

University Council

MINUTES

AUGUST 11, 2020

3 – 4:30 PM

MICROSOFT TEAMS

MEETING CALLED BY	Ruth Nine-Duff, chair	
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting	
PRESIDER	Ruth Nine-Duff, chair	
NOTE TAKER	Tonia Ferrell	
ATTENDEES	<p>Member: Phil Allen, Arnob Banik, Anne Bruno, Jeanette Carson, Katie Cerrone, Shagata Das, Ed Evans, Kevin Feezel, Tonia Ferrell, Marjorie Hartleben, Kristine Kraft, Paul Levy, Mary Jo MacCracken, Gary Miller, Ruth Nine-Duff, Dane Quinn, Scott Randby, Linda Saliga, Shiva Sastry, Tiffany Schmidt, Julia Spiker, Shawn Stevens, John Wiencek</p> <p>Absent with notice: Emily Starkey</p> <p>Absent without notice: Rubayat Islam, Ben Swanson</p> <p>Other attendees: Christine Boyd, Celeste Cook, Olivia Demas, Michael Dowling, Tammy Ewin, Amy Freels, Brittany Hartman, Cher Hendricks, Wayne Hill, Jolene Lane, John MacDonald, John Messina, Steve Myers, Michele Novachek, John Reilly, Harvey Sterns, Steve Storck, Joe Urgo</p>	
Agenda topics:		
3:00 – 3:02	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 minutes were approved as distributed by unanimous consent. The chair asked for additions or corrections to the July 14 University Council minutes. There being none, the minutes were approved as distributed by unanimous consent. 	
3:02 – 3:07	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT	RUTH NINE DUFF
DISCUSSION	<p>The chair reviewed the attached July 28 UC Executive Committee minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed upcoming change in officers. UC will be electing a new chair at our September meeting as the term is ending. While our vice chair has a year remaining, she will be stepping off of UC and we will need to elect someone to fill the vacancy. 	
3:07 – 3:17	PRESIDENT'S REMARKS	DR. GARY MILLER

DISCUSSION

Dr. Miller provided an update to UC on several key points about diversity, athletics and the budget.

- President Miller met today with Sheldon Wrice and Julie Zhao, who are leading the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, and the other members of the task force. The group divided into subcommittees at today's meeting and is planning on providing a report at the end of the fall semester for review.
- President Miller noted that athletics is in flux nationally and there are no answers for how this will end up given the circumstances of postponements and cancellations of collegiate seasons. Confirmed commitment to set up an internal Athletics Task Force to review pathways to consider a more rational athletics funding model and program. The Task Force will include representatives from UC and faculty senate. Dr. Miller announced that today the Big 10 was the first Power 5 conference to postpone fall sport seasons and that other announcements would be forthcoming from other conferences.
- FY21 Budget
 - The budget process this year is very complex.
 - Dr. Miller and his senior team are committed to shared governance.
 - Steve Storck, CFO, will show us numbers today, but Dr. Miller provided cautions that we should think about when viewing the budget as presented.
 - This budget is a starting place for review because numbers are in flux. Our Board of Trustees has to approve a budget so that the university has spending authority.
 - We had a 2-month authority granted in June and now the board needs to approve a budget to provide authority for the rest of the year. Uncertainties remain.
 - We will not see a traditional budget process this year. Both Dr. Miller and Dr. Wiencek noted this is a special year and we will get back to the normal process as we get past COVID-19. We should expect an iterative process, where the budget will remain in flux the entire semester and we will likely see the budget several times over the next few months as various scenarios play out.
 - Dr. Miller acknowledged that we may ask questions today that they will not have an answer for because they need to discuss with board and come back to UC to discuss further.
 - They are presenting the budget in a different way this time to UC and to the board. Added a scenario if we wait and do not make the difficult changes we have set in motion and compared proposed FY21 budget to FY20 actual.
 - Board wanted to make sure we develop a budget that has the absolute minimum draw on reserves and preserves our academic program excellence to give us a future. Their obligation requires we carry reserves to meet financial obligations. We are starting with numbers we believe will accomplish this.
 - Expects process to be like this because things are changing so fast. The Provost added that we are not looking to change the process forever.
- Dr. Miller appreciates our work and realizes we have made sacrifices. We will get through this extraordinary time. With the UC's help we will continue to be the great university we already are.
- There was a question about potential saving because of MAC decision to postpone fall season. Dr. Miller said the decision is not a savings. It is an additional cost to us for this year. If spring gets cancelled, it will also add more cost. Athletic programs are not like academic programs, there is no net of

3:17 – 3:19	PROVOST’S REMARKS	JOHN WIENCEK
DISCUSSION	<p>Provost Wiencek provided the following updates on task items from UC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Provost let the president and staff know about UC’s request to have two seats, if possible on the Athletics Task Force. Also let them know that Dr. Tonia Ferrell, secretary, has volunteered to serve as the UC representative. • The Provost will bring forward the issue about Dean appointments to UC and standing committees next week. Because of our reorganization down to 5 colleges, there are not enough Dean representatives available and an alternative solution needs to be identified and UC by-laws updated. • He noted we are getting ready for the fall. As part of this, Provost Wiencek has asked Faculty Senate to assist him in determining the future structure of the provost’s office and what needs to be addresses as a result of the reorganization. Ideally would like to have something in place in a month or two in order to move forward quickly. 	
3:19 – 4:16	FY21 BUDGET PRESENTATION	SHIVA SASTRY AND STEVE STORCK

Chair of the UC Budget and Finance Standing Committee (UCBF), Shiva Sastry thanked CFO, Steve Storck, for his work on the budget. UCBF did not endorse the budget because the budget continues to be in flux and will not be bringing forth a resolution for UC to endorse the budget. Instead, UCBF unanimously approved moving discussion of budget to full UC. He applauded CFO Storck for getting us to a place where we have a limited draw on reserves. UCBF is looking forward to recalibrating themselves across benchmarking categories and making UA stronger for the future.

CFO Storck presented the [FY21 Budget](#).

- The FY21 budget assumes the following:
 - Enrollment will decrease 15% - based on current internal projections
 - State Share of Instruction (SSI) will decrease 8.8% - based Ohio Department of Higher Education estimates provided in June
 - Lower Indirect Cost Recovery
 - Less Investment Income – this is money used to operate the university, not our endowment; assumes continued lower interest rates
 - Miscellaneous Revenue will be up over FY20 as we see a one-time bump in allocation from the UA Research Foundation and ongoing repayments from the Perkins Loan Fund
 - Payroll and Fringe will be lower, reflecting impact of reduction in force and other changes to benefits across campus. Bargaining unit faculty reduction in force is included here, but outcome of arbitration may change projected figures.
 - Utilities and All Other Operating Expenses are assumed to be lower than FY20. We are doing better with utility use and rates are holding steady. We will see reductions in general operating spending across the campus.
 - The year will continue as planned with hybrid, online and in-person instruction.

- The FY21 Budget provides contingency scenarios that communicate how the budget could change if we experience any of the following:
 - We have to vacate residence halls and switch to fully remote instruction like Spring semester.
 - Any change in the AAUP reduction in force due to arbitration outcome.
 - Experience any additional enrollment decreases or additional loss of SSI.

- Presentation of FY21 budget included FY20 actual figures, FY21 proposed and FY21 “Status Quo,” which represents impact on budget if we did nothing in terms of payroll, fringe and operating reductions compared to FY20.
 - As proposed, the FY21 budget projects a minimum million draw on available cash reserves if all assumptions hold true.
 - The status quo scenario would lead us to draw five to six times the proposed amount from our cash reserves.
 - The proposed FY21 budget is the scenario the administration feels will most likely happen at this time.

- There was a brief overview of Transfers Out in the budget. These present fees and other general fund dollars collected that flow out to auxiliaries.
 - FY21 budget assumes an increase in Transfers Out to auxiliaries in anticipation of a switch to fully remote learning. This support is an allowance for the potential loss of revenue auxiliaries (residence life, dining services and parking and transportation) could see if the scenario becomes certain.

- The CFO provided information on future budget impacts that may be helpful in thinking about our revenues and expenditures going forward. For instance

DISCUSSION

4:16 - 4:25

REPORTS

RUTH NINE-DUFF

DISCUSSION

1. Graduate Student Government: Arnob Banik updated UC on work with graduate students since our last meeting. GSG held open discussions with graduate students and shared the feedback and concerns with dean of graduate students. The group updated the RSO policy and finance manual. Arnob let us know that the vice president of GSG has left UA and there is a vacancy. Applications being accepted, and a new person will be elected. Expecting appointees by start of fall semester. Working with diversity and inclusion action team, focusing on the community garden. Further, GSG is participating in virtual international student orientations to welcome new students to UA.
2. Undergraduate Student Government: Kevin Feezel let UC know that USG continues to work on strategic planning for upcoming year. They were able to work over the summer, which is not always possible for undergraduate students. USG also has many members serving on fall 2020 planning groups. Students are looking forward to coming back to campus in the fall.
3. Committee Reports: The attached [committee reports](#) were submitted for UC review prior to the meeting.
 - Julia Spiker, outgoing chair of the Institutional Advancement committee, provided an update: They met last Friday (8/7/20) to hold elections. Michele Novachek and Abby Shiban were elected new chair and vice chair, respectively.
 - Harvey Sterns provided an update for the Human Development committee: He thanked John Wiencek for his attention and efforts to resolve an issue they were having with 60+ course registration. The Provost was able to establish a multi-day registration period instead of the single day usually provided to our community members who are 60 or older.

4:26 – 4:30

NEW BUSINESS

RUTH NINE-DUFF

DISCUSSION

1. Chair Nine-Duff reminded Cher Hendricks and Tonia Ferrell we need to send out email for nominations for chair and vice chair ahead of next meeting.
2. Ruth said she has appreciated the opportunity to serve as chair.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. by unanimous consent.