

9-4-2014

## Faculty Senate Chronicle for September 4, 2014

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### Recommended Citation

Schulze, Pamela. "Faculty Senate Chronicle for September 4, 2014." *The University of Akron Faculty Senate Chronicle*, 4 Sep 2014. *IdeaExchange@UAkron*, <http://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/universityofakronfacultysenate/24>

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### **Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of September 4, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate took place Thursday, September 4, 2014 in room 201 of Buckingham. Senate Chair William D. Rich called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

Of the current roster of 59 Senators, 47 were present for this meeting. Senators Cutright, Fant, Feldt, Lazar, Sastry, Saunders and Willits were absent with notice. Senators Braun, Freely, Klein, Schwartz and Youngs were absent without notice.

#### **I. Approval of the Agenda**

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

**The agenda was adopted without dissent.**

#### **II. Approval of the Minutes**

Senator Hajjafar moved to adopt the proposed minutes of the March 2014 meeting. Senator Clark seconded.

**The minutes were adopted without dissent.**

Senator Hajjafar moved to adopt the proposed minutes of the April 2014 meeting. Senator Saliga seconded.

#### **III. Remarks of the Chairman**

Chair Rich began his remarks by welcoming the new and returning senators and by introducing the new and re-elected members of the senate:

- *Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences:* Newly elected - Anthony Samangy.
- *College of Business Administration:* Newly elected - Asoke Dey and Douglas Hausknecht.
- *College of Health Professions:* Newly elected - Terri Hallett, Lori Kidd, Ron Otterstetter and Richard Glotzer.
- *College of Engineering:* Newly elected -Dane Quinn, Teresa Cutright, Becky Willits; Wayne College, Heather Howley.
- *University Libraries:* Newly elected - Jeffrey Franks.
- *Retired Faculty:* Re-elected - Neal Raber and Robert Gandee.
- *School of Law:* Re-elected - Stewart Morris.
- *Undergraduate Student Government:* Newly elected - Chelsea King
- *Academic Advisors:* Newly elected - Joe Minocchi.

Chairman Rich continued his remarks as follows:

I want to congratulate all of you on your elections or re-elections and welcome the new members of the Senate.

The Executive Committee continues to await the receipt of senate election results from the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, the College of Education, the Graduate Student Government, and the Student Bar Association.

Welcome also to our new President, Scott Scarborough, about whom I will say more in a moment.

For the information of those who are new to the Senate, and as a reminder to those of you who are returning, the Faculty Senate is the legislative body of the faculty at the University level. Its meetings are relatively formal and are conducted according to the Senate Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order. If you wish to address the body, please hold up your name tag to seek recognition of the chair, and please be sure your name tag is facing the chair, not you, and is right side up so that it can be read by the Chair.

Please don't speak until recognized by the Chair. And, when I recognize you, if I should fail to say your name, please state your name when you begin to speak, so that your remarks may be properly attributed to you in the record.

This meeting is being recorded to facilitate the making of a transcript. The microphones are sensitive. Please don't make noise that would make it difficult for the transcriber to hear the proceedings. And sometimes, of course, the transcriber hears remarks that were made sotto voce, but not completely sotto voce, which I'm sure are entertaining, but I'm not sure people meant them to be heard. When you speak, please bear in mind that your remarks will be transcribed for all the world to see.

For the new members of the Senate, we'll be conducting an orientation session a week from today. That's Thursday, September 11.

Today's agenda includes several elections. The election of the Secretary of the Faculty Senate to fill the unexpired term of our current secretary, Frank Bove, who chose not to seek re-election to the Senate. The election of two members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Senator Hajjafar and Senator Erickson's two-year terms expire today. The election of two representatives to the Graduate Council; these two representatives must have Graduate Faculty Category 2 Status, and upon their election will become the members of the Graduate Council for one year. The election of a representative to the Ohio Faculty Council, Professor Fenwick's two-year term is expiring.

I am pleased to report that with one exception all of the actions taken by the Senate in May that required the approval of the president were approved by the President, and those that further required approval of the Board of Trustees were presented to and approved by the Board.

The exception is the Senate Resolution recommending that the teaching load limit for part-time faculty members be increased from eight to nine credit hours per semester, and that the requirement that part time faculty members report their hours worked be eliminated. I am informed that the administration requested a legal opinion from outside counsel on this matter, and has yet to receive it. It has been almost four months since I reported this resolution to the President. Such a long wait for an opinion on a simple, straight-forward legal question that is clearly and squarely resolved by the final regulation issued by the Internal Revenue Service last winter is, in my view, inexcusable. I voiced my dissatisfaction with this state of affairs to the administration, and I hope that the opinion will be forthcoming shortly.

Let me talk a little bit about the year ahead. As you know, in our May meeting, we adopted a massive overhaul of the General Education requirements for undergraduate students at this University, and along with it a plan for implementing these changes. This plan calls for the establishment this Fall of four Disciplinary Learning Outcome Committees, or DLO Committees, and four Tagged Learning Outcome Committees, or TLO Committees. Subject to Senate approval, these committees are to determine which courses are to be approved as satisfying the learning outcomes of the new general education requirements. It will be up to each departmental faculty to propose existing courses for such approval.

The first step in establishing these eight committees is for the faculty in each department of the affected colleges to nominate faculty members to serve on the committees. Deans may also make nominations. All nominations are to be transmitted to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee by September 12, which will make the appointments by September 30th. I urge you to do what is necessary to ensure that these nominations are made so that the implementation process can begin in a timely manner.

This February representatives of the Higher Learning Commission will visit our campus again, having done so two years ago as part of the regular reaccreditation process. This follow up visit will focus on two issues that were identified as problem areas during the last visit: the university governance process and the process for assessing student learning.

In preparation for this visit, a self study will be prepared that addresses these two issues. Preparations for the visit will be coordinated by Vice Provost Rex Ramsier as they were for the last site visit. The part of the self study that addresses university

governance will be authored by representatives of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the University Council Executive Committee.

You will recall that will last May the University Council Budget and Finance Committee recommended to the President a Fiscal Year 2015 budget for the university. This budget was approved by the President and adopted by the Board of Trustees. This was the first time the University Council Budget and Finance Committee was able to function as originally intended, and in my remarks in the May Senate meeting I commended the Vice President for Finance and Administration for consulting meaningfully with the committee and the President and the Provost for supporting this process. This was in my view a significant step toward achieving the kind of shared governance that this university needs and that the Higher Learning Commission expects.

Budgets, of course, are not static documents. Any adjustments that are made, or to be made, to the fiscal year 2015 budget should similarly be made in consultation with the University Council Budget and Finance Committee. It's also essential that the progress made during the making of the 2015 budget be sustained as the university undertakes to make the 2016 budget. The Budget and Finance Committee should be involved meaningfully at all stages of this process.

In recent years, administration approval to conduct faculty searches has come so late in the academic year that in many instances the best candidates were no longer available, and in some instances it became necessary to hire only visiting faculty members instead of tenure track faculty members. This occurred even though it should have been clear to everyone involved that some of those positions would have to be filled no matter what the outcome of the budget making process would be.

This summer, I urged President Scarborough and Provost Sherman to allow searches to begin early enough to attract the best available candidates for those faculty positions that would need to be filled under all plausible budget circumstances.

As you may be aware, recently the college deans were invited to submit requests for approval to fill vacant faculty positions for the 2015/2016 academic year, which of course will require the conduct of searches this year. They were asked to restrict their requests to critical needs. In all, approximately \$7.5 million in requests were submitted. Central administration has said that approximately \$2.5 million of these requests will be approved.

Provost Sherman has been authorized to decide which requests to grant. It is essential that, when these decisions are made, no positions are cut that would cost the university more in lost revenues than they would save in expenditures, and that lasting damage not be inflicted on particular academic programs unless the strategic decision has been made with appropriate consultation that the continuation of the program is not in the best interest of the University.

Finally, on Friday September 19th, an investiture ceremony will be held for President Scarborough in E.J. Thomas Hall. The faculty will play an important role in this ceremony. I urge all of you and all of our faculty colleagues throughout the university to participate. It will be my privilege and honor to lead the procession of faculty into the auditorium to join the stage party as the representative of the faculty and with the Board of Trustees Chairman Richard Pogue confer on President Scarborough the symbols of office.

I believe that a good turnout of faculty for the ceremony is important for several reasons.

First, the faculty are the heart of this and any university. To be successful, the University President needs the support of the faculty. This is one of the points I impressed upon the Board of Trustees when I, along with the other five representatives of the faculty in the presidential search process, met with the Board to discuss the finalists in the presidential search.

Second, in making its choice among the finalists, the Board heeded the advice of the faculty representatives. There should be no doubt that our advice was ultimately determinative of the outcome.

Third, that your representative has been asked to participate with the Chairman of the Board of Trustees in conferring the symbols of the presidency is a symbolic acknowledgment on the part of the board and the administration of the faculty's central role in the university.

Fourth, this is the beginning of a new era for this University that is worth celebrating, even as we are mindful of the challenges we face and the sacrifices we may be called upon to make.

I have had several interactions with President Scarborough since his appointment. I have found his directness, clarity of thought and expression, and candor to be refreshing. And I believe those are qualities we need. He listens and values learning, including his own. He seems to believe that we can learn from each other and that we need to do so in order to make this University better. I don't doubt there will be times when we disagree with him, but I expect that the disagreements will be honest and respectful on both sides. I'm hopeful and, yes, even confident that the era of unrealistic and ultimately meaningless promises, plans, visions and verbiage is coming to an end, and that surely is worth celebrating.

I hope you will join me in celebrating a new beginning for the University of Akron by participating in the President's Investiture Ceremony on September 19th, and that you will urge your faculty colleagues to do likewise. This concludes my remarks.

September 4, 2014

### **III. Special Announcements**

Chairman Rich reported the deaths of two members of the University community:

*Paul S. Wingard*, former Associate Dean in the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Geology died on June 11. Dr. Wingard earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Miami University of Ohio and his Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Illinois, Champaign Urbana. He worked for U.S. Geological Survey and taught geology at Kansas State University and the University of Kansas before coming to the University of Akron.

*James Teeter*, former Professor of Geology and Chair of the Geology Department, who retired in 1995 after 30 years of service, died in Akron on August 4th at the age of 77.

Professors Teeter and Wingard were well known locally for their quick action when the remains of a mastodon were uncovered in 1966 at a construction site in Fairlawn. They, along with students and other faculty members, worked for several weeks excavating and preserving the 10 to 15,000 year old bones. Those Fairlawn mastodon remains are still on display in Crouse Hall.

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

### **IV. Reports**

#### **Executive Committee**

Senator Bove reported as follows on behalf of the Executive Committee:

Over the summer months, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee met six times as a committee and twice with the President. The EC first met on May 15<sup>th</sup> for regular Senate business and to prepare for the meeting with President Proenza later that afternoon. The EC discussed the scholarship cap, the criminal justice proposal, and certified the Senate election reports from the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences and the full-time academic advisors.

The EC next met with the President, Provost, and Vice Provost and discussed the presidential transition timeline the status of the open dean searches, the University budget, the current cap on scholarships, fall enrollment, the criminal justice proposal, and revitalizing and routinizing the academic review process.

The EC met on June 9 for regular Senate business. The EC discussed rule changes to the Code of Student Conduct's informal resolution process and changes to the college honor codes. Chairman Rich is pursuing this with Vice Provost Ramsier and the Dean of Students, Dean Rocco, for possible review by the Faculty Senate in the Fall.

The EC also discussed the retention and completion plans circulated to the UC members, the selection of a Senate UC representative to serve on the UC Steering Committee and the impact of General Education Requirements for the Honors College. The EC certified the Senate election reports from the School of Law and also approved the proposed move of the Department of Counseling to the College of Health Professions.

The EC met on July 9<sup>th</sup> and discussed the issues of faculty retire/rehire, the consolidation of Bierce and the Science and Technology Libraries, and made appointments to the Faculty Senate standing committees. The new committee rosters are available on the Faculty Senate website.

The EC met on July 17<sup>th</sup> for regular Senate business and to prepare for the meeting with President Scarborough later that afternoon. The EC certified the Senate election reports from the College of Engineering and the College of health Professions and discussed the student retention and completion plans circulated in the UC.

Later that afternoon the EC met with President Scarborough, Vice Provost Ramsier and Provost Sherman. President Scarborough oriented the EC to his first year transition plan. We discussed the anticipated shortfall in enrollment, the status of the dean searches, limits on teaching load for part-time faculty, and the student retention and completion plan.

The EC next met on August 21<sup>st</sup> for regular Senate business. Several appointments were made to Senate committees. The EC discussed the General Education implementation plan, updates to the administrative structure of the University, and consolidating the libraries. The student retention and completion plan has been redrafted and will come to the Senate for consideration this Fall.

The EC last met on August 28 to prepare the agenda for today's meeting. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee is empowered to act on behalf of the Senate during the summer months contingent on reporting those items to the Senate for ratification. There are two items the EC brings to this body today for ratification.

(1) Approval of the move of the Counseling Department from the College of Education to the College of Health Professions.

**This action was ratified without dissent.**

(2) Approval of the Summer 2014 Commencement Candidate List.

**This action was approved without dissent.**

Secretary Bove noted that his term as Senator for the University Libraries has come to an end. He did not run for re-election. After thanking his colleagues, the Faculty Senate EC, Chair Rich and former Chair Sterns, and Heather Loughney, Secretary Bove submitted his resignation as Faculty Senate Secretary.

Chair Rich thanked Secretary Bove for his service as Chair.

### **Remarks of the President**

The President began his remarks by thanking Chair Rich and the Senate for the warm reception that he has received on campus, and for the opportunity to address the Senate. He has taken the time to meet with people, both internal and external to the University. He is also reading about the history of the University of Akron.

President Scarborough remarked that as a provost he attended faculty senate meetings, and he believes the work of Faculty Senate is critically important to the success of the University.

President Scarborough talked about the University's organizational structure, which he said should be modified to accommodate the differences in leadership style between him and President Proenza.

President Scarborough's chief priority is getting a sense of the financial condition of the University. This will be an important focus of his first 90 days. President Scarborough will also meet with faculty, staff, and administrators at the college level. He emphasized the importance of practicing teamwork and shared governance, as well as clear and open communication.

### **Remarks of the Provost**

The Provost commended faculty and staff for supporting student success, and reacting to circumstances that require "juggling."

The Provost informed us that we had 19,000 more applicants this semester than last. Freshman enrollment increased by about 2 percent from last year. Full-time incoming freshmen to the main campus is up 9.4 percent with slightly higher GPAs and ACT scores. Six hundred new honors students joined us, compared to about 350 last year. We made some increases in the diversity of the student body, and our newly created underrepresented scholarships were awarded to about 274 students. IR is working hard to accumulate, develop, and analyze the data because next week is when we will need to have official counts for the federal government, the state, and our census. The Provost anticipates that the mid- and end-of-semester news will continue to be good.

This was the second year of attempting to Engage the Roo for the New Roo Weekend put on by the Division of Student Success for new students on campus. Provost Sherman requested feedback about the event, which will help it to be even better next year.

Provost Sherman also reported that we had a successful opening orientation for faculty and teaching assistants. There were sessions relating to how to handle student conduct issues, effectively using the library's instructional technology, and documenting student learning. Each attendee received a copy of their own program's assessment plan to help them better align their own work with the programs for student learning. There was also a tour and an introduction to 40 campus offices.

The Council of Deans meetings will continue to send out debriefs of their meetings. Feedback has been helpful. The President will come to the Council of Deans meetings to talk about teamwork, leadership, and shared governance, which he's terming the Academic Leadership Group, and to discuss his plans for the University. The president's presentation to the Academic Leadership Team will be posted to the web so that everyone can have access to that. Deans, department chairs, and directors will be available to answer any questions faculty might have related to the content of those presentations.

Provost Sherman looks forward to working with Faculty Senate on General Education reform among other activities intended to academic excellence.

## **V. Senate Elections**

### **Secretary (finishing the one year remaining on the unexpired term of Secretary Bove)**

Senator Miller nominated Senator Schulze. Senator Clark moved to close nominations and elect Senator Schulze by acclamation. Senator Matejkovic seconded.

**Motion was adopted without dissent.**

### **Executive Committee (first seat – two year term)**

Senator Sterns nominated Dr. Hajjafar. Senator Clark moved to close nominations and elect Senator Hajjafar by acclamation. Seconded by Senator Matejkovic.

**Motion was adopted without dissent.**

### **Executive Committee (second seat – two year term)**

Senator Lillie nominated Senator Erickson. Senator Allen moved that nominations be closed and Senator Erickson be elected by acclamation. Seconded by Senator Clark.

**Motion was adopted without dissent.**

**Graduate Council (first seat, one-year term)**

Senator Hajjafar nominated Senator Sterns. Senator Clark moved to close nominations and elect Senator Sterns by acclamation. Seconded by Senator Shaffer.

**Motion was adopted without dissent.**

**Graduate Council (second seat, one-year term)**

Senator Hajjafar nominated Senator Bouchard. Senator Bouchard declined. Senator Sterns nominated Senator Allen. Senator Huss moved that nominations be closed and Senator Alen be elected by acclamation. Seconded by Senator Clark.

**Motion was adopted without dissent.**

**Ohio Faculty Council (two-year term)**

Senator Miller nominated Rudy Fenwick. Senator Clark moved that nominations be closed and that Rudy Fenwick be elected by acclamation. Seconded by Senator Schaffer.

**Motion was adopted without dissent.**

**VI. Committee Reports**

**University Review Committee**

Senator Lillie reported for the URC, which is a subcommittee of the CRC. He thanked the people who served on the committee, and called for people who might be interested in joining the committee.

The URC was able to successfully dispose of nearly 500 curriculum proposals over the course of one semester. The URC would also like to get faculty feedback to make sure that they're meeting the needs of the curriculum review process.

**VII. Report from Faculty Senate Representatives to University Council**

Senator Lillie, Senator Sterns, and Senator Erickson reported that the UC discussed concerns about the current housing for the College of Education. The space and resources provided to faculty are inadequate and may hinder faculty productivity. UC noted a lack of substantive faculty involvement in the creation and implementation plan.

Senator Erickson reported that the University Council's Talent Development and Human Resources Committee has made its reports available on the UC website. One of the issues they addressed was the faculty retire/rehire issue. There is currently no plan for

replacing retiring faculty. The TDHR Committee said they would put together a report that looked at options and make recommendations. They also discussed the issue of sick leave donation. They're also working with the Recreation Committee to come up with ways of providing benefit incentives to carry out health programs, nutrition, and education, as well as incentives in our benefits program. This could be a cost-saving measure as well as beneficial to faculty.

Senator Lillie reported that UC is calling for a new chair for the Student Success Committee (to take the place of former Executive Vice President Tressel).

### **VII. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

### **VIII. New Business**

There was no new business.

### **IX. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

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Any comments concerning the contents in *The University of Akron Chronicle* may be directed to the Secretary, Pamela A. Schulze (x7725). [facultysenate@uakron.edu](mailto:facultysenate@uakron.edu)