

University Council

MINUTES

JANUARY 23, 2018

3 – 3:45 PM

STUDENT UNION 312

MEETING CALLED BY	Harvey Sterns, chair	
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting	
PRESIDER	Harvey Sterns, chair	
NOTE TAKER	Kim Haverkamp	
ATTENDEES	<p>Member: Linda Barrett, Michelle Byrne, Jeanette Carson, Jared Coleman, Elizabeth Erickson, Tonia Ferrell, Brittany Hartman, Katherine Holcomb, Nancy Homa, Kristine Kraft, Chand Midha, Mike Nelson, Ruth Nine-Duff, Rex Ramsier, Néna Roy, Linda Saliga, Shiva Sastry, Harvey Sterns</p> <p>Absent with notice: Philip Allen, Taylor Bennington, Julie Cajigas, Marjorie Hartleben, Lynn Lucas, Matt Wilson</p> <p>Absent without notice: Kristen Giaquinto, Marca Selway-Kaplar, Taylor Swift</p> <p>Other attendees: Roland Bauer, Nathan Mortimer, Stephen Myers, John MacDonald, John Messina, Wayne Hill, Joshua Thomas, Barbara Weinzierl, Joette Dignan Weir</p>	
Agenda topics:		
3:00 – 3:05	CALL TO ORDER	HARVEY STERNS
DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The chair called the meeting to order. He asked for additions to the agenda. There being none, the agenda was approved as distributed by unanimous consent. 2. The chair asked for additions or corrections to the December 5 minutes. There being none, the agenda was approved as distributed by unanimous consent. 	
3:05 – 3:10	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT	HARVEY STERNS
DISCUSSION	<p>The chair reviewed the attached December 12 UC Executive Committee minutes.</p> <p>The chair read the attached University - Level Awards Resolution response from President Wilson.</p>	
3:10 – 3:10	ACTION ITEMS	HARVEY STERNS
DISCUSSION	There were none at this time.	
3:10 – 3:10	IN-DEPTH STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT	CHAIR
DISCUSSION	The Communications Committee report was rescheduled for the May 1 UC meeting.	

DISCUSSION

The following was discussed:

Enrollment

- Spring enrollment numbers are as predicted; we will get census data next week
- Fall applications are lower than this time last year, but many of last year's applications were incomplete so it is not necessarily a big issue. We had a great turnout this past Saturday at Scholar's Day, for example.

Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Program (VRIP)

- Information will be mailed to eligible faculty and administrators with faculty rank; approximately 230 individuals are eligible
- The last day to opt-in is March 20 and they will have 7 days to rescind
- Eligibility: age + years of continuous full-time services at UA = 75 or greater
- Separation Benefit: 50% of annual salary plus 5% for each year in excess of 15 years; capped at \$100,000
 - Retiree will be paid 40% cash the first year and three equal annual installments in a 403(b) account thereafter
- Healthcare allocation: up to \$4,000 for up to 4 years
- We have a goal that one-third of the net savings will be reinvested in positions (same as the current investment strategy)
- Faculty cannot participate in both VRIP and TARP
- Questions should be directed to the Department of Human Resources

Transition After Retirement Program (TARP) allows full-time faculty to transition from active employment into retirement with limited duties, by maintaining a presence on campus through a variety of means. It is an ongoing program with a rolling application window.

Phased Retirement Program (PRP) allows eligible contract professional and staff employees to retire from their regular full-time positions and continue to contribute to the success of the University and its students on a part-time basis.

Program Review

- The deans submitted reports last week; deans and chairs worked together to review reports completed by departments and categorize programs
- The Program Review Committee (24 faculty) will conduct an analysis and make recommendations to the Faculty Senate Academic Policies Committee

Five-Star Friday

- There will be flexibility for two-, three- and four-day course schedules (M-TH)
- We will emphasize to current and prospective students what we will do to make UA distinct on Fridays
- We have received feedback that students, families, guidance counselors and employers think this schedule is innovative

Esports Varsity Team and Club Program

- 1,100 students have expressed interest; 400 are prospective students
- An esports Director/Head Coach, Michael Fay, has been hired
- An open forum will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 12 – 1 p.m., in Simmons Hall Auditorium

3:25 – 3:45	COMMITTEE REPORTS	COMMITTEE CHAIRS
DISCUSSION	<p>Budget and Finance: The committee is focusing on the athletics budget and auxiliary budgets.</p> <p>Information Technology: They are exploring the consolidation of email accounts so faculty and student emails work together. They are also discussing the network storage and retention policy.</p> <p>Institutional Advancement: No report.</p> <p>Physical Environment: Space allocation in Simmons Hall is improving with the movement of advisors into the colleges.</p> <p>Per the Executive Committee report regarding the discussion about finding creative ways to use Quaker Square, including the possibility of moving the culinary arts program, a suggestion was made to ask the committee to provide a report back to the full Council that not only explores other uses for Quaker Square, but other spaces which need renovation or new purpose (e.g., Ballet Center).</p> <p>Student Engagement and Success: They are discussing with Brandon Mikulski, Director of Learning Communities & The Akron Experience, the idea of focusing the Akron Experience courses on the colleges. Planning to survey each college on what they are doing with these courses to better make recommendations on changes.</p> <p>Recreation and Wellness: They endorsed a pop-up food pantry through Student Affairs that will include only non-perishable food items. They are also working on a food insecurity survey with the Communications committee.</p> <p>Talent Development and Human Resources: No report.</p> <p>Ad hoc Awards Committee: Nomination information for University-level awards was sent to the campus community from President Wilson and Harvey Sterns on January 19. They are working with the Department of Human Resources to coordinate these awards with the service awards. The awards event is scheduled for April 25, 3 – 5 p.m., on the 5th floor of InfoCision Stadium.</p> <p>Ad hoc Textbook Committee: They gathered data about textbook costs for the top ten bachelor and associate degree programs for Provost Ramsier. They will attend the Open Textbook Seminar on February 15. Barnes and Noble is working on new textbook approaches. UA’s contract with Barnes and Noble expires in May 2019.</p>	
3:45 – 3:45	NEW BUSINESS	HARVEY STERNS
DISCUSSION	The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. by unanimous consent.	