

# University Council

MINUTES

DECEMBER 12, 2023

3:04-4:22 PM

LH 208 & TEAMS

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>MEETING CALLED BY</b> | Tonia Ferrell, chair   |
| <b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>   | Monthly Meeting  |
| <b>PRESIDER</b>          | Tonia Ferrell, chair   |
| <b>NOTE TAKER</b>        | Heather Loughney   |
| <b>ATTENDEES</b>         | <p><b>Member:</b> Marilia Antunez, Alia Baig, Stacia Biddle, John Corby, Alexis Currie, Melissa Dreisbach, Blair Everett, Tammy Ewin, Ed Evans, Cam Feezel, Tonia Ferrell, Dan Friesner, John Huss, Sarah Kelly, Kris Kraft, Brant Lee, Nate Meeker, John Messina, Stephen L. Myers, Michele Novachek, Varunee Faii Sangganjanavanich, Heather Walter, Nick Weber, John Wienczek, Wan Yu</p> <p><b>Absent with notice:</b> Tracie Epner, Dallas Grundy, Gary Miller, Linda Saliga, Sonya Wagner,</p> <p><b>Absent without notice:</b> Kim Cole, Grace DeWitt, Deb Owens, Eli Strohecker, Tausif Utchhash, Eric Veigel,</p> <p><b>Other attendees:</b> Matt Akers, Suzanne Bausch, Nicholas Campana, Celeste Cook, Aimee DeChambeau, Anne Hanson Hilaire, Kerry Jackson, Emily Janoski-Haehlen, Paul Levy, Steve McKellips, Laura Miller-Francis, Paula Neugebauer, Gwen Price, John Reilly, Christin Seher, Mark Stasitis, Misty Viller, Tom Waltermire, Jessica Whitehill</p> |
| <b>Agenda topics:</b>    |  |
|                          | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CALL TO ORDER</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>TONIA FERRELL</b></span></p>  |
|                          | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.</li> <li>2. The agenda was approved as distributed.</li> <li>3. The minutes of the November 14, 2023 <a href="https://uazips-my.sharepoint.com/:w/g/personal/hl_uakron_edu/EZFgu_A21WZLhp9VM2Wlc7UBfmys7UuRiEWN1nVkhfmTHw?e=zz27Ae">https://uazips-my.sharepoint.com/:w/g/personal/hl_uakron_edu/EZFgu_A21WZLhp9VM2Wlc7UBfmys7UuRiEWN1nVkhfmTHw?e=zz27Ae</a> meeting were approved as distributed.</li> </ol>  |
|                          | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>TONIA FERRELL</b></span></p>   |
|                          | <p>The Executive Committee met on November 30 and discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three topic submissions – Student Representation on Faculty Senate – referred to Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Telehealth for Students – referred to Student Engagement and Success along with Campus Wellness, Heat in Olin Hall – this was sent within 24 hours directly to VP Bautista and Steve Myers for immediate attention.</li> <li>• Reviewed guest speakers and added speakers. There will be no speaker in July 2024 and August 2024 will be the Provost Fellows reviewing the upcoming year.</li> </ul>  |

- Discussion of UC participation, committee meetings and goals, calendar of meetings to possibly be made public. Discussion of more diligent enforcement of attendance at committee meetings.
- Strong set of committee expectations and bringing back Digest summaries of actions to be published following UC meetings, increase campus communications of UC business.

**PROVOST’S REMARKS**

The provost began by stating he was unable to attend in person and thanked the trustees in attendance.

Enrollment discussion – looking good, admissions are up. Processing has improved and helped with that. Those admitted are those who need communications from colleges and faculty. Develop rapport with students, use CRM (Slate), can get access to it through Steve McKellips. Talked about ongoing refinement of affordability for students. Make Akron Possible scholarship program – looks at income levels and provides full coverage for students at certain levels, international recruitment is continuing well. Know that only a small fraction of those students will show up. Engage with them as well. Worry is now FASFA, govt is changing rules and how that works, so there will be delays due to that. Hope to be in place with all that by Fall. Anticipating delays on that end.

Commencement is this week, 800 graduates, 9 am and 1 pm ceremonies. Attend if you can. Congratulations to our recent grads.

Shout out to Sheldon Wrice and his team for Rethinking Race. Great event and speakers.

There were no questions for the provost.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE**

Wienczek - I want to extend my thanks to the fellows for their leadership, spent a lot of time with whomever wants to talk about it. Great ideas working with UPG and all that work is coming to fruition now with a new version of the plan. Fellows Erin, Angela and Matt have been a joy to work with. Put plan together with first group appointed by President Miller when he came to campus. But we had to shut down due to Covid and had to stop the process, 9 months later came back to the plan and implemented with a few modifications. Made it a two-year rolling plan. We all agreed this would be a living process. Fellows went out and talked and raised interest in reengaging with campus, looking at strategy process over time. You’ll see that we now have two driving documents: one for a decade-long process and one that’s two years in work.

Matt Juravich shared the [presentation](#). They also shared a document with the [strategy](#). He and Angela Hartsock discussed the points of the presentation and also discussed the key challenges of stakeholder involvement and making a culture change to improve commitment.

Questions:

Evans – what are the very next steps after the vote?

Hartsock - Launch in January after approval. Share more widely with campus, no specifics on sharing yet, but have a communication strategy. No other approvals are needed at this point.

Juravich – re-engage the groups.

Evans – since you don't have a clear plan, might recommend re-engage collaboratives first.

Hartsock – calls for participants went out about a year ago, some people may want to cycle on or off, may reopen for membership.

Walter – recommend meeting with chairs/directors and see if we can get some universal approach.

Waltermire – thanks for the good work on this. Curious as we engage with academic units when people ask what process is for holding units/organizations accountable for results, how do we describe that process to them?

Wienczek – ultimately, we're in the midst of changing to Workday which allows us to incorporate performance management planning. We will overlay the process on this. Before it was very ad hoc with Deans or VPs choosing to work or not on the items. A lot of what we're talking about is driven by people's passions, but some will be core to how we're driving the whole plan (like enrollment).

Huss – looking at different promises and was involved in inclusiveness and looking for practical applications of that – used one of the learning studios in the library, had a cart of computers available for student use and now it's not available for use. Students have to long-term borrow computers for use for the entire semester. Basic level of belonging in having access to computer that works on campus. That stuff is more important to belonging, and when not there it is a point of exclusion. Very basic level of inclusion here. Very important for higher level of inclusion too.

Hartsock – Amy DeChambeau tracks that in the library and has seen increased demand. We'll circle back to that. Thank you.

*The UC voted to endorse the Strategic Plan.*

**GUEST SPEAKER – JILL BAUTISTA – YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY**

Jill shared the information on the [Youth Protection Policy](#).

The university wants to be clear on intentions:  
-register program with Compliance and Risk Management Office  
-all personnel undergo background checks  
-code of conduct and expectations

Consistent with what we already do in our Summer Camps, we already have many good practices in place.

Questions:

Evans – does this apply and how so to things like Visit Days or having a small group of students coming to campus?

Baustista – depends on the age and demographics of visitors. Are students under custody of parents who are on campus or alone? Overnight experiences/programs are a higher risk and we've discussed those further.

Messina – there is a registration process for Visit Days and there are rules on who can register, a 12-year-old could not register. Different from camps, etc. Admissions team already has in place that if behavior is observed it can be reported.

Evans – so these groups then get sent out with university representatives, getting at the training piece with these?

Messina – all UA employees are required to complete training. Tour guides receive training.

Bautista – we will have a robust communication campaign once we start this. Will get out in front of many groups to talk through different ways youth come to campus.

*The UC voted to endorse the Youth Protection Policy.*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

- Budget & Finance – Misty Villers shared the report from Dallas Grundy on FY23-24. [https://uazips-my.sharepoint.com/:p/g/personal/hl\\_uakron\\_edu/EQbJXlI0FvREqunp4RtE17QBa2tKrJLfh6k3-PlwvzY2A?e=mzx0oE](https://uazips-my.sharepoint.com/:p/g/personal/hl_uakron_edu/EQbJXlI0FvREqunp4RtE17QBa2tKrJLfh6k3-PlwvzY2A?e=mzx0oE)

### Highlights:

- overall flat enrollment, 2% increase for FT and PT employees, 34% for FT,
- Reduction of space on campus should equal reduction of utilities
- Debt service – 10.3 Mil vs 30.6 Mil
- Tuition and Fees – 3.0 % increase for incoming freshmen, 4.6 for Grads, Nonresident increase fee, \$15 fee for online courses
- Reengineering scholarships – taking out of general fund, additional 1 Mil being raised to put into scholarships.
- SSI – down 4.8 Mil this year.
- Shared expenses and revenues screen
  - Tuition revenue close to where it was last year.
  - General Service fees – increase in fees will be happening
  - Scholarship line is flat – working on reengineering scholarships, need to scholarship down.
  - SSI down
  - Dip down in Auxiliary – due to change in parking structure
- Expenses –
  - Compensation – last year 26.5 mil, 133 mil for this year – 2% increase in wages and filled more positions last year.
  - Fringe rate down – graduate remission is now a fringe, posting now.
  - Operating Expenses – now real changes
  - Utilities – 10.2 mil last year, budget was 12. Calm winter = gas savings.
  - Plant Fund – affected by projects that would be started.
  - Debt Service – will decrease this year.

### Questions:

Ferrell – how much came out of reserves in 23?

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|   | <p>June 30 – 27.8 Mil deficit, came out of reserves. 27 Mil slated for 2024.</p> <p>Parking and debt reduction: revised debt service<br/>24 = 10,305,014</p> <p>Huss – we were briefed in a meeting about long-term budget picture. Can you say what the next cycle after this will be? Is that going to change or continue as you showed?</p> <p>Villers – president has set goals for revenues, and plan is to increase revenues and decrease expenses. No full details on that yet.</p> <p>Levy – some of debt will go away, as we pay off. By 28 should be gone.</p> <p>The chair thanked Villers for the report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Technology – excited to collaborate with UA IT – full implementation for faculty in Workday – if someone you know or ou are interested in participating contact Sangganjanavanich or John Corby, the go-live is in February '24.</li> <li>• Campus Wellness – RooFit announcement coming soon.</li> </ul> |
| <b>CONSTITUENCY REPORTS</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>TONIA FERRELL</b></span> |  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GSG – since last meeting hosted a successful fall mixer event. Working on programming for next semester, grad appreciation week</li> <li>• USG – In November we hosted 7 events, held Dining Workers appreciation event where students could write thank you notes to all Dining staff, USG mental health week was held in Student Union.</li> <li>• PSAC – met last Friday with group, Sarah Kelly came to talk about performance evaluations and grievance committee. PSAC social was held.</li> <li>• SEAC – voted on bylaws this last month, Board of Trustees approved bylaws.</li> <li>• Faculty Senate – met last week, approved 23 new programs and 90+ new courses brought by CRC, thanks to them for their work. AAUP hosted a successful Day In The Life with BOT members on campus. Look forward to continuing those.</li> <li>• Chairs – no report.</li> <li>• Deans – no report.</li> </ul>                                       |
| <b>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</b>  |  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>   |
| <b>NEW BUSINESS</b>   |  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>   |

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|  | GOOD OF THE ORDER   | TONIA FERRELL |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 pm.</p> |               |