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## Faculty Senate Chronicle for October 5, 2017

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OCTOBER 5, 2017

11 pages

SENATE ACTIONS

- Approved curriculum proposals.

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## MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2017

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate took place Thursday, October 5, 2017 in room 201 of the Buckingham Center for Continuing Education. Senate Chair William D. Rich called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

Of the current roster of 62 senators, 46 attended the meeting. Senators Blackledge, Fant, Foster, Haritos, Klein, Matejkovic, Monaco, Nofziger and Soukup were absent with notice. Senators Braun, Chronister, Dhinojwala, Hariharan, Haas and Quinn were absent without notice.

### *I. Adoption of Minutes of September 7 meeting*

On Senator Clark's motion, the minutes were adopted without dissent.

### *II. Remarks of the Chairman*

We have some faculty senators who were newly elected or re-elected since our September meeting: from the College of Health Professions, Christin Seher and Diane Brown; from the College of Engineering, Tirumalai Srivatsan; and from the College of Business Administration, Scott Bible and Asoke Dey, who was re-elected.

We have a relatively light agenda for today's meetings, which experience has taught me does not necessarily foretell a short meeting. We'll see. Among the items on today's agenda are some curriculum change proposals from the Curriculum Review Committee and an informational report from the Athletics Committee.

I am pleased to report that President Wilson has approved the amendment to the Faculty Senate bylaws passed by this body last month, and sent it on to the Board of Trustees for action in its next meeting, which is to be held on Wednesday, October 11.

As you may be aware, a book of poetry – Leslie Harrison's *The Book of Endings* – published by the University of Akron Press is one of five finalists for this year's National Book Award in Poetry. This is a highly prestigious award, and it is a great honor to be named a finalist for it. Professor Harrison, who teaches at Towson University in Maryland, submitted the book for the University of Akron Press's Akron Poetry Prize. Mary Biddinger, Professor of English and Assistant Chair of our English Department, who also serves as editor of the Akron Poetry Series, discerningly selected *The Book of Endings* as the editor's choice, which led to its publication by the University of Akron Press. I want to congratulate Professor Biddinger, the staff of the Press, and its Director, our own Secretary and Professor of English, Jon Miller, for this achievement. I also wish to note that Jon played a crucial role in saving the Press from elimination just a few years ago. Without his efforts, there would be no University of Akron Press, and there would be none of the national recognition this honor has brought to the University of Akron. The Press is a great asset to this university, as is the English Department from which Secretary Miller, Professor Biddinger, and Senators Giffels and Bean hale. Would you all please join me in giving a round of applause to Secretary Miller, Professor Biddinger, and the staff of the University of Akron Press.

This concludes my remarks.

### *III. Special Announcements*

Chair Rich announced:

**Dr. Russell J. Petersen** died on August 28th at the age of 80. Dr. Petersen came to the University of Akron as Dean of the College of Business Administration in 1989. He served in that capacity until 1994.

Dr. Petersen earned a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University in 1964 and a master's degree from the University of Oregon in 1966, the same year he became a certified public accountant. He earned a Ph.D. in accountancy from the University of Washington in 1971. He served as a faculty member at Duke University, Willamette University, and the University of Illinois; as chair of the accountancy departments at Arizona State University and the University of Iowa; and as dean of the colleges of business administration at the University of Alabama and the University of Texas at Arlington, as well as here.

**Dr. John J. Hirschbuhl** died on September 20th at the age of 83. Until his retirement in 2007, Dr. Hirschbuhl was a professor of education and had served in several capacities in the Computer Center, including Interim Director of Learning Technologies and Learning Services and Senior Multimedia Producer. Dr. Hirschbuhl founded the University's Computer-Based Education Center. He joined the University in 1971, having earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Education from Temple University and a Ph.D. from Penn State University.

*[The Senate rose for a moment of silence in memory of our deceased colleagues.]*

#### *IV. Report of the Executive Committee*

Secretary Miller reported:

Since the last regular meeting of the Faculty Senate, the Executive Committee met three times.

On Thursday, September 21, the EC met twice. In the first meeting we set an agenda for the second meeting with the President and Provost. We certified Senate elections and we made committee appointments. We discussed President Wilson's speech before the Akron Roundtable and academic program review.

In the meeting with the President and Provost, we discussed the university's budget, enrollment, academic program review, intercollegiate athletics, the budget for the Faculty Senate, the future of the former Center for Child Development building on Fir Hill, faculty hires, and more flexible course scheduling options.

On Thursday, September 28 the EC met to certify senate elections, make committee appointments, and set the agenda for today's meeting. We also discussed academic program review, a possibly forthcoming resolution from the part-time faculty committee, and notetaking services for accessibility.

Finally, the Senate is soliciting nominations and self-nominations for faculty ready to serve on the newly created Interdisciplinary Council. Please see the recent call in the Email digest. To those of you who have already volunteered, thank you. I expect the EC might make appointments at our next meeting.

This concludes my report.

#### *V. Remarks of the President*

President Wilson apologized on behalf of the Provost, who was in Columbus discussing tenure policies; post-tenure review; bachelor's degrees at community colleges; automatic acceptance of transfer credits; the College Credit Plus program; and Western Governors University and competency-based education.

President Wilson spoke about our budget process. He described an ongoing assessment of better-than-expected enrollment. Expecting a 5 percent decrease, we had only a 4.5 percent

decrease. He reported our undergraduate population as down by about 3.2 percent as a result of our downturn in freshmen enrollment in Fall 2016. Our overall number is about 22,500. Of these, about 19,500 are undergraduate. Our graduate student population is down by about 12.5 percent overall, but the number of paying students is down only about 1 percent, or 25 students. He reported that we anticipate our expenditure on graduate students, which was once \$32 million, will decrease by \$9 million this year.

At town hall meetings in various colleges, he reported, he has been emphasizing recruitment and retention. He urged faculty to focus on ways to be innovative and creative in terms of rolling out new courses and programs and finding ways to tap into the workforce. He praised Dean Tudor for leading work on flexible learning offerings, more programming, more evening degrees, more weekend degrees, and more online degrees. He praised the new cybersecurity degree from the College of Applied Science and Technology for the buzz it has created in the community. He also noted a new risk management insurance degree from the College of Business Administration and a new Master of Studies in Law from the Law School. He described our journey to stabilize, invest, and grow as underway successfully.

When final figures are in hand, he reported, there will be adjustments made to the budget. He said we could expect these adjustments in the coming weeks.

He reported that at our recent board meeting, the President and Nathan Mortimer were given permission to look at our non-resident tuition and its competitiveness. With only about 4 percent of our students being nonresidents, we do not have as many out-of-state students as a university our size might typically have. On the other hand, he explained, with that 4 percent we can be more competitive: we can lower out-of-state tuition and change our scholarship practices. With a lower tuition, he continued, and with changes in scholarship practices, we might expect more revenue from nonresident students.

The Akron Guarantee scholarship, he reported, has been a great success. He described its principles: a lower amount promised for the first year, with increased amounts per year as the students continue past defined credit checkpoints and GPA goals. He expressed a desire to expand this beyond first-time, full-time students to transfer students, nontraditional students, and students who started some time ago and stopped out.

He encouraged folks to embrace the dashboards put together by Ernst and Young, particularly for anyone interested in learning more about graduate assistantships, scholarshiping, and such matters.

He described the relationship with Ernst and Young as winding down.

At next week's Board of Trustees meeting, he promised to bring a recommendation for one-time bonuses to folks who have not been in the raise pool but have been here for the past year. He also promised to discuss bonuses for other employees who have not received one, such as part-time employees. He will also recommend restoring baseball and founding women's lacrosse on the campus.

He provided additional detail about baseball and women's lacrosse and how they might be affordable and generate new revenue. He spoke of his own children, athletically gifted, who were recruited at D-2 and D-3 schools that had no athletic scholarships that were not privately funded. Since it is not mandated that we provide university-sponsored scholarship for these sports, we could recruit and assemble teams and perhaps achieve revenue the university would not otherwise be receiving. He wondered further if a focus on Ohio, considering that we get money from the state for every Ohio student who completes a course and every student who graduates, makes sense. If coaches are not recruiting outside of the state of Ohio, there would be cost

savings. If the teams play fewer games, there would be cost savings. The women's lacrosse team could use existing facilities in InfoCision, and the baseball team could play its league games in Canal Park downtown. Moreover, he hears in the schools, in the community, and from our students, relief and happiness that baseball is returning.

He praised the University of Akron Press for operating at a high level.

President Wilson also described an investigation into eSports, which involve games such as League of Legends, Hearthstone, and others. Some universities have arenas, uniforms, and varsity teams for eSports. These teams could be organized under the honors college or the library, as they are on other campuses. On a Friday afternoon, fifty students from the Honors program attended a meeting to discuss doing this on a club level or varsity level. He further noted that NCAA is meeting this week to discuss it. He noted that the League of Legends championship outdrew the NBA Championship of Cleveland. And, he has learned, there are more women over 40 than teenage boys, and the average age of eSports competitors is 38.

He noted that our reputation abroad is good and spoke of the opening of our new International Center led by our new Executive Director of International Recruitment, J.P. Yates. He described strong interest in our programs in business, engineering, health, and culinary arts in areas where we are recruiting overseas.

More than one hundred events are running this homecoming weekend, he told the faculty, and he encouraged the faculty to attend them.

In Columbus, he described as "hot topics" post-tenure review and free speech on college campuses. Part of the free speech bill recently proposed makes student activity fees optional. Another part of the bill is prohibiting universities from rescinding invitations to speakers. He explained the rationale for this: Because clubs are often inviting the speakers, it is unfair to ask students to fund the clubs that might be promoting views they disagree with, through the activity fees.

He described a group of twenty-five to thirty state legislators who came and listened to him speak about what we have been doing here at Akron. He reported that he receives many encouraging compliments about our initiatives and programs.

He thus concluded his remarks and invited questions from the faculty.

Senator Hausknecht wondered if the people exploring eSports were considering eSports for recruiting international students.

President Wilson described a recent trip as an alumnus to the University of Utah about their experience in this realm. One public announcement on the subject of starting a varsity eSports team brought in 500 inquiries. Of these, 60 percent were STEM majors and 30 percent were students from overseas.

Senator Elliott referenced the \$9M savings in graduate assistantships and described the effect on the physics and math departments as decimating. He invoked a comparison to Cleveland State, which spends much less on athletics. He compared this to the cost of the football subsidy and asked if we could adapt some of these Division II ideas to the football program.

President Wilson demonstrated how the logic of being more like Cleveland State could lead us to further cuts in graduate assistantships. He described football as a sport that brings in a considerable amount of revenue and reminded the faculty of our ESPN money and our bowl money. He also noted that the marching band needs football to exist.

Senator Sterns asked the President to speak on our relationship with NEOMED. President Wilson praised the timing of this question as impeccable, as it was the topic of a conversation he

had before today's meeting. He described a plan to convene the relevant Presidents, Provosts, and senior members of both universities, and he invited faculty with something to contribute to indicate this to him so they can be included.

Senator Budd described a one-time bonus as much appreciated but not a worthy substitute for an actual raise.

Absolutely, he replied. President Wilson described the bonus as something we can't afford but also something we can't not afford to do. He described it as a first step.

There were no further questions.

### *VII. Committee Reports*

#### *A. Curriculum Review Committee – Senator Saliga*

On behalf of the committee, Senator Saliga brought forward curriculum proposals for approval (see appendix A). The motion was adopted without dissent.

#### *B. Athletics Committee – Chair Nicholas*

Chair Nicholas called the Senate's attention to the written report (see appendix B) and expressed a desire that someone will step up to chair the committee so that he can concentrate on the cybersecurity degree.

### *VIII. Report of University Council Representatives – Senators Roy & Allen*

Senator Roy described the meeting of September 12 as featuring a discussion of possibly having a second goal alignment workshop that concluded with a general decision for some members to discuss the matter on the listserv. She also noted a motion to join and form a joint committee with the Senate on the subject of child and human development. She further noted a discussion of mandatory tuberculosis screening for international students and the introduction of policy that would make the University of Akron an age-friendly university.

### *IX. Report of Graduate Council Representatives – Senators Allen & Soucek*

Senator Allen made two comments: one, the graduate assistantship allocation process for 2018-19 has been discussed, with allocations to be released on October 15, and the requirement for procuring students will be moved earlier, to May 1. Two, legal counsel has concluded that we can no longer process payment to students from local companies, which has had implications for colleges with students working in this regard. He noted that rulings outside the University prompted this change in policy.

Chair Rich described October 15, if true, as something worth celebration.

Dean Midha took the floor and addressed the senate. Dean Midha revised the projected time as "around October 15." He explained that doctoral programs will continue to have the same funding as before, only that any students who will be graduating from a doctoral program will be moving from graduate school funding to research grant funding. As for allocation of funds for the new masters students who will be joining us in Fall 2018, Dean Midha said this would be discussed at the next Council of Deans meeting. He expressed a belief that a final decision would be made that Tuesday or on the following Tuesday.

Dean Midha next explained the deadline of May 1. This deadline will be for all the contracts which come to the graduate school for processing. For contracts at the national level, the deadline will be April 15.

Senator Elliott asked Dean Midha if graduate students could not be hired if the funding comes in between this deadline and the start of the fall semester. Dean Midha replied that they

will consider such cases as they come. He emphasized that they were still learning and will accommodate exceptions to the new deadlines as they make sense.

*X. New Business*

There was no new business.

*XI. Good of the Order*

There was nothing for the good of the order.

*XII. Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02pm.

—Jon Miller, Secretary.

Questions and comments about the minutes can be emailed to [mjon@uakron.edu](mailto:mjon@uakron.edu) or called in to x6202.

## Curriculum Proposals for October 2017 Faculty Senate

Proposal Number	Proposal Title
ENGR-ELECTE-15-13030	Introduction to Sensors and Actuators
ENGR-ELECTE-15-13053	Electromagnetics I
ENGR-ELECTE-15-13055	Electromagnetics II
SUMM-BUSTECH-16-19491	Computer IS - Indus Comp LCCC
A&S-COMMUN-16-19203	Advanced Strategic Social Media
A&S-COMMUN-16-19134	Informatics & Data Analysis in Communication
BUS-FINAN-17-19936	Finance - Corporate Finl Mgmt
BUS-FINAN-17-20166	Internship in Corporate Financial Management
A&S-COMMUN-16-19150	Mixed Methods of Communication Research
A&S-COMMUN-16-19162	Science Communication
EDUC-EDFOUND-17-19917	Educational Admn - Higher Edu
EDUC-EDFOUND-17-19921	Educational Admn - Higher Edu
CHP-NURIN-17-20519	Post-MSN Family NP - Adult NP
A&S-COMMUN-16-19149	Capstone
A&S-COMMUN-16-19153	Crisis Communication
A&S-COMMUN-16-19152	Applied Communication Theory
A&S-HIST-15-13498	Global Societies: Middle East
A&S-HIST-15-13723	Global Societies: Africa
A&S-HIST-15-13727	Global Societies: Latin America
A&S-POLSC-17-20334	Intelligence and Counterterrorism
A&S-POLSC-17-20335	Counterterrorism
EDUC-CURR-16-19199	Inclusive Field Experience: Moderate/Intensive
BUS-MARKET-17-20819	Marketing Management Program
BUS-MARKET-17-20824	Integrated Marketing Communic
BUS-MARKET-17-20825	Sales Management Program
ENGR-ELECTE-14-9277	Advanced Wireless Communications
A&S-COMMUN-16-19698	Certificate in Professional Social Media
SUMM-BUSTECH-17-19911	Applied Mathematics for Business
SUMM-ENGRSCI-17-20238	Geographic & Land Info Systems
A&S-POLSC-16-16778	Advanced Topics in Research Methods: XXX
EDUC-CURR-16-19081	Intervention Moderate/Intensiv
EDUC-CURR-16-19232	Inclusive Field Experience: Moderate/Intensive
EDUC-CURR-16-19196	Special Education Programming: Moderate/Intensive I
BUS-MANGT-17-20596	Strategic Management
SUMM-BUSTECH-17-20304	Retail Promotion & Advertising
BUS-MANGT-17-20552	Supply Chain Logistics Planning
BUS-MANGT-17-20555	Human Resources Selection & Staffing
A&S-COMMUN-16-19118	Health Communication
BUS-MANGT-17-20598	Systems Integration
BUS-MANGT-17-20602	Principles of Supply Chain and Operations Management
BUS-MANGT-17-20554	Human Resource Management
A&S-COMMUN-16-19155	Risk Communication
A&S-COMMUN-16-19159	Social Media Metrics & Analytics
A&S-COMMUN-16-19160	Sport Communication
BUS-MANGT-17-20601	Introduction to Health-Care Management
BUS-MANGT-17-20553	Supply Chain Logistics Management
CHP-SPLANG-17-20171	The Resilient Child

## **Faculty Senate Athletic Committee Report 10/5/2017**

John B. Nicholas, Chair

The Faculty Senate Athletic Committee met on September 20, 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm.

John Nicholas was nominated to serve as Chair of the committee, however he asked that someone else take the position due to changes in his schedule. Because not all members were in attendance, it was decided that an e-mail asking for nominations /volunteers be forwarded and an election be held at the October meeting.

### **NCAA update from Deb Owens Faculty Athletic Representative to the NCAA**

Owens reported no updates but spoke of the “culture shift” going on in the football team and coaches office. Ricky Lumpkin has been hired as the coordinator for football. Has instilled in the students a sense of why the degree is important. His years in the NFL have given him a unique perspective. Great addition to the staff.

Owens shared that new basketball coach reached out to her to have a faculty panel with him to talk about standards in the classroom and some members of this committee came and represented the faculty. Owens is also working with female student athletes with the coaches from swimming/diving and golf for professional meetings with some alumni.

Anne Jorgensen shared statistics for athletes from MAC. One of the pages reflects fall 16 and 17 as well as their overall GPA. Non-MAC team is the rifle team. That’s what we submit to the MAC for the competition within the MAC. UA athletes as a whole are above the 3.0 level and there are 3 teams that are not at the 3.0 and above with their overall GPA – basketball, football and track. Jorgensen also shared a list of the student athletes and the degree programs in which they are enrolled. A discussion ensued about college athlete transfer rules and changes being discussed by the MAC. The changes are centered around eliminating making athletes waiting a year to play if they transfer to another school.

### **Update from Athletic Director – Larry Williams**

Williams discussed some of the positive developments from athletics beginning with the new basketball coach, John Gross. He is already working on GPAs, really good discipline coming in both scholastic and personal improvements. A new culture being created to focus on academics. The next item Williams discussed was Rhodes arena renovation. It is underway and structure steel is going in. It’s going to be funded with private donations and renegotiation of our vendor agreement. The Biggest renovation will be

to increase the seating of the arena. That will be with money raised from outside sources. The next step will be reconfiguring of the seating in the arena. The arena will be able to host more university events then. William then stated, the President will bring to BOT a proposal to bring back baseball as well as bring women's lacrosse to campus. The University will not offer any scholarships through academic general fund. A discussion ensued about the baseball stadium and the possibility of the team using Canal Park.

Williams talked about the new Women's Lacrosse team. He mentioned that Title IX was a consideration. We feel like we have a good chance of attracting good student athletes. The MAC does not sponsor the sport but have spoken with the Atlantic Sun Division and they are the umbrella at the moment of lacrosse. There are teams in Detroit Mercy, Central Michigan, Kent and UA. Youngstown State is also pushing for it. There will be future discussion about starting a more regional conference to include the aforementioned teams.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15.