

University Council

MINUTES

APRIL 20, 2021

3 – 4:30 PM

MICROSOFT TEAMS

MEETING CALLED BY	Tonia Ferrell, chair
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
PRESIDER	Tonia Ferrell, chair
NOTE TAKER	Heather Loughney
ATTENDEES	<p>Member: Arnob Banik, Anne Bruno, Katie Cerrone, Will Cole, Laura Conley, Ed Evans, Kathee Evans, Kevin Feezel, Tonia Ferrell, Marjorie Hartleben, Kris Kraft, Paul Levy, Tim McCarragher, Gary Miller, John Nicholas, Michele Novachek, Scott Randby, Emily Starkey, Shawn Stevens, John Wiencek</p> <p>Absent with notice: Jeanette Carson, Shagata Das, Amy Freels</p> <p>Absent without notice: Katelyn Frey, JP Garcher, Jennifer Manista</p> <p>Other attendees: Phil Allen, Taylor Bennington, Maria Celeste Cook, Lisa Craig, Aimee DeChambeau, Olivia Demas, Melissa Dreisbach, Tammy Ewin, Dallas Grundy, Cher Hendricks, Anne Hanson Hilaire, Gordon Holly, Courtney Johnson-Bens, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Sarah Kelly, Wendy Lampner, Maureen Lerch, John MacDonald, John Messina, Nicholas Nussen, John Reilly, Scott Roberts, Michelle Smith, Sarah Steidl, Sonya Wagner, Bryan Williams</p>
Agenda topics:	
<p style="text-align: center;">CALL TO ORDER TONIA FERRELL</p>	
DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. 2. The chair asked for additions or revisions to the agenda. There being none, the minutes were approved as distributed by unanimous consent. 3. The chair asked for additions or corrections to the March 9 University Council minutes. There being none, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
<p style="text-align: center;">EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TONIA FERRELL</p>	
DISCUSSION	<p>The chair reviewed the March 23 UC Executive Committee minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Topic submissions were received by UCEC; one for cryptocurrency, it was sent to requestor for more information and to ask for information on other universities using it to raise monies. Will give update and information when received. A submission from Faculty Senate Chair Saliga to look at an increase in pay for part-time faculty, after discussion in UCEC it was decided to refer to the Talent Development and Human Resources committee for discussion as a whole campus issue, to study classifications and job analysis. This is a complex project and will require a lot of research. Currently being considered by the committee.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. In unfinished business, Heather reported that the web site was updated and minutes are current. 3. CFO Grundy responded to the request for budget training and would make three modules available to campus for those who need that. 4. Signage in Polsky and Schrank are being reviewed and changes will be addressed by a university budget line. 5. Diversity report is still pending at the time of UCEC meeting. 6. Vacation banking topic sent to TDHR who reviewed it and then sent to the Budget and Finance for their review. 7. Provost gave report of what he is working on, discussed college dean searches, fall semester and approaches for teaching and requirements for AV.
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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS	DR. GARY MILLER
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DISCUSSION	<p>The President acknowledged that Olivia Demas and Mike Dowling were in attendance and noted that Kevin Feezel was attending his last meeting as USG president. Thanked Kevin for his work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with CPAC and SEAC in past week and had very constructive meetings, discussion about communication. Talked about compensation packages and wanted to assure that this is at the forefront of our work. This information will move into the strategic plan document. There is a desire for an efficient way for folks to forward ideas into a system where they are seen and responded to. Affirmed again the commitment to transparency. • Diversity and inclusion report – the report has been circulated to the committee, changes coming back. Great report with many recommendations that appear to be easily implemented and some that will take a little more time and will test our resolve. Historically there has been a diversity committee that reported to the president and would like that to continue, want to have the right people on the committee and has shared the list with the chair of UC. • Have received a lot of feedback on our new steps to reduce the cost of housing and other cost saving plans for students. There is considerable support in the community. The reduction of cost for students is about 9%. • As we have heard, the J & J vaccine has been halted. We had completed about 1,500 student vaccines and we heard that overwhelmingly our students wanted to be vaccinated. Encourage everyone to get vaccinated and have had no reports of adverse reactions from those who received it here. Indications are that the J & J vaccine will return. • There was a question about the timeline for the return of employees to campus – President Miller did not have that information but pointed out that we are still under the same guidelines as before, would suggest mid-summer. Will need to consider the good parts of working remotely and fold them into the work experience here. Asking Dallas and others to think about how parts of that
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	<p>experienced helped employees and increased productivity. He expressed that coming back the way we were might not be best for everybody.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was asked about the timetable for the Athletics committee report – the president indicated that their last meeting is tomorrow and they are developing the report.
<p style="text-align: center;">PROVOST’S REMARKS JOHN WIENCEK</p>	
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provost shared points for the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting; list of graduates will be approved at meeting, wide variety of reorganizations of colleges, departments and OAA as well as several programs that have morphed into new programs. • The provost shared that COVID continues to live with us and generate uncertainty in regards to fall classes. Plans are being put in place for about 20% of courses to be virtual and remainder to be scheduled with 3 feet social distancing. Vaccinations are hoped to be high enough for that. If the need for 6 feet distancing happens there will be changes to the plans. There is a committee working on plans for fall and anticipation of shifting those plans. Jennifer Lillard is the chair of the committee. We want to provide choices in courses in terms of virtual and face-to-face and want to make sure our plans are emphasizing the safety of faculty and students. • Reaching out to students who need financial help, have created the Zips Affordability Scholarship which will make up the difference between what a student owes and what they have received in grants. Reducing the cost of rooms on campus and have created a summer program that will help those students with two free courses from the GenEd courses. • Dean search for branch campuses is ongoing. • A question was asked concerning Admissions putting together something that employees could use to help in enrollment and retention; other than sharing UA news on our personal social media and wearing UA gear when out. He also shared that at other schools there are brochures that employees had with ideas on how to help and that some of the ideas included greeting parents and students visiting campus and picking up any papers on campus. He also stated that the image of the university in the public eye has not been favorable in recent years and that enthusiasm goes a long way and is the most important thing we could do, we are all recruiters and can all help a student graduate. Keep encouraging students and helping them work hard. He asked University Communications and Marketing to put something together.
<p style="text-align: center;">COMMITTEE REPORTS TONIA FERRELL</p>	
	<p>The Chair reminded everyone of the online link to do committee reports and to catch up before the end of the semester. The link is on the UC website.</p> <p>There were no committee reports.</p>

CONSTITUENCY REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSG – President Banik shared that GSG was running elections and that new committees should be onboard in May. He indicated that this would be his last meeting and thanked everyone for their support of the group and thanked their advisors. He also thanked Anne Bruno, Drs. Messina and Saunders for their help. • USG – President Feezel thanked everyone on UC. USG finishing the year and sharing all the great work done by the group this year. The new USG president will be sworn in next week and the VP will continue into next year. • CPAC – very busy in providing professional development opportunities, pushing out more in recent weeks. Engaging with Human Resources in the conversation on compensation. • SEAC – met with President Miller and it was a productive and informative meeting. Working on issues that were brought up with him regarding employment and compensation. Working on newsletter. • Faculty Senate – approved course proposals and hearing from graduate and undergraduate students as well as part-time faculty. • Deans – program review going on and those programs have submitted their materials. Deans are looking forward to summer semester and graduation. Also meeting with incoming students and faculty advisors to get students registered. Keeping students engaged for summer and retained. • Chair – working with Admissions and doing well. Chairs are getting involved in developing landing pages for prospective students. Met with provost and talking about contract and website for fall, a lot of conversation. Trying to be sensitive to what our students are going through and the stress of the semester in virtual environment.
<p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</p>	
<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<p>Diversity – UCEC reviewing potential slate of nominees, plan to provide that to Sheldon tomorrow. Hope to move quickly to get invitations out to those members.</p>
<p>GOOD OF THE ORDER</p>	
<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None • The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 pm