been focused on their goals during the 2018-19 University Council year. (Sept. 1, 2018 – Aug. 31, 2019)



Do you have suggestions to make the work of the standing committees more effective?
 (Categories are listed by the number of responses received)

Operations

No.	Response	Member of:
1	Coming up with solutions to problems isn't the issue. Getting through the red tape to get those solutions in place is the problem.	Ad Hoc Committee
2	Better guidance from UC.	Standing Committee
3	More organized leadership.	Standing Committee
4	If not doing so already, a clear goal, broken down into tasks/timeline has been very helpful to the members of the committees I have been part of. Tasks should be assigned and distributed to all members, not always completed by one person.	Standing Committee; Ad Hoc Committee
5	There is confusion about the work of these committees- are they advisory? policy? or task completing groups?	Standing Committee; Ad Hoc Committee
6	There should be clear action items for all committees and then reports on those action items submitted prior to the next meeting.	University Council

Membership

7	Need a wider variety of people. Need to stay focused in meetings. Need to be able to speak their minds without repercussions.	Standing Committee
8	It may be important to recognize that our students have competing obligations and priorities. For that reason, their participation may be minimal.	Standing Committee
9	Allow members who actively want to participate an easy way to join. Appointment process is confusing.	Standing Committee
10	Insure interest of members in the focus of the committees.	Standing Committee
11	Requiring participation of members. Too many members of our committee attended intermittently or hardly at all. I felt this placed a burden of work on the members that did attend. Additionally, there felt like there was minimum to no participation of the department in which our committee was tasked to assist.	Standing Committee

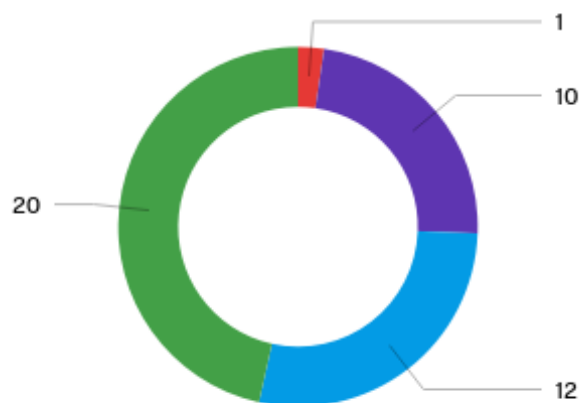
Attendance

No.	Response	Member of:
12	Better attendance.	Standing Committee

Other

No.	Response	Member of:
13	N/a.	Standing Committee
14	No.	University Council
15	None at this time.	University Council

The Awards, Human Development and Textbook ad hoc committees have been productive during the 2018-19 University Council year. (Sept. 1, 2018 – Aug. 30, 2019)



■ Not at all productive
 ■ Somewhat productive
 ■ Very productive
 ■ I don't know

Do you have suggestions to make the work of the ad hoc committees more effective?

(Categories are listed by the number of responses received)

Operations

No.	Response	Member of:
1	Give these committees more power to make necessary changes on campus. Have administrators be more open to new ideas and change that supports students, staff, and faculty.	Ad Hoc Committee
2	More frequent updates, more cooperation from departments on campus for assistance in areas that affect them, committees consulting with departments for input before making changes.	Standing Committee
3	They should have to follow same structure and guidelines as standing committees in terms of a chair and a secretary who takes and submits minutes to Kimberly Haverkamp. It would definitely make some work in a more focused and effective way. Also, doing so would enable UCEC to know when the goal of each ad-hoc has been met and can be disbanded.	University Council
4	There should be clear action items for all committees and then reports on those action items submitted prior to the next meeting.	University Council

Goals/Priorities

5	The goals coming from the UC committee need to be more specific and definitive.	University Council; Ad Hoc Committee
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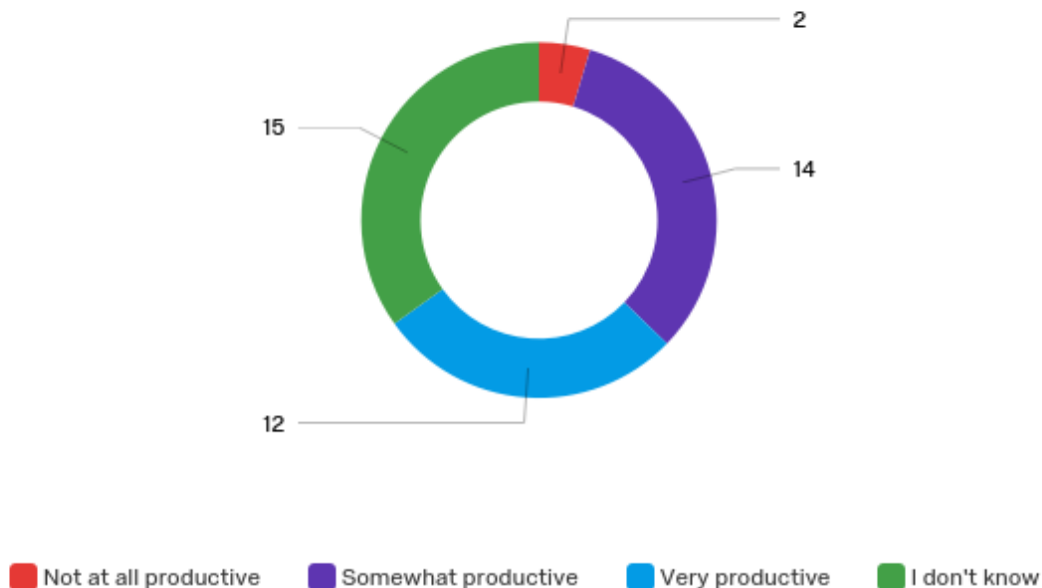
Meeting Structure

6	More meetings especially at the time of final selection.	Ad Hoc Committee
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Other

7	I would say our committee was productive, mainly because the library took leadership and used our group for feedback and support. It was good to have the range of people from student services to faculty engaged on this question. We didn't accomplish all of our good ideas about communication, but I think we got the ball rolling on this issue.	Ad Hoc Committee
8	I was only part of the awards ad hoc committee. We met, established a timeline, processes, decided what works and what needs improved and scheduled future meetings.	Standing Committee; Ad Hoc Committee
9	Some more productive than others.	Standing Committee; Ad Hoc Committee
10	No.	University Council

University Council has been productive during the 2017-18 year. (25 member group, currently led by Phil Allen)



Do you have suggestions to make the work of University Council more effective?

(Categories are listed by the number of responses received)

Operations

No.	Response	Member of:
1	Not clear on movement. Attended a few meetings but explanations weren't always clear.	Standing Committee
2	The UC must have more rigorous follow-up of the resolutions that are sent to the Office of the President. For example, there was a resolution set on Athletics and President Green announced a \$8 Million reduction over a three year period. Do we know exactly how much of this has been achieved? Have there been regular updates? There are a few other serious topics like this that UC must follow up more diligently.	Standing Committee
3	I chose somewhat productive as a proposal brought to UC can sometimes slip under the radar, only to resurface a couple of years later. On the other hand, there have been important issues brought before UC that were handled very quickly. Also, when assigned properly, subcommittees work very hard to finalize/complete the task given.	Standing Committee; Ad Hoc Committee
4	The leaders of UC tend to make their personal opinions or individual priorities that of UC, and sometimes act on behalf of UC without consulting the body based upon those.	Standing Committee; Ad Hoc Committee
5	There should be clear action items and then reports on those action items submitted prior to the next meeting.	University Council
6	How do you make people engage in more questions and conversation? Particularly when we have the time of the president and a provost/chief academic officer and no one has any questions? We could do better as a body in this regard. Another suggestion would be to have more guest speakers from across campus to educate the body on what is going on at our university. We continually discuss the auxiliary budgets, but yet we have not heard from Athletics, Rec Center, Student Union, etc. on their operations and their priorities. Other speakers to consider: An enrollment update directly from Bill Krauss; IT update from John Corby; Advancement update from Kim Cole. Also related to budgets - we have to get this information at least a day in advance of the vote. I don't think we should be voting for or against endorsing something so important without having had time to digest it and bring questions to the meeting. How can we work more closely with the other constituent groups? This would make the work more effective.	University Council; Ad Hoc Committee

Other

7	Eliminate this powerless body.	Standing Committee
8	Abolish it. It useless since it has no authority.	Standing Committee
9	No.	University Council
10	None at this time.	University Council

Do you have suggestions to make the monthly standing committee reports at University Council meetings more effective?

(Categories are listed by the number of responses received)

Operations

No.	Response	Member of:
1	Instead of reading them - send them to the council before the meeting so you have a longer period to consider possible questions/concerns.	Standing Committee
2	Provide the report from the standing committee electronically to all before the meeting, and have the committee highlight one accomplishment or problem from the year during the UC meeting instead of the whole report. If UC has a specific question about the whole report, they can ask it or people can communicate outside of the meeting.	Standing Committee
3	Since I'm not present at the majority of the meetings, I'll have to ask our representatives what can be suggested to become more effective. Off the top of my head, a clear question or poll presented by a subcommittee member who could might be stumped or need a suggestion or clarification from the big group might be good -- People should come well prepared.	Standing Committee; Ad Hoc Committee
4	I would like to see a structure to monthly reports from each standing committee - either reading minutes or directly addressing goals instead of off the cuff responses that do not tell the UC body what has been accomplished or not.	University Council

Goals/Priorities

5	UC needs to clarify its purpose and that of these committees to make these more effective. I'm not sure how much is actually accomplished.	Standing Committee; Ad Hoc Committee
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Membership

6	Same as before, recruit members who are genuinely interested in the committee's focus.	Standing Committee
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Other

7	These reports are unnecessary.	Standing Committee
8	Why are you obsessed with these reports?	Standing Committee
9	No.	University Council
10	None at this time.	University Council

Additional Comments:Operations

No.	Response	Member of:
1	There should be clear action items and then reports on those action items submitted prior to the next meeting.	University Council
2	If parliamentary procedure is to be used, it should be used correctly. Motions are made, seconded and then discussion ensues for example.	University Council

Attendance

3	I don't really have additional time to study the goals and accomplishments of the other subcommittees (I know I should make time--sorry). What I've been made aware of are some committees experience a great deal of meeting cancellations without being rescheduled, or members are no shows with no consequences (some don't enforce missing the 3 meeting rule). Hard to reach a goal if you don't meet. I am very appreciative of our University Council and have not only learned a great deal about UA, but I've met some incredibly talented people that I might not have had the opportunity to meet otherwise.	Standing Committee; Ad Hoc Committee
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Goals /Priorities

4	Too many parallels between UC and faculty senate. They are different bodies and should have different representations and perspectives.	Standing Committee; Ad Hoc Committee
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Other

5	So far I feel like the overall University Council and its committees have been pretty well structured and has done its absolute best to incorporate the voices of each community on our campus. I appreciate our solutions that we come up for each problem that presents us and I appreciate how prompt we are when looking into each issue. So far in my short time serving in University Council it has been quite a great experience and I look forward to continuing working with this group for the next year!	University Council
6	None at this time.	University Council