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## Faculty Senate Chronicle November 7, 2019

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November 7, 2019

17 pages

SENATE ACTIONS

1. Adopted a resolution from the Academic Policies Committee regarding the move of Sofia Kraus (Appendix A).
2. Adopted a resolution from the Academic Policies Committee on Admissions appeals (Appendix A).
3. Adopted the courses brought by the Curriculum Review Committee (Appendix B)
4. Approved a report brought by the Curriculum Review Committee on academic program review (Appendix B)
5. Approved the list of graduates for Fall 2019 Commencement.

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## MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF

November 7, 2019

The meeting of the Faculty Senate took place Thursday, November 7, 2019, in room 180 of the Blake McDowell Law School. Senate Chair Linda Saliga called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.

Of the current roster of 57 senators, 37 attended the meeting. Senators Giffles, Haritos, Hartsock, McKnight, Miller, Sahl, Stefin, Szalay, Thornton, Walker and Woyat were absent with notice. Senators Akhigbe, Dey, Fielding, Hreno, Kelly, Matejkovic, Simms, Srinivasan and Tuesday were absent without notice.

### *I. Adoption of Agenda*

On Senator Hazlett's motion, the agenda was adopted without dissent.

### *II. Adoption of Minutes of the October Senate meeting.*

On Senator Evans's motion, the minutes of the October Senate meeting were adopted without dissent.

### *III. Remarks of the Chair*

Welcome. I would like to welcome Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Joe Urgo and let him know that I'm looking forward to working with him. He hit the ground running. I had two meetings with our Interim Provost on

Monday, one of which was an impromptu meeting with President Miller and him to discuss how our Senate works. We definitely surprised President Miller with the fact that we had questions for him last month. One result of the meeting is that the executive committee, at the administrators' request, will be meeting with the Interim Provost weekly instead of monthly. The President will join us for our previously scheduled monthly meetings and may join us for some of the new meetings also.

One of the first topics I plan on discussing with the Interim Provost is workload. Recall that last month we sent two items related to workload to President Miller. In response to APC's resolution about workload policy, President Miller said he would discuss this with the Interim Provost. In response to the resolution about administrators teaching, President Miller replied that an informal review of teaching activities of administrators indicated that 75% of all administrators taught at least one course in the previous 18 months. He believes that given the demands of administrative duties, there is a significant commitment to teaching by UA administrators.

By the way, the rest of our resolutions/rules changes were supported and are being implemented immediately, if board action is not needed, or will be sent to the Board of Trustees Rules Committee if board action is needed. For the items that need board approval, the intent of the change will be effective immediately as a new policy.

Part of today's CRC report is about the first set of programs to go through the new cyclical program review process, and recommendations about the process in

general. The process used this year, which was presented to us in December, mirrored the process of APR in the sense that two faculty committees, a program review committee appointed by OAA and Senate's CRC, reviewed department self-studies. This seems rather redundant. You may recall that it was determined, on the fly, in the December Senate meeting that the Program Review Committee would report to the FSEC. After discussions with CRC and EC about this issue, I'm suggesting that we create a new senate committee with the job of conducting the program reviews eliminating the need for two committees to review the programs.

We have lots of work to do as a university, and I believe our new upper administration is willing, and wants, to work with us to move The University of Akron forward. I have hope that we can right the ship.

This concludes my remarks.

#### *IV. Special Announcements*

Dr. Nobuyuki (Nobu) Nakajima, professor emeritus of polymer engineering, died Sept. 19 in Massachusetts. He was 95. He joined The University of Akron in 1984 as a full professor of polymer engineering and retired in 1994. His colleagues from those days recall that he was still seen almost every day in his office doing research and publishing new research papers.

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

The Executive Committee met 3 times since the last regular meeting.

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, the EC met to certify elections, make committee appointments, and prepare for the meeting with President Miller, CAO Midha, and Chief of Staff Wayne Hill.

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, the EC met with President Miller to discuss preferred methods of communication and governance, recent testimony in the Ohio House and Senate that related to higher education, the strategic plan and the strategic planning process, UA's financial situation, enrollment issues, and workload.

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, the EC met to prepare the agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting. We also made committee appointments.

This concludes my report.

#### *VI. Remarks of the President*

President Miller recognized members of the Board of Trustees and Dr. Urgo. He thanked Dr. Urgo for taking the position of interim provost and leaving retirement. He expressed surprise at the number of questions at the last meeting. He described his meetings with the colleges on campus and summarized the themes that he heard as positive. He hoped to visit individual faculty over the next couple of months.

He has been impressed by his introduction to the community and has enjoyed the community events that he attended. He was in Columbus and was pleased with the meetings with the Governor, the Governor's staff and members of the House and Senate.

He expressed excitement about the strategic planning process and the level of involvement with the campus and community. He alluded to the exciting new rebranding that has been approved by the Board and will be unveiled soon.

Senator Klein asked for clarification on workload policy and where authority resides in OAA regarding future discussion on workload.

President Miller answered that Interim Provost Uργο was in charge.

Senator Evans reminded the president that rebranding creates anxiety.

President Miller assured the body that it was about sharpening the message rather than changing the brand or the name.

#### *VII. Remarks of the Interim Provost*

Interim Provost Uργο summarized his involvement with Akron. He noted that his wife grew up here and thanked President Miller for dragging him out of comfy t-shirts. He has worked at eight different institutions and felt that the local culture should guide decision-making. He believed that locating decision-making with the deans and implementing local solutions often worked best. His research has helped to inform his approach to higher education which he defined as helping individual students and faculty member develop their abilities and talents.

He had a few high-level goals the first of which was to restore the confidence and the pleasures of shared governance. He described it as a unique and critical process to running a university. He characterized effective shared governance as essential to restoring confidence in the University. This was behind his request to meet with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on a weekly basis.



He will focus on the strategic plan with two main areas of focus. He defined Akron as a research university, which includes the arts. He also defined the University of Akron as an urban university and conveyed an urgent need to support all students, not just the elite and privileged. These two focus areas should inform our decisions.

He defined his role as chiefly an advocate for faculty. He committed to keeping faculty in mind when making all decisions and hoped that we would see his office as a place where one goes for counsel, guidance and opportunities.

#### *VIII. Approval of the List of Graduates for Fall 2019*

On Senator's Nofziger's motion, the motion was approved.

#### *IX. Committee Reports*

##### A. Academic Policies Committee—Chair Klein (Appendix A)

Senator Klein asked the body to approve the move of Sophia Kraus and the resilient child certificate to the School of Social Work.

The motion carries.

Senator Klein summarized the change of the board rules regarding appeals to admissions requirements for special talents and circumstances.

Senator Shott expressed concern that we might be open to anyone with a high school diploma.

The motion carries. Senator Shott abstained.

##### B. Curriculum Review Committee—Chair Thornton (Appendix B)

Chair Saliga gave the report and asked the body to approve the courses under consideration.

The motion carries.

Chair Saliga asked for comments with regard to program review and asked the body to approve the report.

The motion carries.

D. Communications and Computer Technology Committee—Chair Bove

(Appendix C)

Written report accepted.

*X. Report of the University Council Representatives - Senator Evans*

Senator Evans summarized the new initiatives regarding first year students.

*XI. AAUP Standing Report—Senator Schulze*

Senator Schulze commented about the grievance regarding the workload policy and encouraged the body to reach out to the chapter.

*XI. New Business*

No new business.

*XII. Good of the Order*

Senator Evans announced the creation of a website for undergraduate research. He asked for help in attracting students to the website.

Chair Saliga will forward the link to the list.

*XIII. Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

—Heather Howley, Secretary.

Questions and comments about the minutes can be emailed to [hhowley@uakron.edu](mailto:hhowley@uakron.edu) or called in to x8914.

APPENDIX A

**Report of the Academic Policies Committee to Faculty Senate  
Nov. 7, 2019**

1. **Move of Sophia Kraus from the School of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to the School of Social Work along with the Resilient Child Certificate.** After the suspension of the Child Life Program, Ms. Kraus will make the School of Social Work her permanent department. She has taught in the School of Social Work for over two years, and the move has been approved by faculty, who voted by ballot on a motion to bring her into the School of Social Work as a Professor of Practice / Senior Clinical Instructor, along with the Resilient Child Certificate. The vote was unanimous (12-0) in favor of the motion. APC has approved this move, and recommends that Senate adopt the move as well.
  
2. **Change to Rule 3359-60-02 (Admissions under special circumstances)**  
See Section B (1) of the rule for changes (attached).  
Rationale: Students have been able to appeal admissions decisions and have their appeals reviewed on a holistic basis. The changes to this rule legislate the ways in which this review will be conducted for students with exceptional talent or circumstances that might not be reflected in their GPA or test scores. This rule formalizes the procedure and ensures consultation with the appropriate academic units. APC voted in favor of this rule change with two abstentions.

## APPENDIX B

<b>Course Proposals - CIM</b>				
<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Initiator</b>	<b>Received</b>
<a href="#">3760:265</a>	<a href="#">3760:265: Child Development</a>	Edited	szentall	10/10/2019
<a href="#">3800:225</a>	<a href="#">3800:225: The Police Experience</a>	Edited	nmarion	10/10/2019

From old system:

A&S-PHILOS-18-24761      Food Ethics      New Course

**2019 Program Review  
Curriculum Review Committee Report  
The University of Akron**

### **Introduction**

The Curriculum Review Committee (CRC) decided to concentrate this review on curriculum related to each of the programs selected for program review. Looking at the reports CRC focused on the curriculum or program of study which students would be expected to follow. Some programs did not provide sufficient detail about how students would matriculate through the program.

### **Program Report**

CRC conducted an independent curriculum report of the following selected programs.

#### Biology

Biology is revising its graduate and undergraduate program goals. Also, faculty preparation does not appear to be aligned with offering a pre-med major.

#### Criminal Justice Studies (CJS)

Note that the CJS report is a departmental review, not a program review because it does not focus on curriculum. CJS would benefit from having a dedicated department chair with a background consistent with the interdisciplinary criminal justice degrees.

Dance, Theatre, and Arts Administration (DTAA)

DTAA did not submit a report. The CRC understands but does not agree with why a report was not submitted. A self-study should be conducted spring 2020.

Music

Note that the Music report is a departmental review, not a program review because it does not focus on curriculum. The submitted report does not include a sufficient amount of information for the completion of a curricula review.

Political Science

Political Science is revising its program to streamline electives for the purpose of facilitating the timely graduation of its students. The programs' goals are unclear; learning outcomes/goals appear to address only the first two years of the undergraduate program (OTM and state TAG).

Psychology

Psychology, which follows the American Psychological Association (APA) recommended curricula, is looking to expand its tracks, certificate, and online course offerings to attract more students. Most of the submitted report was a departmental review because it does not focus on curriculum.

Public Administration and Urban Studies (PAUS)

PAUS conducted a "needs analysis" for reinstating its Master of Public Administration. While a societal need for the degree may exist, the fact that the degree lost its accreditation (and a bid for re-accreditation) presents an assumption that the curricula are lacking. The CRC could not make its own determination based on the information provided.

Business and Information Technology (BIT)

Note that the official name of the "OS" degree is the Bachelor of Organizational Supervision (BOS). The discussion about the program's accreditation is confusing. The PRC report indicates that the BOS, CIS Networking, and CIS Programming degrees are accredited. The Department's report does not appear to be updated from its APR report, as some of the accreditation decisions mentioned in it have been answered in the affirmative. The curriculum is solid for all programs.

Management

While the Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and has a solid course structure, CRC is unsure of the specific curriculum of various tracks located within the BBA and thus is unable to determine based on the information provided. Most of the report was a departmental review, not a program review because it does not focus on curriculum.

### Nursing

The curricula are solid, as regimented and dictated by Nursing's accrediting body. The CRC's one concern is that program enrollment is limited to the availability of clinical placement sites, which needs to be addressed immediately.

### Sports Science and Wellness/Exercise Science/Sports Management

The sports management program curriculum is currently being re-worked, with positive strategies in place. The sports science and wellness faculty are adapting/re-assessing the current curricula and will make necessary changes as appropriate. The exercise science program is re-aligning its curriculum with the goal of accreditation, which assures a strong curricular foundation.

### **PRC Report**

CRC commends PRC in the work and effort put forth into their report and agrees with most of the findings. However, CRC differs with PRC regarding its request for clarification in two matters:

- The math requirements in BIT. The math courses required in the cyber security program are appropriate, both in level and content, for the program. The material taught in Calculus courses is not relevant to computer science.
- The use of NTT/PT faculty in upper-level courses. Faculty members who have the appropriate credentials, regardless of rank, should be permitted to teach a class if department faculty members deem it appropriate.

These two matters should be determined at the unit level.

### **Process Report**

The overall purpose for CRC to review programs is unclear, as there appears to be no need for two faculty bodies to review the same material. CRC seeks responses to the following questions:

- What is the overarching goal of program review? Is it to review curriculum, the programs, or a department?
- Have penalties for non-compliance been discussed?

Overall, the program review process is long and time-consuming. It needs to be shortened so that faculty are not over-extended. The process also needs to be more defined and focused on programs, not necessarily on units in order to be more meaningful to the units.

### **CRC Process Recommendation**

CRC recommends that the future make-up of the PRC be a faculty senate standing committee with a staggered three-year rotation.



## APPENDIX C

A Report of the  
Computing & Communications Technologies Committee (CCTC)  
To Faculty Senate  
October 31, 2019

The Computing & Communications Technologies Committee (CCTC) met twice in AY19/20, on September 27<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup>. The CCTC Subcommittee on Web Conferencing Software met once, on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

On **September 27<sup>th</sup>**, the Committee met for regular business and elected Frank Bove as chairperson of CCTC for 2019-2020. The Committee next discussed John Corby's request that the CCTC explore possible web conferencing software options as the university's current WebEx license expires this spring. A subcommittee will be charged to explore the matter and to return a recommendation to CCTC for the Senate's consideration. The Committee also discussed revisiting last year's efforts on adopting an online course evaluation system/process and building a set of standards and best practices for better adoption in the classroom. A question regarding residency requirements for teaching online was brought to the Committee. There was not enough information to have an informed conversation; the issue will be discussed upon further review. The Committee also discussed the benefits of managing a centralized system of open-source software for the classroom.

On **October 25<sup>th</sup>** the Committee met for regular business and discussed the formation of the CCTC Subcommittee on Web Conferencing Software. In anticipation of the current web conferencing license (WebEx) expiring in May 2020, the subcommittee will recommend to CCTC the best available web conferencing option for the university to adopt. The subcommittee members have been identified, to be appointed by the Senate Executive Committee, as: I'Chun Tsai (CCTC member), Mary Hardin (CCTC member), Wendy Lampner (CCTC member), Jeanette Carson (CCTC member), Melanie McCloskey, Thomas Quick, Stanley Smith, Alan Snow, Elijah Eubanks, and Dean Schultz. CCTC Chairperson Bove will convene the subcommittee's first meeting on October 29<sup>th</sup> wherein the subcommittee will 1) review the charge, 2) elect a subcommittee chairperson, and 3) develop a timeline of actionable items towards implementing a solution.

The Committee next discussed assembling best practices for utilizing online course evaluations, and will contact John Corby (ITS) and Melanie McGurr (CBAE) for relevant data and information regarding course evaluations and other testing services (eg. Scantron). The November CCTC meeting will include regular

committee business, and will serve as a work-session to draft the best practices document.

The Committee also discussed the issue of online teaching residency requirements. Faculty have reported to CCTC of being told by deans and the provost that faculty need to reside in the U.S.A. when teaching online, and should necessarily refrain from teaching online while outside the country. A written policy or university rule stating such has not been cited nor found. The Committee is uncertain such a policy exists or that such a policy would be useful for the university in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The Committee also discussed the need to support more open-source software at the university and to better ensure that university-wide software integrates with the Linux operating system. On **October 29<sup>th</sup>**, the *CCTC Subcommittee on Web Conferencing Software* met for regular business and elected Wendy Lampner as chairperson. A timeline was established so that a resolution will be presented for approval at the March 5<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting and in time to be considered at the April BOT meeting. The Subcommittee is gathering various documents to review and will construct a usage survey at the next meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> to be distributed to the university shortly thereafter.

In conclusion, the Committee would like to recognize Dr. Scott Randby's outstanding service to the CCTC. His dedication and commitment throughout the years, as both member and chair, was a driving force of many university-wide accomplishments. Thank you, Scott!

Respectfully submitted:

Frank J. Bove

CCTC, Chairperson

October 31, 2019