

University Council

MINUTES

JANUARY 14, 2025

3:03 – 3:43 PM

LH 208 AND TEAMS

MEETING CALLED BY	Tonia Ferrell, chair
TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
PRESIDER	Tonia Ferrell, chair
NOTE TAKER	Heather Loughney
ATTENDEES	<p>Members: Marilia Antunez, Stacia Biddle (SES chair), Stephanie Davis-Dieringer (TDHR chair), Grace DeWitt (UCEC), Tracie Epner (UCEC), Ed Evans (UCEC), Blair Everett (UCEC), Tonia Ferrell (chair), Dan Friesner, John Huss (IA chair), Brant Lee, Linda Saliga (BF chair), Ally Temsey, Amy Trunko, Sonya Wagner, John Wiencek (ex-officio)</p> <p>Members Absent with notice: Megan Frey (UCEC), Elena Kozma,</p> <p>Members Absent without notice: Karima Elgarroussi (IT chair), Kris Kraft (secretary, CW chair), Nicolina Kravljaca, Nate Meeker (vice chair)</p> <p>Other attendees: Matthew Akers, Suzanne Bausch, Kelly Bialek, Toni Bisconti, Dawn Bishop, Cristine Boyd, Vivian Campbell, Kim Cole (AA), Jennifer Davis, Aimee DeChambeau, Tammy Ewin (AA), Dana Frase, Becky Handley, Tami Hannon, Kathleen Hauenstein, Brain Humm, Patti Huth, Emily Janoski-Haehlen, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Olivia Lane, Maureen Lerch, Erin Liggett, Steve McKellips, Meredith Merry, John Messina (AA), Susie Metzler, Patricia Miller, Stephen L. Myers (AA), Fedearia Nicholson-Sweval, Gwen Price, John Reilly, Mark Rittenour, Lisa Sabol, Michelle Smith, Mark Stasitis, Misty Villers (AA), Nick Weber (AA), Jessica Whitehill, Katie Willis</p> <p>AA – appointed administrators BOT – Board of Trustee member UCEC – members of the University Council Executive Committee</p>
CALL TO ORDER TONIA FERRELL	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The chair called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm. 2. The chair removed the Chief Strategy Remarks as Matt Juravich was unavailable today. The revised agenda was approved. 3. The minutes of the November 12, 2024 meeting 2024-11-12-minutes-university-council-final.docx were approved as distributed.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TONIA FERRELL	
	<p>UCEC met December 17 and continued the discussion of guest speakers for spring, looking to focus on student experience. Some groups are scheduled for February – April, but invitations have not yet been sent. Suggestions for speakers with a student experience focus can be sent to the chair or Heather. Among those being considered are Residence</p>

Life, USG, GSG. The chair is meeting with the president monthly and members can bring items for discussion to the chair. There is discussion about ideas for communications with campus.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Nemer – Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone.

Happy 2025, everyone.

It's difficult to believe we're already in the spring semester of the 2024-2025 academic year. We're starting off on a very cold note, but I know it's warm and welcoming inside our classrooms and in our world-class facilities across campus. I'd like to reiterate thanks that was incorporated into my spring welcome back letter, sent out yesterday morning. Sincere gratitude to colleagues in PFOC, IT, and really, personnel all across campus who worked hard to make sure everything was ready for yesterday's start of the semester. I'm sure most aspects of the new term are starting off without a hitch.

As president, I've been invited to participate in some of the traditions of campus for both students and colleagues during this next term. I'm really excited to see what spring semester will bring, as this is my first winter and springtime in this role.

As you know, 654 students graduated from The University of Akron in December. That included 34 associate degrees, 433 bachelor's degree candidates, 115 master's, 21 doctoral degrees, and 51 graduates from the School of Law.

Now that they are alumni, they will remain forever Zips, but I know we all collectively hope they will be active and frequent participants as we move forward.

I wanted to highlight some of the work of the 160over90 firm. They recently gave a presentation to our internal team, which was a nice debrief of the time they spent learning more about us and talking to stakeholders on campus during the first week in December. When they were here, they were taken on a pretty comprehensive two-hour, cold and blustery tour of campus and cheered on our Zips Men's Basketball team. Most importantly, they facilitated 14 focus groups for everyone from students to colleagues to donors. They were really impressed by what they saw here, loved meeting our people—especially our students—and have some great ideas as we move forward into our next phase of identity and branding. They will also be helping to facilitate some of our visioning process.

In terms of strategic planning, it is continuing during this semester. Since Matt Juravich will be addressing the group a little bit later, I'll leave the details of where that is to him.

Last semester, we announced our partnership with the Cleveland Browns organization. As part of our reciprocal strategic connection, the Browns will be participating in some experiential learning courses and special course projects. We have four courses and projects planned for the spring, spanning three different colleges. The courses include Business of the Browns, a holistic view of business components of the professional sports industry, a materials sciences course that will examine professional sports equipment and evaluate its production, safety features, and durability, and a Strategic Management course that touches aspects of marketing and international business as well. Our Master of Applied Politics students will continue to participate in discussions about civil discourse to help the Browns comply with a league mandate in that arena.

In addition to in-class opportunities, students are able to quickly access internship and employment notifications with the Browns organization. Through connecting the Browns to our UA Career Services, the front office and other business verticals are able to quickly post jobs and link students across disciplines to opportunities to work in the sports industry.

We are currently in the process of planning events on our campus as well as taking advantage of our ability to host UA events at Huntington Bank Field and the Browns practice facility in Berea. Please be on the lookout for different types of interesting events, opportunities, and connections.

In addition to fulfilling the duties of his Chief Strategy Officer position, Dr. Matt Juravich has graciously taken on the role of Interim Director of Intercollegiate Athletics to lead the department and keep things running as we search for a new AD.

Winter sports are having some great success already, and I'm sure we're going to be contenders as we move closer to the MAC championships.

That's all I have prepared for you this afternoon. I'm happy to take questions if you have anything for me.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

Wienczek – hope you all had a great, restful holiday, glad to be back.
A lot has happened since our last meeting. Here is a recap of things that happened:

- Retrenchment commenced on Dec. 19, working with AAUP and seeking alternatives to retrenchment. Part of the process.
- Signed two MOU to extend deadline for submitting proposals. Moved to Jan 15. Engaged with AAUP further and have broadened to all departments to submit ideas for alternatives. Multistep process in focusing on ideas for alternatives. Big thank you to the joint committee on retrenchment. A lot of work to be done, extended to March 3rd for materials to be submitted. BOT will take action at April BOT meeting. Dean search has ended, but did not find right fit and will extend deadline to next fall and focus on finding right person for job.
- Enrollment applications are slightly down, single digits but fluctuating, we are in confirmation season and those are up double digits. That is encouraging.
- Finally announce that Levandowski named director of PSI. She will be reporting to IT through John Corby.

There were no questions for the Provost.

**GUEST SPEAKER – TAMI HANNON – ADMINISTRATIVE
PROCESS TRANSFORMATION**

Tami shared a presentation. [2025.01.14 UC Presentation.pptx](#)

	<p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What metrics will be used to get key results of transition? <p>Hannon - Number of steps in process and completion before and after transition, looking to see if there is way to monitor send backs. Getting survey together to ask individuals about job satisfaction. Specialized skills and whether they feel they are well aligned with jobs.</p>
<p>COMMITTEE REPORTS TONIA FERRELL</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards – have a meeting coming up at end of week to start finalizing groups to start reviewing award nominations. Get those in by end of month. Awards are on UC webpage. <p>The chair pointed out that Kris Kraft has done a great job this year and to be sure everything is place before May. The chair also reminded the group that there a good number of nominations this year and that is so good to see. Watch Digest announcements or go to UC website to see awards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget and Finance – no report • Campus Wellness – Roofit in Digest, flyer with QR code in chat. Fee includes shirt and we are competing again against KSU. Bonus things and biggest thing is that Wayne Campus will be a participant. <p>The chair asked if a person can join without a team. Kraft responded that they can and that it can be a fun way to meet new people. Remember the best team name wins. The teams are usually 3 people, with no more than 5 per team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications – working virtually, finding ideas for marketing magazine. Send ideas to Kris Kraft or Tammy Ewin. • Information Technology - no report • Institutional Advancement – no report • Physical Environment – last month approved 3 space requests and will be joining safety walk with USG. • Student Engagement and Success – met last month and reviewed goal progress, meeting again next week. • Talent Development and Human Resources – no report, meeting at end of January • Social Engagement – no report, watch for spring event.
<p>CONSTITUTENCY REPORTS TONIA FERRELL</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSG – We saw an increase in graduate student concerns last semester, so we held a townhall meeting to discuss them. Graduate students also met with President Nemer and Provost Wiencek at the end of last semester. We plan to cover discussions of this in our GSG meeting this week.

	<p>GSG is also continuing to pursue our goal of engaging with graduate students with events. We ended the last semester with a general Meet and Greet. We will be holding an event soon in the morning for graduate students with coffee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USG – safety walk tomorrow at 5:30-6:30. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hot cocoa event coming up. ○ OSG coming up. 150 attendees from other schools. Excited to have different schools coming here. ○ Another fun event - Hot Wings with President Nemer. Will have other campus leaders on it coming up. More events coming. • PSAC – Nov meeting discussed end of semester events, set speakers for spring. In December met to get feedback and have a holiday party. • SEAC – no report. • Faculty Senate – looking at Gen Ed proposed changes, facilitating proposed changes. • Chair – no report • Deans – working on last minute hirings.
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"> • If you have not received Marlina’s presentation from the November meeting, let Chair or Heather know. Sent to uc-list but can send it to you personally. • Messina – thank you to everyone who worked on commencement. <p>The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 pm.</p>