

University Council

MINUTES

MAY 11, 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: Anne Bruno, Jeanette Carson, Laura Conley, Ed Evans, Kathee Evans, Tonia Ferrell, Marjorie Hartleben, Grace Kasunic, Kris Kraft, Paul Levy, Tim McCarragher, John Nicholas, Michele Novachek, Scott Randby, Tiffany Schmidt, John Wiencek</p> <p>Absent with notice: Gary Miller, Shawn Stevens</p> <p>Absent without notice: Katie Cerrone, Shagata Das, Will Cole, JP Garcher, Jennifer Manista, Emily Starkey</p> <p>Other attendees: Phil Allen, Maria Celeste Cook, Oliva Demas, Pam Duncan, Tammy Ewin, Dallas Grundy, Kathleen Kaluza Havenstein, Wayne Hill, Sarah Kelly, John MacDonald, Melanie McGurr, Nicholas Nussen, John Reilly, Linda Saliga, Michelle Smith, Bryan Williams</p>
<p>Agenda topics:</p> <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 3:01 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 April 20 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 April 27 UC Executive Committee minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new Topic Submission was received regarding vaccine requirements. After discussion, the UCEC referred the item to John MacDonald and he has shared it with Eric Green. 2. Unfinished business – Diversity Committee report coming soon, Cryptocurrency topic submission was sent to proposer for more information and a response will be sent. 3. New business – constituency report feedback was positive and the reports will continue as they were felt to be valuable as a part of campus communication.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The chair received a space allocation report. After discussion, the UCEC decide it does not need to review these in the future unless there is a contested item. 5. Approved the agenda for the May 11 UC meeting and thanked outgoing members for their service. 6. The chair updated the group on the use of the Forms for committee reports; after conversation with Heather on some issues with uploading the reports to the web page. Reports can now be typed into the box or uploaded. 7. The chair thanked everyone who responded to Secretary Kraft’s email on committee reports.
<p style="text-align: center;">PRESIDENT’S REMARKS DR. GARY MILLER</p>	
	<p>The president was not able to attend the meeting.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PROVOST’S REMARKS JOHN WIENCEK</p>	
<p>DISCUSSION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provost thanked all those who participated in commencement and commented that while the weather was a challenge, everyone was glad it still went on as planned and it was a great achievement and student were happy to have the ceremony. • The provost updated the group on enrollment – applications are coming in but the pattern is different from previous years; a lag has been noticed and decisions are being made later than usual. There has been an uptick in applications, scholarships and flat tuitions are generating a response. The Zips Affordability Scholarship was rolled out and the reduction in dorm costs was announced as well. Those appear to be contributing to the upward trend in applications. The provost encouraged everyone to remain engaged with students and get them to register for their classes. • The administration is looking at a more permanent remote workplace policy. Prior to COVID, the University of Akron did not have a policy in place, now looking to have one on a permanent basis. There will be a nuanced approach to returning to campus, many have been working remotely will return to campus. We are encouraging people to return to campus if they feel safe to do so. By late summer we will be expecting everyone to be back to normal practices but the new policy will allow for other arrangements. There will be more about the policy over the summer, work is coming from COVID committee. • Searches – College of Business had several candidates come in but after all that the decision was made to begin another search. Susan Hanlon is retiring and Joe Urgo will be the interim dean of the college as well as Honors college while we look to fill those positions. School of Polymer Science and Engineering brought one candidate in and after discussions decided to continue the search. Have decided to look to get professional help with searches and to bring in a more diverse pool. There are many searches that need to be done; law dean, director of nursing school, Bliss Institute, VP for student pathways and other coming up. Many searches will begin in fall.

- The university planning group has met their key tasks for the year – short term plans and a process for renewal every other year. The provost will meet with the president to review those recommendations.
- A question was asked about an update on the search for the director of branch campuses. The provost reported that he had met with the committee and that it was an internal search. The committee is moving forward.
- A question was asked about the search for a VP of research. The provost reported that the search would pick up again in fall and that Aimee DeChambeau is the chair of that search committee. Representatives from Faculty Senate and Deans will serve on the committee.
- A question was asked about the salary survey for staff, contract professionals and part-time faculty. The provost responded that this a large, comprehensive approach that will be taken with a lot of discussion on compensation. It must also be kept in mind that finances may not be available for everyone to increase pay for everyone. This will be a two-year project and possibly beyond that. Sarah Kelly will be working on this with Dallas and his team. There is also a question of how employees see the path for themselves at the university. A classification system for career progression is valuable. This work will be broken into tasks. It is years away and there may be places we need to get working on right away but we need to look at the total picture as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

- Information Technology – Chair Randby read the resolution brought by UCIT regarding the removal of Qualtrics from campus software. Qualtrics has raised its price significantly and ITS looked at a Faculty Senate proposal to replace Qualtrics with another platform. A committee was formed to research other softwares and possible replacement of Qualtrics. The committee gathered a large amount of input and data from campus users and concluded that abandoning Qualtrics is not advisable. It is the standard in many fields and student need to understand its use to be employed. The resolution is to keep Qualtrics and to explore pricing until something better comes along. The resolution passed 14 yes and 0 no.
- Talent Development & Human Resource – Chair Conley present information on the vacation carryover topic submission. The issue was sent to HR and also to Dallas Grundy to inquire about the financial impact of vacation carryover. The policy states that the accrued vacation will need to be used within two years and that there would be no financial impact so long as the vacation could not be paid out in the case of separation from the university. It was determined that a portion of the information was not distributed to the full body, a motion to hold a special meeting planned for May 18th to discuss and vote on the issue passed.
- Chair Conley also reported that the Talent Development & Human Resource committee reviewed the topic submission on PT faculty raises and referred it to Budget & Finance for review. It has become the campus wide salary review now.
- Budget & Finance – Dallas Grundy provided an update on the Fiscal 22 budget. He reviewed the report that will be going to the Board of Trustees at their June

	<p>meeting. He has designed a high level special budget process for this year that deviates from previously instructed higher learning commission process. Thought it was unrealistic given the circumstances. Would extend the timeline a bit on the process. The budget is coming together and clarifying the sub budgets to match to projections. General fund is roughly complete and the sales/service budget is being worked on. As soon as final decisions have been made, he and the Budget and Finance committee will be ready to share. The auxillary budget is complete as well. Should have a budget to share with Budget and Finance Committee next week, did want to share a couple of notable developments: enrollments and resulting tuition and fees are major component of the budget, hoping to continue on this trajectory. We're really glad to see that it is going in a positive direction. Other thing is that we recently received a notification of our SSI for next year and our modeling \$88 mil and we just received confirmation our SSI is about \$95 mil for this year. That's a positive development for our budget. We want to include the fullest picture of the budget moving forward. Working to finalize and be ready to present by next week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was asked about the names of final candidates for the Special Awards; it was reported that the list would be coming out in the next few days and that work is happening to set up an event for the achievement award winners.
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CONSTITUENCY REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSG – Katelyn Frey introduced herself as the new president of GSG. She thanked Arnob Banik for all his work this past year. The new GSG is putting together their group and mentioned that they need faculty reps for Health and Engineering. She also stated that she will be focusing on the issue on health insurance for graduate students, which is not currently available to domestic graduate students. • USG – Grace Kasunic introduced herself as the new president of USG. She stated that the new group is getting acclimated and is excited to work with everyone. • CPAC – the group met with President Miller on April 19th. Sarah Kelly also attended a meeting to discuss personnel issues and the special HR committee that has been set up. Professional development events were planned and delivered; a workshop on LinkedIn and investment planning as well as a work/life harmony session and a session on etiquette for virtual environments. • SEAC – working on ways to communicate with constituency which includes personnel on various shifts. • Faculty Senate – elected new executive committee members; Chair Kate Budd, Vice Chair Adam Smith and returning Secretary Angela Hartsock. Approved recommendation from APC that students must complete 2/3 of credits in a certificate program at the University of Akron. • Deans – commencement is done, thankfully. Ceremony was briefly featured on NBC Nightly News. Work continuing on events and finishing up the semester. Focus on confirmations and enrollments, reducing melt as much as possible.
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	<p>Recruiting transfer students. Working with other institutions on articulation agreements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – looking at admissions and melt as well as bargaining contract.
<p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS TONIA FERRELL</p>	
DISCUSSION	<p>Diversity & Inclusion – membership list is finalized.</p>
<p>GOOD OF THE ORDER TONIA FERRELL</p>	
DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kris Kraft gave a shout out to Anne Bruno for her work all weekend with commencement in the rain and snow. • Jeanette Carson shared that graduates are on campus today taking pictures in the beautiful weather. John Messina informed the group that graduates were given a map with prime locations to take graduation photos. Chair Ferrell thanked him for all his work on commencement. • The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 pm