

University Council

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 11, 2025

3:01 – 3:56 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: 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), Kris Kraft (secretary, CW chair), Brant Lee, Nate Meeker (vice chair), Linda Saliga (BF chair), Ally Temsey, Amy Trunko, Sonya Wagner, John Wiencek (ex-officio)</p> <p>Members Absent with notice: Marilia Antunez, Stacia Biddle (SES chair), Megan Frey (UCEC),</p> <p>Members Absent without notice: Karima Elgarroussi (IT chair), Elena Kozma, Nicolina Kravljaca, Eric Veigel</p> <p>Other attendees: Dale Adams, Michelle Banis, Suzanne Bausch, Cristine Boyd, Patricia Chapman, Jennifer Davis, Tammy Ewin (AA), Evi Gorogianni, Marjorie Hartleben, Kathleen Hauenstein, Brain Humm, Patti Huth, Judith Juvancic-Heltzel, Sarah Kelly (AA), Wendy Lampner, Olivia Lane, Colleen Lazzaretti, Steve McKellips, Meredith Merry, John Messina (AA), Patricia Miller, Paula Neugebauer, Edward Peel, Gwen Price, Faii Sangganjanavanich, Christin Seher, Michelle Smith, Mark Stasitis, Sarah Steidl, Jessica Whitehill, Tom Waltermire (BOT)</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 3:01 pm. 2. The chair moved the Guest Speaker after the President’s remarks. The revised agenda was approved. 3. The minutes of the January 14, 2025 meeting 2025-1-28-minutes-uc-executive-committee-working.docx were approved as distributed.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TONIA FERRELL	
	<p>EC met 1/28 for quick meeting. We discussed guest speakers, the provost announced his stepping down and talked to UCEC about that. UC involvement in shared governance; leadership searches; Sr VP and Provost replacement process just beginning, inside search. Visioning group met last month, discussion of vision statement; good conversation on wording and values for university. Conversation continues. Tracie Epner and Chair are on</p>

	<p>Visioning committee. The Chair pointed out that she has a monthly meeting of shared governance with president; can relay messages to president through leaders.</p>
<p>PRESIDENT'S REMARKS</p>	
	<p>Nemer – good afternoon, everyone, university has been in spotlight over Rethinking Race. Sent email to campus clarifying UA position on the issue. My understanding is that op-ed to be repeated this weekend. Both letters clarify what has gone on over past months 160/90 – visioning of refreshed branding, team to present their branding in next month. Excited to see direction they lead.</p> <p>Browns partnership – going well, this semester have 70 students enrolled in their affiliated courses, program taking place on campus next week. Chalk talk to happen with Browns staff and players, in Gardner theatre on 2/19. Encourage students and staff to attend.</p> <p>Florida event last week –Signature alumni event in Tampa – excited to have Zips attending and hearing about UA. Presented at winter institute as well. Time well spent and great to see energy from the south.</p> <p>USG hosted a Student Govt event, hosting intercollegiate speech and debate. College of Business welcomed cohorts of Brazilian executives. Intensive program in cohort, COB program is well attended.</p> <p>ZIPS men’s basketball is undefeated in MAC and at home. Key MAC match ups. Quest for tournament is on. ZIPS vs Flashes on ESPN 2. Kudos to women’s swimming team. ZIPS named CSCA scholars. The senior event was 2 weeks ago. Proud of all our athletes and students.</p> <p>Searches – new director of athletics underway, candidates in March, Wiencek to return to faculty, search is on campus for next provost. Will be able to submit your applications soon. Portal to be open soon, search timeline as well. There is a lot of moving parts right now, reach out with comments. We look forward to future events and working in tandem with you. Can reach out to me directly.</p> <p>There were no questions for the president.</p>
<p>GUEST SPEAKER – Abbey Ernst, Coordinator, Student Programs – Zips Activities Board student presentation</p>	
	<p>Abbey Ernst shared presentation. https://www.canva.com/design/DAGdhL_5sJY/t5uIo8xFOndeM6ch7n1b5Q/edit?utm_content=DAGdhL_5sJY&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton</p> <p><u>Zips Activities Board</u> Oliva May – president Miranda Brainard – health and wellness chair Amira Lee – social media & marketing chair Skyler Adkins – fine arts chair Kadence Diemer – chair special events chair</p> <p>Questions: *Did not know the chairs were hired positions, what is the hiring process?</p>

	<p>May – We are changing the process this year; will open 2/24 for applications for president – then chairs after that. We are student employees; the chair works 20 hours per week, chairs 12 hours.</p> <p>Ernst - Employees through student life – have office in 1st floor of student union, expected to hold office hours, chair to attend all events that are put on. Anyone can have mentor outside of direct supervisor. Connection to campus for resumes, cover letters</p> <p>*Did not know anything about ZAB, emerging leaders, RHPB, how much cross communication is there?</p> <p>Chair – I came from RHPB, and some others as well, were all emerging leaders. We encourage working in both organizations, have president of RHPB in our committee. Collab with RHC. We use their resources for information.</p> <p>Ernst – diversify when events are happening as well, different times to coordinate with them. We also have members of RHC participating in our events. Try to collaborate on timing.</p>
PROVOST’S REMARKS	
	<p>Wiencek – Enrollment – year over year applications are holding ground, were up dramatically last year, continuing to see good stream. Admits up 1%, commitments 5%. This looks like as good of a processing year as we have seen in many years. Increase in confirmations with FAFSA issues.</p> <p>Announced that I would be stepping down, returning to faculty. Search has started internally. Thanks to everyone, Tonia in particular, thanks for help getting work done, will be helping from the other side of the table now.</p> <p>Questions –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot going on at federal and state level with education. Dizzying how much talk is going on. SB1 keeps coming back in various incarnations – submitted written testimony yesterday. Wondering what’s going on institutionally, in terms of communication with lawmakers? <p>Wiencek – IUC – has taken position that they will not object or rebut bill in any way. No formal qay to push back on bill. Do know that universities have been contacting, we have not done so. Syllabi posting and available – need to make sure it stays confidential, was delivered to the committee. Update I received was that it will be passed out of committee and approved by Senate possibly this week.</p>
CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER MATT JURAVICH	
	<p>Juravich – crafting new strategic plan and vision, solid discussions about that. Creating new materials coming from them. Had an in person visioning session in January with AAUP, community members, University Council, Faculty Senate and president. Next meeting will be to review. Will update the visioning statement.</p> <p>HR working to put localized efforts in Workday along with what’s happening on campus, centralizing efforts.</p> <p>Questions</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • couple questions from faculty about wanting to know about timing, when parts of strategic planning work to be complete and how that will be connected? <p>Juravich – 160/90 positioning strategic working at the moment, athletics discussion also ongoing. Other teams have been slower given broader issues on campus. 160/90 work is anchor to moving other issues forward.</p>
COMMITTEE REPORTS TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards – received nominations, most we’ve received in years. The committee is reviewing nominations. • Budget/Finance – met last week, talked about possible assumptions for upcoming budget and policies to work on. • Campus Wellness – in the middle of Roofit, kick off week 3, if you still need items, contact me or Nick Weber. • Communications – scheduling spring meetings. • Information Technology – no report. • Institutional Advancement – no report. • Physical Environment – no report. • Student Engagement and Success – had a fantastic meeting talking about several critical issues. Accessibility issues for course materials. Most excited about having committee experience through portals and events in MyAkron. We reemphasized childcare needs. • Talent Development and Human Resources – we met last month, had Tami Ewin talk about administrative process, next month Michele Smith coming to discuss 24 health survey. Create outcomes/initiatives. Learning challenge in Digest, looking at Linked In learning through Workday. Please look and participate. • Social Engagement – no report.
CONSTITUTENCY REPORTS TONIA FERRELL	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSG – had first meeting and planning for semester, Coffee with Grads, students want to talk to us. Focus on new elections. Increased our advocacy, had town hall last semester. Advocating for grad students, lots to do with that. • USG – get from Grace. • PSAC – met on Mon 1/27 with president Nemer, asked about Browns partnership, 160/90, reminder that student life awards are available through end of Feb. • SEAC – no report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FS – met last Thursday, expressed concerns about Rethinking Race and long discussion on GenEd requirements. FY Seminar. • Chairs – no report • Deans – admissions are up, applications are up, shout out to Admissions. Thank faculty and staff for extra Saturdays worked. My college – completed the great minds fellowship. A lot of work.
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"> • None. <p>The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 pm.</p>