

University Council

MINUTES

AUGUST 13, 2024

3:00 – 3:37 PM

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, Stacia Biddle, Kim Cole, Grace DeWitt, Melissa Dreisbach, Tracie Epner, Blair Everett, Tonia Ferrell, Megan Frey, Dan Friesner, John Huss, Elena Kozma, Kris Kraft, Nate Meeker, John Messina, Stephen L. Myers, Maxwell Pastoria, Linda Saliga, Varunee Faii Sangganjanavanich, Eric Veigel, Sonya Wagner, Nick Weber, John Wiencek</p> <p>Absent with notice: John Corby, Tammy Ewin</p> <p>Absent without notice: Ed Evans, Sarah Kelly, Brant Lee, Catherine Strain, Misty Villers, Julia Wood</p> <p>Other attendees: Matthew Akers, Michelle Banis, Suzanne Bausch, Kelly Bialek, Nicholas Campana, Jeanete Carson, Celeste Cook, Aimee DeChambeau, Mark Fridline, Charles Guthrie, Becky Handley, Emily Janoski-Haehlen, Matt Juravich, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Wendy Lampner, Tim McCarragher, Steve McKellips, Meredith Merry, Patricia Miller, R.J. Nemer, Fedearia Nicholson-Sweval, Melissa Olson, Gwen Price, John Reilly, Mark Rittenour, Scott Roberts, Christin Seher, Michelle Smith, Mark Stasitis, David Szalay, Patrick Tabatcher, Tom Waltermire, Jessica Whitehill, Katie Willis</p>
Agenda topics:	
	<p>CALL TO ORDER TONIA FERRELL</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The agenda was approved as distributed. The minutes of the July 9, 2024 meeting 2024-7-9-minutes-university-council-working.docx were approved as distributed.
	<p>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TONIA FERRELL</p>
	<p>UCEC met July 23, approved mins of June. No new TS. Talked about topic submissions – Kris and Heather are working on a better way to track progress of submissions, file on UCEC Teams folder to see progress. Begin tracking follow up to committees and work to improve follow up to respond to submitters. Discussed guest speakers for fall, Ali Doehring invited to speak at Sept meeting, all UC meeting in October. Budget & Finance to give report at Oct meeting. UCEC Aug meeting led by Meeker as Ferrell will be out of country. UCEC sent a memo to Budget & Finance requesting more details in report outs.</p>

Topic submission update – one new submission on student org advertised on UA webpage, referred to Comm/Stud Eng – response is that it is progress and working with GSG on this.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Nemer – good afternoon everyone. Talking with provost earlier is would love to incorporate I’m happy to answer any individual questions in meeting, happy to engage and address things that are important to you.

New chief strategy officer, Matt Juravich, appointed recently. Big part of making campus a community is to give everyone a chance to be heard. Academics, athletics, development will all be part of this. Matt to put together an architecture to put together groups to dig in and come back with observations on how we operate and engage and fulfill our mission. Those groups will be made up of members of BOT and will curate those with guidance and input from Kate, Tonia, Toni to get a collective voice. Opportunity for everyone to engage across the board. Trying to authentically put into practice shared governance. Some of the best ideas that have come across my desk were from conversations that were unexpected. Look forward to doing that across campus. Will share that at our back-to-school meeting at the beginning of the month. Welcome Matt to our conversations. Tonia, if it’s okay with you I’ll entertain questions.

Questions:

- Can you talk about the timeline for budget decisions, BOT does not meet until September.

Nemer – thinking through best allocations of budget. I’ve cut just shy of \$900,000 and that includes the addition of Matt’s new role. I’ve taken out some things I don’t think we need right now to lead by example. Other areas will be part of the conversations of these ad hoc groups. Look at outside resources as well. Conversations about utilizing our assets more; use our stadium to generate additional revenue. Rethink our footprint, 8 million square feet to utilize or get rid of it were not using. We have not been making pan-university decisions without input from our various groups across campus.

PROVOST’S REMARKS

Wiencek - I would like to acknowledge Nick Campana and Tom Waltermire into meeting, look forward to their work on the committees were forming, none of our BOT members get paid for their work.

Enrollment – not a lot has changed from last meeting, modest decline in enrollment primarily due to FAFSA rollout and its effect. Transition in Bursar’s office is going on as well. Want to give shoutout to Steve and his team for their response to things. Trying to be more proactive to messages that are generated in new system.

Overall, looking at a small decline, in single digits. In budget forecasting already. A lot of our time has been spent with shared governance and meeting with ECs. We’ve invited Akron AAUP into discussions as well. Our financial future and decisions related to it. If you want more details encourage you to reach out to those people. The Budget and

Finance committee is spending a lot of time on new budget and everyone has been giving a target. Reductions in adjunct budgets and other areas, realize this is an adjustment for everyone and necessary for us to move forward financially. Thank you for your flexibility. COB search group is formed and starting work. Goal to get people on campus as soon as possible with goal of getting someone on board by spring semester. We really do want to seek quality candidates.

Finally want to say that we have a lot of data that is managed, the business side of university has rebranded as PSI – they do a great job, we were looking for a new chief data officer, thought we should not continue in that search. Some of that money was used to meet budget reductions. Updating of dashboards in Workday and other areas, so we are going to go with an external provider to do that work. Purchases will be occurring in that regard. This is in the need category.

Working groups forming and some curiosity about what is going on in the budget. Nervousness about decisions being made without communication with campus, that is not happening. Communication with representatives of groups.

Questions

- I appreciate what you said, curious about new approaches to enrollment and financial aid, not throwing money at students who may not need it. Right model groups. Modest decline offset by maybe keeping revenue levels?

Wiencek – thank you, it is a highlight. Students that show are typically going to be paying more tuition this year than previous years. A 1% decline doesn't mean a decline in money. Revenue could still go up.

McKellips – early estimates suggest we'll produce more revenue this year despite the decline in enrollment. Last year's discount rate was 60%, this year could be closer to 40%.

- Will the dean search be national or internal?

Wiencek – It will be national, using the same search firm we have used for nearly every dean search. They give us what we need at a good price.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TONIA FERRELL

The chair reminded everyone that we are at the end of the UC year, minutes should still be filed every month even if committee did not meet. Annual reports are due September 13, should be a summary of the work of the past year. Goals are due September 30. If you are losing a chair, vice chair or secretary the administrator should convene meeting in September to elect officers. Information should be sent to us as soon as the elections are done.

- Awards – no report.
- Budget and Finance – met on July 25th. We discussed the topic submission about student jobs. Campus units use their own budget to employ student workers. Our recommendation is that the students contact Career Services to explore other on campus employment opportunities.

	<p>We discussed the outsourcing of housing. A few options are being explored including public-private partnerships and refinancing ourselves. The option to refinance ourselves would give the institution more flexibility. All options are being explored regarding housing to understand the cost/benefit and will not rush into making any changes.</p> <p>We reviewed the debt schedule. Looking at refinancing about \$76M.</p> <p>The budget was pushed out that day with 10% reductions in operations. For open positions, 35% of the dollar figure was saved to the department budgets. Open positions are on hold and being reviewed. This budget has a \$23M draw on reserves – the goal is for a draw of no more than \$20M. We have another \$3M to trim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus Wellness – no report. • Communications – no report. • Information Technology – no report. • Institutional Advancement – no report. • Physical Environment – no report. • Student Engagement – no report. • Talent Development – no report. • Social Engagement – August event on hold, October event is still happening, date coming soon.
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CONSTITUENCY REPORTS	TONIA FERRELL
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	<p>The chair pointed out that appointments should be sent to Heather by September 2 so that UC knows who voting members are by the September 10 meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSG – changes in GSG, running an election right now. • USG – onboarding new members for upcoming year. • PSAC – met 7/25, had a question/answer with President Nemer on plans for the university. Elections are just finished we will be onboarding new members. • SEAC – no report. • Faculty Senate – no meetings in summer. • Chairs – no report. • Deans – working with chairs & directors to set up for Fall semester.
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
NEW BUSINESS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September meeting there will be elections for chair and secretary. Call for nominations coming from Heather.
GOOD OF THE ORDER	
TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HR shared Lunch and Learns on wellbeing and mental health recently. Next event August 21 at Noon on Supporting Individuals with Disabilities and on September 4 at Noon on Addiction. • If anyone is rolling off UC, thank you for your service to UC and your work in shared governance. • Thank you to all of those working behind the scenes in Workday; Steve McKellips and his team as well as Registrar and Advisors. <p>The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 pm.</p>