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## Faculty Senate Chronicle for February 5, 2015

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**Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of February 5, 2015  
3:05 – 4:24 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate took place Thursday, February 5, 2015 in room 201 of Buckingham. Senate Chair William D. Rich called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Of the current roster of 63 Senators, 47 were present for this meeting. Senators Cutright, Dey, Glotzer, Lazar, Makki and Samangy were absent with notice. Senators Arter, Bodenschantz, Braun, Feldt, Freely, Lashbrook, Onita and Youngs were absent without notice.

**I. Approval of the Agenda**

Senator Clark moved to adopt the proposed agenda. The motion was seconded by Senator Sterns.

**II. Approval of the Minutes**

Senator Jones moved to adopt October meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Senator Kemp.

**The October minutes were adopted without dissent.**

Senator Hajjafar moved to adopt November meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Senator Saliga.

**The November minutes were adopted without dissent.**

**III. Remarks of the Chairman**

On the agenda for today's meeting are a set of curriculum proposals from the Curriculum Review Committee; a proposal from the Part-time Faculty Committee to recommend increasing the minimum salaries for part-time faculty for the first time since 2002; and a proposal from the Academic Policies Committee to move the Criminal Justice Technology programs and faculty from the College of Applied Science and Technology to the College of Arts and Sciences to form a new criminal justice unit and to enable the creation of new, interdisciplinary baccalaureate programs in criminology and criminal justice and criminal intelligence analysis.

Those of you who have served in this body long enough will recall that in our December 2011 meeting there was an acrimonious, not to say indecorous, dispute about competing proposals for criminal justice baccalaureate programs from the College of Arts and Sciences and what was then Summit College. The matter was referred to committee in the hope of resolving the dispute constructively. During the intervening three years, I worked closely and intensively with faculty members from each of the three affected departments – Sociology and Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Public Service Technology in what is now called the College of Applied Science and Technology – to bring the former combatants together to forge a new proposal that would combine the strengths of the faculty in the three departments and allow for the creation of a much stronger, more promising set of programs,

in part by eliminating needless duplication of effort by faculty teaching similar courses in three different programs.

I am pleased to report that today you will consider a proposal that represents a culmination of long, hard, collaborative work by faculty members from each of those three departments: Matt Lee and Valerie Callanan from Sociology; Nancy Marion from Political Science and Dena Hanley, formerly from Political Science; and Dave Licate and Dwayne Jones from Public Service Technology in CAST. I especially want to commend Matt Lee and Dave Licate, who some of you will recall were the principal antagonists in the bitter dispute three years ago. I know that each of them would now describe the other as not only a respected colleague and collaborator, but also as a friend.

As I wrote you recently, in its April 22, 2014, report to the Faculty Senate, the Academic Policies Committee recommended, contingent on prior approval by the Buchtel College Council, that the Senate adopt a resolution approving the movement of the Criminal Justice Technology programs, and the faculty who teach primarily in those programs, from Summit College (now CAST) to BCAS.

The Senate did not vote on this resolution in its May 2014 meeting because the contingency had not been met: that is, the Buchtel College Council had not approved the proposal.

On December 1, 2014, the Buchtel College Council approved the proposal on a nearly unanimous voice vote.

The goal of this reorganization, as stated in the memorandum of understanding, is to create two new interdisciplinary bachelor's degrees in criminology and criminal justice (see below). These new degrees draw on the existing curriculum and special strengths of existing programs offered by the Sociology and Political Science Departments (both in BCAS) and the Criminal Justice Technology faculty (in CAST). The new degrees will recognize an interdisciplinary cluster of faculty with expertise and interests in these academic areas. These new degrees will eliminate duplication in courses, reduce administrative complexity, and offer students a cohesive and high-quality degree program with a distinctive mix of empirical, professional, and conceptual knowledge. The new programs will preserve the academic contributions of the faculty in all three areas, while making the University of Akron more competitive in attracting, serving, and graduating students interested in criminology and criminal justice.

I believe this proposal is in the best interests of our students, our faculty, and the University as a whole. It is also, in my view, an excellent example of what can be achieved when faculty and academic administrators work together through this mechanism of shared governance.

This concludes my remarks.

#### **IV. Special Announcements**

Chairman Rich reported deaths of members of the University community:

Richard L Hansford died on September 29<sup>th</sup> at the age of 95. He served in many administrative roles during his time here at UA. He retired as Vice President and Dean of Student Services.

Donald G. Taylor died January 30<sup>th</sup> at the age of 71. He was a full-time senior lecturer in the Department of Developmental Programs.

Senator Erickson reported the death of Judy Major, long-time secretary in the Department of Economics, died on January 21 at the age of 79 after a courageous battle with cancer.

The Senate stood for a moment of silence in memory of our deceased colleagues.

## **V. Reports**

### **Executive Committee**

Senator Schulze reported. Since we last met on December 4, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee met two times as a committee and once with the President and Provost.

The Executive Committee first met on January 22 for regular Senate business and to prepare for the meeting with the President and Provost. Beate Gersch to serve on the Communication/ Quantitative Reasoning Learning Outcome Committee for the General Education Review.

The Faculty Senate appointed Dr. Gersch to this position. Dr. Gersch replaces Dr. Joe Salem on this committee, effective immediately.

Later that afternoon, the EC met with the President, Provost, and Vice Provost.

We discussed the college strategic planning process, review of deans, review of UA centers and institutes, plans for the College of Education, the general education revision, the HLC site visit, the mid-biennial budget update, staff representation on University Council, and the summer teaching budget.

The Executive Committee met on January 29th for regular Senate business and to prepare the agenda for the upcoming Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting. Chair Rich updated us on the informal budget meetings with the President. We also discussed the upcoming HLC visit, issues with interim grade reporting, and ongoing issues in the College of Education.

### **Remarks of the President**

President Scarborough updated the Senate on several projects. He discussed three priorities for January, February, and March. First is Strategic planning. The strategic planning process is going well. The College of Business Administration is complete; the other colleges are at various stages of progress. The president would like to have the process completed before the annual operating budget process begins. He hopes to have pool of funds available for those colleges that do not complete in time.

The president's second priority is beginning to assemble a group of representative internal and external constituents to discuss Vision 2020 and whether it needs to be updated. February 13 is the first meeting

and February 27 is second meeting. After that meeting, the president will determine whether additional meetings are needed. There are a number of common elements in the college plans that will inform planning at the university level.

The third priority is development of the operating budget for 2015-2016. There are both informal and formal processes involved. The formal side is University Council Budget and Finance Committee. There are also formal budget hearings in each budget unit of the university.

In addition, there are informal meetings with the budget director, Steve Weeks (president of Akron-AAUP), Bill Rich (Chair, Faculty Senate) and Matt Lee (UC Budget and Finance Committee). In these meetings, they are systematically going through all university budgets. It is a massive undertaking to walk through budget of this size, but the president is pleased with progress so far.

The President also mentioned that there are leadership positions that are in process. John LaGuardia will step down, necessitating a search for a new VP for Advancement. The search committee is working to identify three final candidates. There is also a search for IT Department Leader and Chief Information Officer in process. The search for a new Dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology is also underway. Final candidates are being interviewed. The VP for Research and Economic Development will be a priority once the aforementioned positions are filled.

The president discussed an initiative to identify successful CBA graduates. This was a goal that emerged from the CBA strategic planning process. One of those alumni was featured during Super Bowl commercial. This year's commercial cost much less than past commercials.

The president is enjoying the level of comfort he has experienced so far. He is happy with the quality of conversations he's had on campus, both formally and informally. The monthly book club is a highlight. It serves the spirit of shared governance.

### **Remarks of the VP and Provost**

The Higher Learning Commission visit will be February 16 and 17. Meetings with constituency groups have been scheduled. Thanks to FSEC and UC Steering Committee for preparation for visit. We will demonstrate progress on learning outcomes assessment and shared governance.

General Education Reform – committees engaged in their work. The outcomes will assure excellence of programs and that our graduates are able to contribute to society. The emphasis on job placement after graduation will enhance the value of a UA degree.

The provost discussed Spring enrollments figures. Degree completion will continue to be a top priority. Retention rates improved. Spring census indicates credit hours are declined, but less than expected. Must work to maintain retention and increase services. We must work to ensure the largest possible class size considering the constraints on our budget.

### **VII. Committee Reports**

**Academic Policies Committee**

Senator Sterns officially thanked Chairman Rich on behalf of the body for overseeing the Criminal Justice. The motion brought forward today is due in large part to the efforts of Chairman Rich.

Vice Provost Ramsier – Echoed Senator Sterns’ comments. The memorandum of understanding has been signed by the Dean of Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences and the Dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology. The APC brings to the Senate a resolution to move the Criminal Justice Technology programs, and the faculty who teach primarily in those programs, from Summit College (now CAST) to BCAS (Appendix B). The APC presents the resolution for the Senate’s consideration as a motion from the committee.

Chairman Rich asked for a motion to amend the resolution by deleting the preamble and substituting “as soon as practicable but not later than July 1, 2015.”

Senator Sastry motioned to amend the proposal. The motion was seconded by Senator Marion.

**Motion to amend the resolution was adopted without dissent.**

Chairman Rich called for a vote on the main motion to adopt the resolution.

**The motion to approve the resolution was adopted without dissent.**

**Curriculum Review Committee**

The Curriculum Review Committee brings a list of curriculum proposals that came through the system without objection for final approval (Appendix B).

**The motion to approve the curriculum proposals was adopted without dissent.**

**Computing and Communications Technology Committee**

No member of the committee was present. Chairman Rich asked Senator Schulze to present resolution. Senator Schulze read resolution into record (Appendix C).

**The motion carried without dissent.**

**Graduate Council**

Senator Sterns reported on deliberations of the committee. With the retirement of Dean Tausig, there is need to fill his role. Graduate Council as a whole needs to look at alignment of the Grad School and relationships to the colleges and departments. Senator Sterns expressed concerns about graduate student outreach and building quality of the graduate programs. Senator Allen delaying a search for a Graduate School Dean signals a lack of support for research. The Graduate Council plans to work with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to take legislative action to be reported to the Senate to be acted upon and then sent to the president.

### **Part-time Faculty Committee**

Senator Osorio presented a resolution to increase part-time faculty salaries (Appendix D).

Chairman Rich pointed out that there is an error in the resolution that is redlined. If the motion passes, the corrected version will be sent to the president.

Senator Sterns expressed a concern that the increases in the resolution will still not bring part-time salaries up to a competitive level.

Senator Osorio answered that the committee discussed this issue. The committee concluded that it should put forward something with a solid foundation in data (e.g. increases based on the Consumer Price Index). The concern was that asking for more could result in no increase.

Chairman Rich said that he is a forceful advocate for the proposal.

**The motion carried without dissent.**

### **University Council**

Senator Lillie reported. UC has been working on the bylaws of the UC. HLC is coming to visit and will look at the progress on shared governance and assessment. President Scarborough took the unapproved UC bylaws to BOT, and the BOT asked for feedback from Association of Governing Boards. While that was on-going, the president also asked for any changes to bylaws from UC.

There was a recommendation from UC to President that current student services fee be broken out from general services fee and show portion that goes to Athletics. President's response was that he asked Nathan Mortimer work with students to show greater transparency in students' fees.

Senator Erickson added that there was a motion in UC to express concern of body that BOT was again not working on the bylaws and that this was the third time they had the bylaws and not acted on them. The UC wanted to communicate their concern and that there should be a timely process for approving the bylaws. The motion failed.

### **VIII. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

### **IX. New Business**

There was no new business.

### **X. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.