

*University Council*

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| University Council | | | | |
| Minutes | February 9, 2021 | 3 – 4 PM | | Microsoft teams |
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| Meeting called by | Tonia Ferrell, Chair | | | |
| Type of meeting | Monthly Meeting | | | |
| Presider | Tonia Ferrell, chair | | | |
| Note taker | Heather Loughney | | | |
| Attendees | **Members:** Phil Allen, Arnob Banik, Anne Bruno, Jeanette Carson, Will Cole, Shagata Das, Ed Evans, Kathee Evans, Kevin Feezel, Tonia Ferrell, Marjorie Hartleben, Kris Kraft, Paul Levy, Tim McCarragher, John Nicholas, Michele Novachek, Scott Randby, Emily Starkey, Shawn Stevens, John Wiencek  **Absent with notice:** Will Cole  **Absent without notice:**  Shagata Das  **Other attendees:** Laura Conley, Celeste Cook, Cher Hendricks, Wayne Hill, Olivia Demas, Amy Freels, Gary Miller, John Reilly, Mahesh Srinivasan, Sonya Wagner | | | |
| Agenda topics: | | | | |
|  | Call to Order | | tonia Ferrell | |
| Discussion | 1. The chair began the meeting by updating the agenda; only the January minutes would be reviewed and adding under Unfinished Business the diversity/equity request. The chair asked for any other additions or revisions to the agenda. There being none, the agenda was approved as amended by unanimous consent. 2. The January minutes were approved without dissent. | | | |
|  | executive committee Report | | Tonia Ferrell | |
| Discussion | The Chair reviewed the minutes of the January 26 UCEC meeting (attached).   1. Discussed the update on Equity Inclusion, waiting on diversity taskforce to complete their work and submit report to President. 2. Discussed new form created for submitting committee reports in MS Forms. Some have already used it. Can submit more than one response so that minutes can be caught up. 3. Have added Good of the Order to agenda for both UC and UCEC meetings. For UC meetings will be adding reporting section for UC Constituency Groups. 4. Provost explained about risk audit survey that went out to some members of the campus community. | | | |
|  | President’s remarks | | gary miller | |
| Discussion | * Follow up on Diversity Committee – report is in legal review now, will look at the report as soon as we have it. * Working on substantial changes to budget, preparing for Board of Trustees to review. There were changes due to change in SSI and expenses. Used revision to build a budget projection tool for next 5 years. * Spending a lot of time working out how we will open in fall. Discussions around opening in person within guidelines and how to make that work with given classroom sizes. Need to have this ready before March 1. * Looking at commencement this spring and logical locations, most likely the stadium. * Have been meeting with supporters who are excited about what is going on at UA and talking to legislature and the Chancellor. There is optimism concerning higher ed funding. * Athletic working group continues to meet and plan to finish before end of spring semester. | | | |
|  | provost’s remarks | | john wiencek | |
| Discussion | * Have had productive conversations with AAUP, notice will go out when we reach a tentative agreement. * Enrollment – admits are down slightly (3%), numbers are getting closer to the last year. Focus on yield now, those who have paid deposits. Fall/Spring retention has been relatively good considering challenges. Many thanks too all those who work in our student services areas for helping our students. We are reaching out to students who have taken the spring semester off. * University planning group is working, launching the pre-COVID plan and ready to go with it. There will be a draft to share with the community. Plan would give us our initial activities for next year and a half and form the next plan. The goal is to have new plans every other year. Looking to create a one-stop education office. A survey for input on that coming soon. * Mitchell McKinney is the new dean of BCAS pending Board of Trustees approval. * Focus on fall scheduling to make decisions quickly so that department chairs and dean know what is planned Students will be able to register before spring break. * OAA reorganization – have vetted the plan with the President. Will have a new chief research officer that will have aspects of business engagement. Looking to develop community enrichment. * Question was asked about timetable for AAUP ratification. No information to share. Up to their leadership. | | | |
|  | Reports | | tonia ferrell | |
| Discussion | Committee Reports:   1. The Recreation and Wellness committee reported that they are working on a mental health survey with Boston University that was sent out to the campus. Everyone is encouraged to respond. 2. Information Technology reported that they have been discussing Adobe licensing. There is a need to make the Adobe creative cloud accessible to students who use it. The committee hopes to have a recommendation after their next meeting. 3. The Awards Committee reminded everyone that they are seeking nominations for outstanding achievement awards. Deadline is February 15.   UC Constituency Reports:   * GSG discussed issues for student in spring semester. TAs asking if they will be able to get vaccines. Will be holding two mental health workshops, announcing those soon. * USG just finished their New Year, New Roo event, preparing for the spring semester. Beginning elections for Trustee for Board of Trustees. * CPAC –will be forming a subcommittee to look into professional development opportunities. Hoping to have a guest speaker, would be for all of campus. * SEAC – working with newly created SEAC teams assigned to groups of constituency. Also volunteering to work with Admissions to contact students. * Deans – no report. * Department Chairs – focus on fall schedule, there is a lot of ambiguity. * Faculty Senate – considered many course proposals at last meeting, approved all proposals that were presented. Also discussed the CR/NCR policy for students, passed a resolution to that effect. Students will be able to request up to two weeks after grades are submitted. | | | |
|  | unfinished and NEw business | | tonia ferrell | |
| Discussion | Unfinished Business  The chair restated the diversity submission.  New Business  The chair shared the form for committee reporting, this will hopefully make it more convenient and efficient for committees to provide reports.   * The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 by unanimous consent. | | | |