

University Council

MINUTES

JUNE 9, 2020

3:00 – 4:42 PM

MICROSOFT TEAMS

MEETING CALLED BY	Ruth Nine-Duff, chair
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
PRESIDER	Ruth Nine-Duff, chair
NOTE TAKER	Kim Haverkamp
ATTENDEES	<p>Member: Phil Allen, Arnob Banik, Ann Bruno, Jeanette Carson, Katie Cerrone, Shagata Das, Ed Evans, Kevin Feezel, Tonia Ferrell, Marjorie Hartleben, Kristine Kraft, Mary Jo MacCracken, Ruth Nine-Duff, Dane Quinn, Linda Saliga, Shiva Sastry, Tiffany Schmidt, Julia Spiker, Emily Starkey, Shawn Stevens, John Wiencek</p> <p>Absent with notice: Rubayat Islam, Paul Levy, Gary Miller, Scott Randby</p> <p>Absent without notice: Kris Nakoneczny, Ben Swanson</p> <p>Other attendees: Andrew Adolph, Stevie Allen, Taylor Bennington, Cristine Boyd, Kim Cole, Aimée deChambeau, Olivia Demas, Tammy Ewin, Kim Gentile, Joe Gingo, Wendy Lampner, Jolene Lane, John McDonald, Melanie McGurr, John Messina, Steve Myers, Michele Novachek, Ellen Perduyn, John Reilly, Melanie Smith-Farrell, Harvey Sterns, Steve Storck, Joe Urgo, Peggy Walchalk, Joette Dignan Weir</p>
Agenda topics:	
3:00 – 3:05	CALL TO ORDER RUTH NINE-DUFF
DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The chair called the meeting to order and asked for additions or revisions to the agenda. There being none, the agenda was approved as distributed by unanimous consent. The chair asked for additions or corrections to the May 5 University Council minutes. There being none, the minutes were approved as distributed by unanimous consent.
3:05 – 3:10	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT RUTH NINE DUFF
DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The chair reviewed the attached May 19 UC Executive Committee minutes. The FY21 budget will be presented to the UC before it goes to the Board of Trustees in August. Per the attached suggestions for continuous improvement, the Executive Committee has asked the GSG and USG presidents to present a report at each UC meeting. Dr. Lori Varlotta, President of Hiram College, will be the guest speaker at the July 14 UC meeting. President Miller is unable to participate in today’s meeting.

3:10 – 3:25

PROVOST’S REMARKS

JOHN WIENCEK

DISCUSSION

Provost Wiencek discussed the following:

- We need to focus on revenue growth and think about what we are going to do in the next year.
- The Office of Inclusion and Equity held community forums and discussed issues of discrimination in response to the many events that have happened over the past several months. The forums generated many action-prone ideas. Please connect with the office if you have concerns or need support.
- The Vice Presidents received new budgets on June 1 and will submit plans for consideration. The plans will be reviewed by the Office of General Counsel and Human Resources.
- The fundamental goal is to finalize the budget by the end of July.
- Deans and department chairs will convey information about force reductions and furloughs after proper vetting and approval.
- CAST employees met with the deans of the colleges in which the departments will be consolidated.
 - A suggestion was made to reach out to the employees who are not affiliated with a department.
- All units will have to make cuts in order to position UA for future success.
- We are working on a phased return to campus in July. Details are forthcoming.

3:25 – 3:55

GUEST SPEAKER

KIM GENTILE

DISCUSSION

Kim Gentile, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, discussed the attached [presentation](#) regarding traditional, first-time student enrollment for fall 2020.

The following were discussed:

- Incoming class profile
- Enrollment campaign
- 2020 recruitment cycle
 - New initiatives – Admissions worked with UCM and academic departments to develop new direct mail pieces for students and parents
 - Events – on-and-off campus events
 - Academic engagement – Admissions is working with the academic areas to focus the following three things: 1) Engagement at on-campus events; 2) Develop and implement efforts to connect with admitted students; 3) Develop and implement initiatives to keep confirmed students engaged throughout the summer
 - The College of Engineering and Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences were recognized for being models that other colleges can follow.
 - Akron Rise Scholars – 700 students have been admitted into the program.
 - Jennifer Harpham and her team have developed an affordability plan.
 - John Messina convenes regular meetings with department across campus who will provide additional support for the students in this program.
 - UA Admissions response to COVID-19
 - Other universities response to COVID-19

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmations and admits are down from the same time last year. The decline in both areas are from outside the Northeast Ohio area. • The Admission Team was recognized for their ability to adjust quickly and continue to serve students remotely during COVID-19. Others recognized were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sarah Steidl for support to the Admission Team ○ Bob Kropff for website changes ○ Carly DeBord and Brandon Mikulski for moving orientation online • We need to continue to develop ways for academic areas to engage with admitted students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Yield Committee is working to keep admitted students engaged and get them to confirm (led by John Messina). ○ The Melt Committee is working to keep confirmed student engaged and make sure they enroll this fall (led by Sheldon Wrice). • We need to focus communications on the research and real-world activities of our faculty and students so people outside UA can feel our pride. • Academic and Student Services areas need to be ready to provide support to students when needed. <p>Kim Gentile will provide a list of ways UC members can help in the enrollment efforts.</p>
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3:55 – 4:23	BUDGET AND FINANCE IN-DEPTH REPORT	SHIVA SASTRY STEVE STORCK
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DISCUSSION	<p>Shiva Sastry, chair, presented the attached Annual Report and the attached PowerPoint.</p> <p>The following were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They worked with Provost Wiencek on the new budget process. • They will revisit the summer salary tax resolution after the colleges are restructured. The resolution was supported by University Council. President Miller did not accept the recommendation. • They prepared a report for Provost Wiencek that benchmarked data assembled from audited financial reports of peer institutions using categories for expenditures as specified by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The report and data were emailed to UC members on May 22. <p>Steve Storck, CFO and appointed administrator of the Budget and Finance Committee, provided a budget update.</p> <p>The following were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY20 ends June 30. CFO Storck reported on the operating deficit at the March Board of Trustees meeting. • Discussed why budgets change over the course of the fiscal year; budget variances are not unique and quite common in an enterprise as large and complex as a university • We received federal funding from the Cares Act. • We were advised by the Ohio Department of Higher Education that public universities would receive a reduction in state funding. • Non-essential spending has been suspended per a memo to the campus community on April 22.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFO Storck provided an explanation of how the \$65m revenue shortfall was calculated. • The Office of Student Financial Aid is receiving more special circumstances requests. • We will be incurring additional expenses in the fall for PPE and medical testing. • The CFO intends to take the FY21 budget to the Board of Trustees in August for approval.
3:23 – 3:42	<p style="text-align: center;">REPORTS</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RUTH NINE-DUFF</p>
DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Graduate Student Government: Arnob Banik, president, discussed the attached report and discussed preliminary survey responses concerning the impact of COVID-19 and suggestions for Fall 2020. 2. Undergraduate Student Government: Kevin Feezel, president, said they are developing a strategic plan and are excited to put what has been discussed into action to make sure students are well supported for the new academic year. 3. Committee Reports: The attached committee reports were submitted for UC review prior to the meeting. <p>The following were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is in progress to transition the alumni/donor database to a new platform. The EAB network and best practices are being used to broaden our reach in those areas. Departments can contact Willy Kollman, Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations, for help with alumni engagement. • Due to COVID-19, there is an increased demand for the food pantry. ZipAssist could use additional support from the campus community to maintain the food pantries. • The Ayer/Crouse renovation is on hold until the State signs a capitol bill for the upcoming year. The construction has been moved to the end of the year.
4:42 – 4:42	<p style="text-align: center;">NEW BUSINESS</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RUTH NINE-DUFF</p>
DISCUSSION	The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m. by unanimous consent.