

University Council

MINUTES

JANUARY 9, 2024

3:01-3:50 PM

LH 208 & TEAMS

MEETING CALLED BY	Tonia Ferrell, chair
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
PRESIDER	Tonia Ferrell, chair
NOTE TAKER	Heather Loughney
ATTENDEES	<p>Member: Marilia Antunez, Alia Baig, Alexis Currie, Grace DeWitt, Melissa Dreisbach, Tracie Epner, Blair Everett, Tammy Ewin, Ed Evans, Cam Feezel, Tonia Ferrell, Dan Friesner, Dallas Grundy, John Huss, Kris Kraft, Gary Miller, Nate Meeker, John Messina, Stephen L. Myers, Deb Owens, Linda Saliga, Eli Strohecker, Eric Veigel, Sonya Wagner, Heather Walter, Nick Weber, John Wiencek</p> <p>Absent with notice: Stacia Biddle, John Corby, Varunee Faii Sangganjanavanich,</p> <p>Absent without notice: Kim Cole, Sarah Kelly, Brant Lee, Tausif Utchhash, Wan Yu</p> <p>Other attendees: Matt Akers, Michelle Banis, Suzanne Bausch, Jill Bautista, Kelly Bialik, Christine Boyd, Nicholas Campana, Celeste Cook, Aimee DeChambeau, Megan Delong, Kim Gentile, Becky Handley, Anne Hanson Hilaire, Kathleen Hauenstein, Emily Janoski-Haehlen, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Wendy Lampner, Paul Levy, Steve McKellips, Benjamin Michael, Kendall Martis, Laura Miller-Francis, Paula Neugebauer, Fedearia Nicholson-Sweval, Michele Novachek, Gwen Price, John Reilly, Morgan Wagers, Tom Waltermire, Jessica Whitehill</p>
Agenda topics:	
	<p>CALL TO ORDER TONIA FERRELL</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm. 2. The agenda was approved as distributed. 3. The minutes of the December 12, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TONIA FERRELL	
	<p>The Executive Committee met in December and discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic Submission – Service Awards – Provost will respond to submitter. • Reviewed guest speakers will be sending invites to spring speakers. • Discussion of UC participation. • UA will be doing a campus safety assessment this spring through NASPA. UC has been asked to convene an ad hoc committee to help, they will work on convening committee and get self-study done. There will be a presentation to UC following study.
PRESIDENT’S REMARKS	

Miller - hope you all had a great holiday. Welcome to Tom Waltermire and Nick Campana. Great commencement ceremonies before holiday, recognize John Messina for great work. Want to acknowledge departure of Dallas Grundy, we're sad he's leaving but happy he's going home to family. Here through March BOT meeting and we'll start discussions with BOT and shared governance on next steps. Important position so we'll be consulting with folks on it.

There were no questions for the president.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

Wiencek – welcome back and we are rolling through the year. Enrollment is holding steady, with good increases in applications and admits. Confirmations are lagging but that is due to FAFSA changes. We think that will take care of itself in time. Same for all universities. Encourage faculty/staff to get engaged with students, make them feel that they are already part of campus. Contact Steve McKellips about training in SLATE and get into it. Now is the time to start closing the deals. Donor based scholarships – we're making some changes, want to get scholarships into students' hands before they get here, it helps us release some general fund dollars. Intent is to make sure dollars are in student's hands and honor donors' intent. Keep all traditions in place as well. More coming to colleges going forward. Outline Provost Fellows looking at data in key drivers of retention of students. Led by Fedearia, complete College America – complimentary and Mark Stasitis will be working on initiative with his guidance. About getting students registered in 15 credits each semester, see retention rates go above norms. Completing College America will help us with that. Those are the key things I wanted to share with you today.

Questions:

Nick Campana – will the FAFSA simplifications hurt or help us?

Provost – marketplace for universities sharing a log of information, that is to our advantage this year in being more agile in responding to this. Every university will respond eventually and learn. Looking for it to be an advantage this year.

John Huss - donor-based scholarships – agree with the idea of getting money into students who were trying to recruit early – but if an award was need-based that they find out about later, does that get offset by the donor-based scholarship or add to it? Will they get less later because of that? Find out if there is some way to award donor-based aid as a bonus to what they expected to get based on need.

Provost - need based aid is set by entities outside of campus and we don't touch that. Donor based comes from UA, the idea is to meet the needs of as many students as we can across the base. The more we can get aid in the more we can spread it out to deserving students. Coordinate our process to make sure we are as efficient as possible. More money means we can recruit more students. Need based aid shows up as real money for us.

Huss – think the amount of aid we'll need to convince them to come is a combination of need based and donor-based income.

Provost – general fund scholarships will also be available.

President – disconnected with consultant for cost cutting measures.

Provost – lost some ground during that and are trying to get that back.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

The chair shared an update - the final formatted version of documents shared at December meeting, also have a progress report from prior plan. Collected successes and will have those as well. Website being updated and documents will go out to campus soon. UC will get documents in the next day or so, before it goes campus-wide.

GUEST SPEAKER – DAN FRIESNER – COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Dean Friesner shared his presentation on [CHHS](#).

There were no questions for Dean Friesner.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

- Awards – Kraft – encourage everyone to contact Kris if interested in the selection committee, nominate fellow colleagues for awards, in Digest on Tuesday and look for link.
- Budget and Finance – no report.
- Campus Wellness – Roofit coming up, register by 1/29. Kickoff on 1/18 at Rec Center 12-2, different this year because we in competition with Kent State University – winner announced at upcoming Kent/UA basketball game.
- Communications – met and looked at focus group results and student perceptions of UA. Looking at market materials, social media and what is getting interaction. Goal is to figure out how to better position UA with competition. Look at what we can do in community engagement. Ideas for Akron Magazine – looked at what makes Akron home.
- Information Technology – no report.
- Institutional Advancement – no report.
- Physical Environment – no report.
- Student Engagement and Success – no report.
- Talent Development and Human Resources – no report.
- Ad hoc Social Engagement – meeting later this week.

CONSTITUENCY REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

- GSG – active in last week planning for upcoming year – meeting with Grad School and general programming and different events for members.
- USG – working on meetings for next week.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSAC – two overlapping meetings – first with provost to discuss state of university, second with HR to discuss the upcoming and current employee evaluations. Meeting with president soon. • SEAC – elected officers, on our way back. • Faculty Senate – no report. • Chairs – no report. • Deans- no report.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
NEW BUSINESS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
GOOD OF THE ORDER	
TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed Evans asked if the administrative offices were forming teams for RooFit? President Miller – no. Provost Wiencek – OAA might. <p>The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 pm.</p>