

University Council

MINUTES

MAY 9, 2023

3:00-3:56 PM

TEAMS

MEETING CALLED BY	Tonia Ferrell, chair
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
PRESIDER	Tonia Ferrell, chair
NOTE TAKER	Heather Loughney
ATTENDEES	<p>Member: Alia Baig, Kim Cole, Grace DeWitt, Ed Evans, Tammy Ewin, Cam Feezel, Tonia Ferrell, Max Fightmaster, Marjorie Hartleben, John Huss, Sarah Kelly, Kris Kraft, Tim McCarragher, Nate Meeker, Steven L. Myers, John Reilly, Linda Saliga, Varunee Faii Sangganjanavanich, Heather Walter, Nick Weber, John Wiencek</p> <p>Absent with notice: Jeanette Carson, John Corby, Gary Miller</p> <p>Absent without notice: Matthew Dowd, Dallas Grundy, John Messina, Robert Peralta, Sherry Simms, Shawn Stevens, Eric Veigel</p> <p>Other attendees: Michelle Banis, Aimee DeChambeau, Kim Gentile, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Wendy Lampner, Janis McCracken, Melanie Jolynn McGurr, Stephen McKellips, Christine Mayer, Michele Novachek, Gwyn Price, Paula Neugebauer, Rita Sausmikat, Jessica Whitehill</p>
Agenda topics:	
	<p>CALL TO ORDER TONIA FERRELL</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The vice chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. 2. The agenda for the meeting was approved without dissent. 3. The minutes of the April 11, 2023 UC meeting were approved without dissent.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TONIA FERRELL	
	<p>March 28 – discussed two topic submissions; PT faculty PP – sent to Budget & Finance, Talent Dev & HR requested to collaborate with Parking and Physical Facilities for combined response. No response yet. Topic Submission from Evans about clock at Student Union, have not received it yet, will go to Phy Fac. Discussed guest speakers – mental health focus for August and September. Someone from Zip Assist and the new dean of CHHS. No guest speaker for July meeting. Upcoming events in April; food truck, USG & GSG elections.</p> <p>April 25 - no topic submission, guest speakers – invitation to Ali Doehring to speak, provost fellows to speak on strategic planning, push new CHHS dean to November meeting. New business – strategic planning and UPG – comprised of UCEC and content experts on campus, new process with provost fellows will shift focus and conversation is ongoing, UCEC will still be an active member of UPG. Talked about participation in UC meetings; is more participation in person vs Teams. Give input to members for next year. Committee overlap between FS and UC; IT and Student Affairs. Discussions</p>

ongoing with Chair Budd. UC committee reporting – monthly reports from one committee, topics working on, stopped due to pandemic, want to reinstate those reports. BF for sure to return. A calendar of reporting will be put together, if your committee has a preference let UCEC know. Talked about SEAC transitions and job classifications and Workday shifting, moving staff to professional staff.

PROVOST’S REMARKS – JOHN WIENCEK

Quite pleased with commencement – held five ceremonies in one weekend, weather was great all weekend. The new format is being received well by students, faculty and staff. Each college had its own ceremony. Grad school is showing up at all ceremonies. Great event.

Still encouraged on enrollment front – a lot of interest from overseas. Yield is up this year as well. If we continue to hold down melt and bring up Yield it will be good. Demographics and competition are always a concern. Putting a lot of best practices into play. BOT has shown a lot of interest in retention and enrollment, discovering some things we knew about but are becoming more intentional.

Budget process – Dallas is responsible for process, within units that report to me trying to get units to understand that budget process isn’t about just asking for money but looking at money in dept budgets. What can we scale back to invest in other areas? Do a better job of using the money we have.

Faculty Senate has committee looking at investments in the academic areas, Academic Investment. UC has primary governance on budget but will get input from AIC as well. Met with UCBF last week, gave them a briefing of what we are doing. Working with executive leadership and direct reports. Report is posted, was in Digest.

**PRESENTATION – AIMEE DECHAMBEAU, DEAN,
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

Dean DeChambeau shared her presentation. [Link](#)

Questions:

Mayer – thank you, helpful review. Wondering if young people still use the library? Seems as if you are doing a lot of relevant work.

DeChambeau – some students coming from schools that don’t have libraries, don’t understand that students can get help at the library. Early High School students can get a better understanding to libraries. User experience will lead people back to the library.

Is the library on TikTok?

We’re not on Twitter but TikTok maybe.

Huss – wanted to say something to chairs on the call, the learning studios in the library, even if you don’t need them for class, for courses that are online only – hold a class in a learning studio it’s an opportunity to sit students down and fill out course evaluations, get better participation. Importance of listening to feedback and this gives them the incentive to do it.

DeChambeau – thank you, go to our website and you can book a learning studio on your own, have one that seats 45.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

- Awards – celebration on May 2, all award recipients but one were in attendance. Thanks to Kate and Amy for their hard work. Thanks to all for supporting our staff.
- Budget & Finance – have been meeting monthly, provost shared budget process for budgeting in provost realm, working with Dallas to finalize the budget and assumptions for next year.
- Information Technology – many data collections underway to determine the best practice for assisting current technology that campus owns and also about Z-Alert, looking into best use for this, will report back on those.
- Institutional Advancement – shared slides [Link](#)

Met with Ali Doehring and Lisa Sabol and discussed Women in Philanthropy. Idea was to create opportunity to become philanthropist but to set goals for giving. Also have opportunity to shape how money is used. Members of the committee gave great presentations. One thing to highlight was finding out that there is space in the student union that is becoming a relaxation/mental health space – decisions on décor and naming to be completed, this was the first project of WIP. For 2023 they are deciding between 3 possible projects: Leadership Academy for COB, Operation room for Nurse Anesthesia program or Alternative Spring Break Travel Fund for Students. They will select from these to raise funds for. Not sure how many on UC knew about this, so wanted to share.

The chair shared that this is a great program with two different giving levels: 5,000 or 1,200.

- Physical Environment - meeting with Osborn Engineering about new commons. Brought to them input and what it should look like in the future. City of Akron work about to start through the Commons and the renovation will be part of the biennium celebrations. Architects got a lot of input.

Evans – update on Crouse/Ayer? When can people move back in?

Myers – moving in next couple weeks, classrooms will be used in June. Not at full occupancy yet, furniture is being delivered, should be good by the beginning of June.

Evans – occupancy – Goodyear status of it?

Myers – health/safety is running a fire watch right now; flood in late Dec, we think that may have caused some of the problems, fire alarm system is the problem now, working on it for last few weeks. They are there every day and weekend trying to fix it. No updates on it at the moment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Engagement – watch Digest for next event.
CONSTITUENCY REPORTS	
	TONIA FERRELL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSG – no report. • USG – newly elected President Alia Baig introduced herself and Vice President Cameron Feezel, additional USG member Grace DeWitt. Look forward to representing students on UC. • CPAC – met 4/24 and heard from Sarah Kelly from HR on the transition to new staff classifications, had to answer some hard questions from CPAC folks. Hosting a social for all CPs on campus tomorrow, invited to join us at R Shea Brewing at 4:30 pm tomorrow for trivia and pizza. • SEAC – Sarah Kelly spoke to our group as well, classification of except and non-exempt staff, some staff moving over to CP and discussion on how to move forward to get the word out and fill spaces. • Deans - Grades due today and congrats on surviving another semester and thank you to staff and graduation staff, graduation was great, lots of positive comments on it throughout the semester. Working on orientation and recruitment for Fall 2024, thank you to Aimee for presentation, we take UL for granted and their work. Accreditation reports are a huge process, and they help so much. Thank you.
NEW BUSINESS	
	TONIA FERRELL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
GOOD OF THE ORDER	
	TONIA FERRELL
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 pm.