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The University of Akron Faculty Senate Chronicle

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## Faculty Senate Chronicle Special Meeting August 6, 2020

Heather Howley  
hhowley@uakron.edu

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August 6, 2020

SENATE ACTIONS

1. Adopted a motion requesting that members of the Faculty Senate Athletics committee be placed on the Athletics Review Taskforce.  
(see Appendix A)
2. Adopted a motion for the resignation of former president Proenza  
(see Appendix B)
3. Adopted a motion requesting that Governor DeWine develop a policy to include educators on the Board of Trustees of The University of Akron. (see Appendix C)
4. Adopted a motion calling for the resignation of the Board of Trustees of The University of Akron. (see Appendix D)
5. Adopted a motion requesting a review and reinstatement of the Developmental Programs and a review of the corequisite course model. (see Appendix E)

## APPENDIX A

WHEREAS, members of Faculty Senate have expressed deep concern that The University of Akron continues to support Division I athletics when it is not sustainable financially, competing with academics for scarce university resources,

WHEREAS, President Miller is establishing an Athletics Review Task Force “in order to have a considered and thorough discussion of the complex issues surrounding Division I athletics, it is important that shared governance (specifically University Council), the Board of Trustees, student leaders and community leaders – engage in a process of both education about NCAA Division I athletics and strategy development regarding the UA program going forward”; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate is the shared governance body that has a standing committee devoted to athletics, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, the faculty members of the Faculty Senate’s Athletics Committee should be members of the Athletics Review Task Force.

## APPENDIX B

WHEREAS, former President Proenza is paid over \$391,445 annually, therefore be it

RESOLVED, Luis Proenza be asked respectfully to resign or retire, or be added the reduction in force list.

#### APPENDIX C

WHEREAS, members of the University of Akron's Board of Trustees do not have experience as faculty of an institution of higher education, and therefore are lacking a critical area of expertise necessary for making decisions affecting the academic mission and the long-term well-being of the university; therefore be it, RESOLVED, the Faculty Senate of the University of Akron calls upon the 70th governor of Ohio, Richard Michael (Mike) DeWine to develop a policy for the composition of the University of Akron's Board of Trustees so that at least two of the appointed voting members should be retired or active higher education faculty, in order that the Board may have the benefit of their direct experience and be informed for all of its deliberations.

#### APPENDIX D

WHEREAS, The University of Akron is a 150-year-old institution of higher learning, supported by the state of Ohio, and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association,

WHEREAS, the public relies upon the University to improve the lives of Ohio citizens through education, research, and public service; and

WHEREAS, the mission statement of the Board of Trustees establishes the purposes of the University (3359-20-01 Section A.3)

*The University of Akron, a publicly assisted metropolitan institution, strives to develop enlightened members of society. It offers comprehensive programs of instruction from associates through doctoral levels; pursues a vigorous agenda of research in the arts, sciences, and professions; and provides service to the community. The university pursues excellence in undergraduate education and distinction in selected areas of graduate instruction, inquiry, and creative activity.*

; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is charged with governing the University; and

WHEREAS, there has been a long-term pattern of the Board of Trustees making numerous imprudent fiscal, and other decisions which have contributed to the institution's current economic instability; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2020, the Board acted to eliminate close to 20% of teaching faculty, with no regard for tenure, rank, or merit, thereby impacting the academic mission and violating its obligation to protect and promote the primary educational mission of the University; therefore be it

RESOLVED, We call upon the Ohio Senate's Higher Education Committee to request the resignation of all current Board members, and have the Governor of the State of Ohio replace them with persons having the requisite expertise, and commitment, to guide this University back to its mission.

#### APPENDIX E

Whereas, the administration believes that corequisite courses are appropriate for all students;

Whereas, to the contrary, corequisite courses do not work for all students;

Whereas, the elimination of Developmental Programs was decided solely by the administration by placing all of the program's faculty on the RIF list;

Whereas, the Faculty Senate was not consulted in regard to eliminating Developmental Programs as designated within our role regarding program elimination and curriculum approvals;

Whereas, numerous students will still need developmental coursework to ensure their future success;

Whereas, the accuracy of the data by Complete College America on corequisite courses has been questioned in relation to the potential introduction of bias by excluding students who do not finish the program from their analyses;

Whereas, the corequisite course model is not in place as the plan was to roll it out in phases beginning in fall 2021;

Whereas, the majority of the Developmental Program courses are full for the 2020 fall semester, therefore be it

Resolved, the Faculty Senate has determined that this situation warrants a thorough review and calls for the reinstatement of the Developmental Programs unit until the Faculty Senate can perform an evaluation of the efficacy of the corequisite course model promoted by the administration and make a recommendation.