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The University of Akron Faculty Senate Chronicle

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## Faculty Senate Chronicle December 3, 2020

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December 3, 2020

24 pages

SENATE ACTIONS

1. Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee to change the four-digit course codes from numbers to alpha codes (Appendix A).
2. Approved a motion brought by the Academic Policies Committee changing the names of departments within the College of Health and Human Sciences (Appendix A).
3. Approved courses and programs brought by the Curriculum Review Committee (Appendix B).
4. Approved a motion brought by USG President to create a Credit/No Credit policy for the fall semester (Appendix E).

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## MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF

December 3, 2020

The meeting of the Faculty Senate took place Thursday, December 3, 2020 in WebEx. Senate Chair Linda Saliga called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

Of the current roster of 45 senators, 37 attended the meeting. Senator Sahl was absent with notice. Senators Banik, Biddle, Budd, Gandee, Hreno, Palmer and Zheng were absent without notice.

### *I. Adoption of Agenda*

The agenda was adopted without dissent.

### *II. Remarks of the Chair*

I will start with my usual reminder, please keep your microphone muted and your video off, unless you have the floor, as this will help everyone with bandwidth. If you want to be recognized to speak, you are to type “request” in the chat and if you are a Senator you will be added to the queue. The chat is not a part of the record.

We have a bit of an unusual agenda today. We need to elect a new secretary as Heather Howley has taken on the administrative role of Acting Director of Branch Campuses, we will be getting an update on COVID issues on campus from Eric Green, one of the co-chairs of the return to campus planning group, and a new business item is being brought forward by our student representatives. I guess it is fitting to be finishing this unusual semester in an unusual way.

I will continue the unusualness by shamelessly stealing the sentiments, mostly word for word, that Joe Urgo shared with the BCAS faculty right before Thanksgiving.

We've been in react and accommodate mode now for eight months. COVID-19 has assaulted our methods for delivering course materials and for learning these materials. We've been driven by fear – fear of infection, fear of transmission, fear for ourselves, our families, our colleagues, and our students. Some of us have reacted in defensive anger, others with anxiety, resentment, and exhaustion. It's not healthy for any of us.

As faculty, we know how carefully curated the semester must be to be successful. An interruption can upend weeks of progress in the classroom, in the lab or studio. Writing projects, research trips, collaborations, all require forethought and planning. Our best thinking and planning are thrown over by COVID-19, as if to taunt us with our pre-COVID attraction to “disruption.” We have plenty of disruption now.

Our students, I think, suffer more – perhaps not in terms of physical threat, but surely in their quest for self-awareness, presentation, and perspective. “It's so easy to just not open my laptop,” one student said. Learning multiple platforms; finding a corner of the house with 50 minutes of guaranteed quiet; living under the threat of quarantine; knowing the professor is also stressed, threatened, on edge; hearing people say this is a hoax – what preparation do our students have for such trials?

We're finishing the last week of instruction – papers and reports are due, exams are looming, reckonings await. Now may be a good time to ask whether the fates would be shaken if a requirement were relaxed, or a previous fault forgiven. I am not recommending or even suggesting professional compromise. Just a reminder that in times when human life is threatened, we react and accommodate for good reason.

Thank you for the often-fearless efforts you have made and are making this semester – many of the most profound learning experiences will come from how we reacted, how we accommodated, and how we did so of our own volition.

*III. Special Announcements*

**Dr. Baffour K. Takyi**, a professor of sociology, died on Nov. 18, 2020. He was 64.

Takyi was born on Oct. 14, 1956, in Ghana. He earned a B.A. in Sociology with honors, at the University of Ghana, Legon in 1978. After a period of working as an internal auditor at the Ghana Audit Service and a teacher in Nigeria, he migrated to the United States in 1983 and obtained an M.A. (1986) and Ph.D. (1993) in Sociology at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany.

Takyi joined UA on Aug. 25, 1997. He taught undergraduate and graduate courses, and focused his academic work on areas that included demographic and health outcomes in Africa, family dynamics, maternal and child health, religion and reproductive outcomes, the intersection of gender and power on fertility decision making, and the experiences of Africans and other black immigrants within the United States. In addition, he served as director of the Pan African Studies Program from October 2005 to May 2011.

He was a prolific author and remained involved with the Ghanaian community at home and abroad until his untimely passing.

*IV. Election of the Secretary of the Faculty Senate*

Due to Secretary Howley's departure it was necessary to elect a new Secretary. Angela Hartsock accepted the nomination for Secretary and was elected by acclamation without dissent.

*V. Report of the Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee had three scheduled meetings since the last regular meeting in November.

The Committee met with Provost Wiencek on November 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the process for program reinstatements of suspended programs.

The committee also met with Provost Wiencek on November 19<sup>th</sup> and discussed the credit/no credit grading options, dependent/child care needs and its impact of faculty and staff, the status of COVID cases on campus, and unforeseen issues with reorganization.

Additionally, the EC met to prepare for the December Senate meeting on Nov 25<sup>th</sup>.

Feel free to direct questions to the faculty senate chair or vice chair.

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

President Miller thanked the faculty for their service during a challenging semester. He reminded everyone that COVID remains a concern. He referenced the current (lame duck) legislature and congress but indicated there was still important work to be done that the Board of Trustees and the administration is influencing where possible. At the federal level, while we are unsure of the future Secretary of Education, we do see some movement on possible COVID relief that might reach higher education. At the state level, the Summit county delegation remains in place and is supportive of UA. The university continues to hold virtual board meetings and continues to lobby legislature to approve a capital bill. We continue to receive COVID relief allocations from the state, including support for mental health. Also, the university received some assistance from Summit Co. related to the police force. President Miller noted meeting with the leadership of the controlling board. He referenced the planning of the state budget and the anticipated 2-billion-dollar short-fall. State agencies have been instructed to

develop a flat funding or 10% reduction model. Senate Bill 40 was passed which is known as the campus free speech bill. Miller noted some burden on universities and changes to how we manage free speech by making the entire university a free speech zone. There will be some reporting requirements related to free speech and we will evaluate how this affects our policies. The administration will report back to the Senate with how this may change our operations. Regarding University Council, the administration is awaiting the recommendations of the diversity and social justice working group to move forward with the diversity committee; recommendations are anticipated in early 2021. Sheldon Wrice is working on a draft diversity plan that will intersect all diversity-related work moving forward.

President Miller entertained questions. Senator Evans requested an update on the Ayers project timeline. President Miller responded that he didn't know specifics, but that Nathan Mortimer would know. He did note that some preliminary work is done, plans are in place to relocate people and that information can be shared.

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

Provost Wiencek confirmed that the administration is moving forward with searches for leadership positions; the dean's search for BCAS is nearing completion, the search for the dean of College of Business is underway, a search committee has been formed for a director of the School of Polymer Science (underway Spring 2021), and Heather Howley has been named Acting Director of the branch campuses. As the OAA reorganization is finalized, we will gain closure on how we will move ahead.

The university planning group, with Steve Ash as chair, is framing an approach to short- and long-term planning.

Provost Wiencek pointed to FAFSA applicants as a useful indicator of student intent to apply to universities. FAFSA applications are down significantly.

UA has extended the incentive to apply to January 4<sup>th</sup>. He pointed to factors including gap years, COVID uncertainty, vaccine uncertainty, aversion to 100% online learning, and lack of application support for students. UA is engaging with community programs that support FAFSA applicants.

Regarding financial aid, we have many students dropping out or withdrawing which puts their aid in jeopardy. UA will continue to maintain financial aid even if students drop below 12 credit hours this semester. UA has no control over federal aid, but they are optimistic that leniency will be extended.

Provost Wiencek entertained questions. Senator Klein asked for clarification for if a student dropped a class and, assuming we extend credit/no-credit, wishes to get back in, would they be able to do so. Provost Wiencek indicated that it could be possible, but it is difficult to retrospectively change the rules. He is open to anything that helps students. He would recommend that we take action in spring semester to ensure this doesn't happen. Senator Schulze pointed out that supporting students and being flexible is an important direction. However, the crisis has exacerbated existing challenges for students. The university has long accepted students that lack an academic foundation to be successful, students with care responsibilities, students who are ill, students who are full-time workers, and students with housing and food insecurity. Instead of a semester-by-semester approach, we need to think long-term about how to better support our students with all challenges, not just COVID challenges. Provost Wiencek agreed and indicated that we have some support efforts but not enough critical mass, we need to align resources. He looks to the Senate for input; we need to meet students where they are and provide the needed support. Senator Schulze pointed to a plan in the Sociology Department to implement a needs assessment to students. Schulze questioned whether there was a plan to follow up on results from either a programmatic or policy perspective. Provost Wiencek indicated he was unaware of the assessment. Senator Nofziger spoke about the college degree as a life changing accomplishment but that the degree has to be substantive and

meaningful. It is dangerous to continue policies that pass students that are not doing adequate work. She also elaborated on the sociology needs assessment as a 3-year project focused on student health and wellbeing. She is happy to share the data when it is done. Provost Wiencek said that he agrees in many ways with the quality arguments and encourages deliberation on the issue. Senator Klein asked if academic dismissals will be suspended. She wondered if it goes along with the credit/no-credit option in a kind of “package of compassion”. Provost Wiencek said he has no proposal here, but they are moving forward with normal policies. However, we should consider the full range of options.

Senator Feezel spoke to underscore that student government is not familiar with the dismissal policy and have been focused on the credit/no-credit option.

#### *VIII. Campus COVID update*

Eric Green updated the Senate on the COVID response. He announced that dashboard updates will be moved to Fridays. He reported a good turnout for the wide net testing done before Thanksgiving. They detected over one hundred asymptomatic cases before Thanksgiving. They continue to monitor cases and both on and off campus positive tests. He stated a goal to add testing data, both positive and negative tests to give a sense of the positivity rate on campus. He said right now the turnaround time on tests is about 15 minutes to 48 hours.

Green then entertained questions. Senator Evans requested details on the extent of planned testing in spring. He referenced the trends in Summit Co. and wondered if campus operations would change between now and the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of spring semester. Green responded that as of that day both Medina and Summit counties are “purple” status. Short-term there will be changes in operations in response to purple status, but it is harder to project to spring semester. There are concerns of post-holiday surges so they will continue to monitor and assess the situation. Green noted that prior to Thanksgiving, tests were provided by the state (through Abbot) but that test won’t be available at the start of spring

semester. They are working with other labs to identify the best option. Resident students will be tested upon arrival. The campus will continue to provide asymptomatic testing with no anticipated disruptions. The next priority will be to provide testing to close contacts of cases. They are seeing about 4% of our students are asymptomatic. Senator Makki asked about observed trends. Green responded that testing in September revealed some clustering of cases around club and varsity sports. Right now, they are not seeing connections, instead cases are isolated with predicted exposure from off campus activities. They did see increased cases in faculty and staff over the last few weeks and an increase after Halloween, likely due to social activities. Chair Saliga extended thanks to the COVID team.

### *IX. Committee Reports*

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

First Resolution for Discussion: APC recommends changing four-digit course codes from numbers to alpha codes

Senator Randby pointed out issues that need to be resolved and referenced math versus technical math. Numbers are easier to keep track of and change and not all 4-letter designations will be intuitive. Chair Klein indicated that advising could provide suggested 4-letter codes but that departments could then decide what makes the most sense for them. Senator Levin voiced support for alpha-codes but pointed to the practical and logistical question of who would physically change all the forms with the current lack of administrative support. Chair Klein suggested that logistics had been considered and pointed to David Bird. Senator Nofziger also expressed concern over the amount of informational material that would need to be updated/changed. Senator Rochester stated that from an advising perspective, the major codes are controlled by departments. The registrar says this would not be a January roll out, it would take time. But they do suggest this would help with students who are transferring in due to the consistency with other universities. There is some significant work required to update the codes but in

the long run it will make things run more smoothly. Senator Makki stated that she sees value in the alpha-codes but given how overextended we are she questioned whether the proposal could wait for next year. Chair Klein recognized the concerns but noted the resolution wouldn't be undertaken right away, long-term this will make reading of transcripts and courses much easier. Senator Rochester acknowledged it will take time and effort, but an endorsement today would get the process started for a smooth start. The motion from APC to convert from numeric to letter codes passed with 32 votes, 25 in favor, 7 in opposition.

Second Resolution for Discussion: APC recommends approval of the CHP name changes proposed in the attached document. No discussion ensued. 31 voted, 30 in favor, 1 against.

Third Resolution for Discussion: APC has approved the Center for Intelligence and Security Studies, proposal by Karl Kaltenthaler

The final resolution was brought to the Senate late, the Senate was asked if there was objection to discussion. There were no objections. Chair Klein noted that APC has approved the Center for Intelligence and Security Studies as proposed by Kaltenthaler. Kaltenthaler explained that the university has a critical mass of faculty that can be broadly defined as security. There are also alumni that are practitioners of security. Creating a center would bring faculty together, train students, attract students, and put them in touch with real world practitioners who could provide advice, mentoring, and talks to the center. This builds on our strengths and could attract funding from U.S. government and donors. Senator Nofziger noted that as senators we should bring proposals to our faculty to gather input; she motioned to postpone the vote until the next meeting. Senator Bible seconded that motion. The motion to delay consideration passed with 31 votes, 19 in favor, 12 against.

B. Curriculum Review Committee—Chair Kraft (Appendix B)

There were nine course proposals and six program proposals brought for consideration. Without dissent, all were implied to be approved.

C. Communications and Computer Technology Committee—Chair Randby  
(Appendix C)

Chair Randby announced that in February the committee will be bringing a resolution on web conferencing with a tentative proposal provided in the report.

D. Part-Time Faculty Committee – Chair Antunez (Appendix D)

Senator Hazlett shared with the Senate that there are currently 1,543 part-time faculty at main campus, 316 at Wayne campus for a total of 1,859 with an average teaching load of 5 credit hours. He suggested that part-time faculty should be invited to department meetings.

E. Ad hoc Program Review Committee – Chair Saliga

Chair Saliga noted that the committee met three times. We are preparing to start our 3rd year cycle, no recommendations for this year. Only three units are scheduled to write self-studies. The committee will bring recommendations in February.

*X. AAUP report—Senator Schulze*

Senator Schulze reminded the Senate that we are still in negotiations, negotiations are still challenging, and she wished to thank the Senate for support.

*XI. Graduate Council report—Senator Graor*

Senator Graor shared that the council had met once since the last Senate meeting. They voted on restructure of council based on college restructuring. They will report more when they know what results were.

*XII. GSG report—Senator Banik*

No report.

*XIII. USG report—Senator Feezel*

Senator Feezel share that USG is working on finishing the semester strong and would be bringing a resolution under New Business.

*XIV. Report of University Council Representatives—Senator Evans & Nicholas*

Senator Evans stated that at UC they heard two reports from the Graduate Student Government that 70% of graduate students could be clinically depressed. There is follow up planned for spring semester with workshops, however, it is also our job to reach out. Evans also shared that both short- and long-term strategic planning was discussed.

*XV. New Business*

On behalf of USG, Senator Feezel brought a resolution on a credit/no-credit option for fall semester. He noted that lots of students were reaching out. Students expressed discomfort with some of the course modes, the changes to the lab experience, and lack of access to instructors. Students need a way to limit the damage of poor performance in courses and maintain their financial aid. He also agreed with Senator Schulze's earlier comments that there is a need to address the long-term challenges faced by students. He also pointed out that we are still in uncertain times.

Discussion of the resolution ensued. Senator Elbuluk spoke on his own behalf and those of other faculty who he represents in a position against the resolution. As rationale, he stated that students were informed of course delivery modes from

the start, extending credit/no-credit will affect the quality of education, the policy diminishes the hard work of others, it is unfair to those who dropped the class, it is too late to implement, and he questions how much the policy benefits students. He noted the potential for abuse, that students who cheated and then were reported could then take credit/no-credit if the consequences of cheating resulted in a loss of grades. Senator Srinivasan thanked Senator Feezel. He then questioned the fairness to those students who may not have dropped a course if they had known the credit/no-credit option would be available. Senator Rochester pointed out that the university pushed back the withdrawal date to accommodate some of these issues. Withdrawal has no effect on GPA; he questioned whether there was not enough time. Senator Feezel responded by noting that withdrawal is a more drastic action, while credit will count toward a degree. Withdrawing means a student will have to retake a course, costing more time and money. Senator Rochester pointed out that the credit threshold is a "C", no-credit would still delay a degree. Senator Nofziger stated this is an important issue and the credit/no-credit option was approved last semester because of unforeseen changes. Since that time faculty worked hard to make good quality classes. It is a disservice to students and faculty to approve this proposal. Senator Nofziger reported hearing from over 20 faculty who all opposed. She noted that students should reach out to faculty for help and this does a disservice to students who dropped (they have lost money and will have to retake courses). Having continual credit/no-credit doesn't look good to graduate schools and employers and it undercuts that ability of faculty to establish and enforce expectations. Senator Mudrey noted that it is difficult for students to express their needs. Speaking as a psychologist and mental health advocate, academically she agrees with Nofziger, but nothing about 2020 is normal. There may be a selective need for credit/no-credit, for example, high achieving students who fell behind in just one class and could use credit/no-credit. She added that we are still experiencing uncertainty and is in support of the resolution. Senator Makki talked to students, who reported that lots of students are struggling, and some faculty in her area did not support the option. She expressed uncertainty in how many students this will help and

whether this is a temporary fix that doesn't address underlying issues. Senator Feezel did not provide an absolute number of students who contacted USG requesting the option but indicated a rate of 2 or 3 comments a week from students expressing their desire for the credit/no-credit option. Senator Bisconti spoke in support of the proposal, suggested some "A" students are having trouble and need this, and noted that students who take advantage of the system are already taking advantage. Senator Evans wondered about other options for students. Chair Saliga noted there are options for students to take a few credits as credit/no-credit but there are stipulations. Senator Klein heard from colleagues that support the option due to continued uncertainty and challenges. Senator Rochester noted that if a student gets a grade below a "C" there is the remedy of taking the course again to get a better grade with the old grade taken out of the GPA calculation. Senator Feezel noted that USG has focused on food insecurity, mental health, and personal challenges. Senator Klein noted there are options including medical withdrawal and course repeats, during a time when families are financially strapped it would be a significant burden. Senator Schulze is sympathetic to students and their struggles and is conflicted. She pointed to the lack of data on how many students were helped and expressed concern that if students have a lack of foundational knowledge it will impede their future. Senator Randby noted he was undecided and concerned about lack of data. He noted with 15,000 students, 3 or 4 requests a week is a small number. Senator Bisconti noted that benefit to students can't be quantified at the moment but implementing this in the 15<sup>th</sup> week of the semester means that students have already been working as hard as they could. Senator Makki noted a need for compassion and also noted that students may opt for it when they shouldn't, she questioned how we can do this well. She suggested we could refer this to APC for parameters. Senator Nofziger suggested an amendment that students petition to convert their grades after the semester. Senator Feezel indicated USG couldn't produce data at this point. Senator Schulze seconded Senator Nofziger's amendment.

Senator Klein, as Chair of APC, noted that they need to know what this body is envisioning and how to address questions that may arise. She then questioned if APC meets, then when would Senate vote. Chair Saliga indicated that Executive Committee could take it up. Senator Hazlett called the question. Chair Saliga indicated the original motion. Bill Rich noted the subsidiary motion is the motion to amend, it was seconded so must be called. Nofziger's amendment was approved (27 voted, 17 in favor, 10 against). The amended resolution was then discussed. Senator Randby noted that transcripts become available two days after final grades are reported, there is the process prior to the end of semester and then the post-semester process. We are talking about the post-semester process. Senator Srinivasan questioned whether the retroactive request would be automatically approved and whether a chair could deny the request. Chair Saliga indicated that students expect the request to be met with approval. In reference to the language of the proposal regarding reference to spring semester, Senator Nofziger noted that in Spring 2020, students filled out a form for why they needed the change, faculty had to approve, if denied it went to the chair who could approve or deny, if denied it went to the dean. Senator Makki proposed to send the resolution to committee to craft the language of the motion. Senator Feezel amended the motion to remove "similar to spring semester". The amendment was accepted without objection. The Senate voted to approve, with 28 votes, 21 in favor and 7 opposed (final version Appendix F).

#### *XVI. Good of the Order*

Chair Saliga reminded the Senate that in spring we will meet in Teams.

Senator Evans spoke to the hard work of our colleagues who were elected to the American Academy of Science. This is a great honor worthy of recognition.

#### *XVII. Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 pm.

—Angela Hartsock, Secretary.

Questions and comments about the minutes can be emailed to  
ahartsock1@uakron.edu.

**APPENDIX A****Report of the Academic Policies Committee to Faculty Senate for the 3 Dec 2020 meeting****1. APC recommends changing four-digit course codes from numbers to alpha codes.**

The University of Akron is the only Ohio public university that uses four-digit number codes to represent course subjects (ex. 3300 = English). We would like to initiate the process to shift these codes to four-character alpha codes (ex. ENGL = English).

**Rationale:**

Changing to alpha abbreviations for each subject would provide the following benefits:

- Easier to read schedule and bulletin for students
- UA transcripts are easier to read both internally and externally
- DPR and schedule are easier to read for advisors

Although we propose the change from numbers to letters, we would maintain the current length of four characters for these subject codes. This matches the most common format of the other Ohio publics and will help to streamline the transition. Maintaining the character length of four will help to minimize issues across the many systems and reports in which subject codes are utilized.

**Process**

The Office of the University Registrar has already obtained subject coding from our colleagues at other Ohio publics. We have compiled this list and matched codes as available against our current subject descriptions. For those without existing codes, new codes were developed as starting points based upon abbreviations of the existing subject description. This list will be distributed to the college deans to then be shared down with chairs and instructors to arrive at approval of the existing code or proposal of a new code that fits the department's needs. Any new codes will be reviewed by the Office of the University Registrar to ensure consistency and prevent duplication across subject areas.

**2. APC approves the CHP name changes proposed in the attached document (memo dated 11/6/2020 re proposed name changes for the CHP and for Schools within the College).**

Summary of name changes:

- Social Work to School of Social Work and Family Sciences
- Department of Disaster Sciences and Emergency Services to the School of Disaster Science and Emergency Services
- School of Sports Science and Wellness Education and the School of Nutrition and Dietetics merged to School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences
- CHP to College of Health and Human Sciences

However, APC objects to the manner in which departments were merged by administrative decree, rather than going through the proper channels of shared governance. While we approved the name changes that followed this fait accompli since they were approved by the faculty, we remind the administration that reorganizations of academic units must go through the proper channels of shared governance.

((B)(2) of the FS bylaws (3359-10-02): “. . . the faculty senate is . . . empowered to . . . Review and offer recommendations concerning proposals for the creation, abolition, or rearrangement of colleges, departments, schools, or divisions of instruction.”

## APPENDIX B

<b>Course Proposals for Faculty Senate for December 3, 2020</b>				
<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Initiator</b>	<b>Received</b>
<a href="#">2030:130</a>	<a href="#">2030:130: Mathematics for Allied Health</a>	Deleted	kc24	11/16/2020
<a href="#">3250:310</a>	<a href="#">3250:310: Managerial Economics</a>	Edited	nelson2	11/19/2020
<a href="#">3400:295</a>	<a href="#">3400:295: Global Societies: Japan</a>	Edited	msheng	11/16/2020
<a href="#">6100:497</a>	<a href="#">6100:497: Honors Project in Business Administration</a>	Edited	thomson1	11/19/2020
<a href="#">6300:201</a>	<a href="#">6300:201: Introduction to Entrepreneurship</a>	Edited	jfox1	11/19/2020
<a href="#">6400:411</a>	<a href="#">6400:411: Estate and Financial Planning</a>	Edited	thomson1	11/19/2020
<a href="#">6500:433</a>	<a href="#">6500:433: Supply Chain Logistics Planning</a>	Edited	mjb57	11/19/2020
<a href="#">6600:205</a>	<a href="#">6600:205: Marketing Principles</a>	Edited	deb	11/19/2020
<a href="#">7100:280</a>	<a href="#">7100:280: Digital Media</a>	Edited	mvv	11/20/2020

<b>Program Proposals for Faculty Senate for December 3, 2020</b>				
<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Initiator</b>	<b>Received</b>
<a href="#">300106C</a>	<a href="#">300106C: International Development</a>	Deleted	wtlyons	11/16/2020
<a href="#">370017BA</a>	<a href="#">370017BA: Political Science/JD Degree Accelerated</a>	Edited	mchugh	11/19/2020
<a href="#">650004BS</a>	<a href="#">650004BS: Information Systems</a>	Edited	mjb57	11/19/2020
<a href="#">650005BS</a>	<a href="#">650005BS: Human Resources Management</a>	Edited	mjb57	11/19/2020
<a href="#">650203BS</a>	<a href="#">650203BS: Supply Chain/Operations Management</a>	Edited	mjb57	11/19/2020
<a href="#">C60100BA</a>	<a href="#">C60100BA: Public Relations</a>	Edited	mvietmeier	11/19/2020

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Computing & Communications Technologies Committee Report**

The CCTC met on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

The committee met with John Corby, the Chief Information Officer of the university, to discuss video conferencing. The current plan is to extend the contract for WebEx until August 2021. Information Technology Services (ITS) proposes (1) a migration to Microsoft Teams as the primary video conferencing solution for fall 2021, and (2) using Google Meet as an emergency backup solution. The committee discussed the ITS proposal and will prepare a resolution during its next meeting for the Faculty Senate to consider.

The next meeting of the CCTC will be on Wednesday, December 9.

Scott Randby  
CCTC Chair

**APPENDIX D****PTFC Report for December 3, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting**

We have no action items for this meeting.

The latest statistics from HR show that there are currently 849 part-time faculty employed by the university. We are teaching a total of 1543 courses on main campus with an additional 316 courses at Wayne for a total of 1859 courses taught. The average teaching load is just under 5 credit hours.

With these numbers in mind, it is our hope that all departments and divisions will strive to initiate the “Best Practices for Part-time Faculty” which was recently sent to the Provost’s office. Key among those is to invite part-time faculty to participate in all-faculty meetings, if for no other reason than to listen to our concerns and recommendations on how best to serve our students. To the best of our knowledge, this is not yet being done across the entire campus.

The committee is currently in the planning stages of two virtual meetings for interested part-time faculty to be held next semester with a representative from the HR department and the ZipAssist office. For the HR meeting, we are asking part-time faculty to submit questions or concerns they have ahead of the meeting which will be answered in an open forum. The ZipAssist meeting is being planned to inform part-time faculty of the many services provided by ZipAssist and how to let them know of students who might benefit from those services.

We will be holding an election to replace a senator who is not returning for the Spring semester. There are currently 6 candidates who have expressed an interest. We are waiting on the return of candidate biographies and hope to hold the election sometime next week and the expected run-off in mid-January.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the PTFC,

Bill Hazlett, senator  
Senior Lecturer of Applied Mathematics  
BCAS

**APPENDIX E**

**Faculty Senate Resolution to Endorse Credit/No Credit Offerings**

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

WHEREAS higher education course delivery has, until March 2020, primarily been delivered face to face in physical classrooms with the instructor and other support resources easily in reach.

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption to traditional higher education course delivery at the University of Akron and universities around the world;

WHEREAS both students and faculty had a very short amount of time to adapt to a completely new method of course delivery and academic expectations- in addition to new work-from-home environments and responsibilities either created or made more burdensome by the pandemic.

WHEREAS students and faculty have done their absolute best to adapt to virtual learning platforms and remote course delivery but, even with their best effort, are still challenged by compulsory online classes and the disconnect caused by remote operations.

WHEREAS the University abruptly suspended all face-to-face instruction on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

WHEREAS Undergraduate Student Government has received countless requests, especially during the past 2 weeks, from students to implement Credit/No Credit offerings (similar to the Spring semester) as a way to reduce the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their academic performance.

WHEREAS offering the ability to designate a class as Credit/No Credit at the end of the Fall 2020 semester will help bolster student success by allowing them to keep scholarships, remain at UA, and reduce the impact of remote learning on their GPA.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate endorse the adoption of Credit/No Credit offerings to students for the Fall 2020 semester,

And

that students can petition to have their final grade converted to a Credit / No Credit. The process for this petition will be the same as that implemented at the close of the Spring 2020 semester which involve the student submitting a request outlining the reasons for their request and being submitted to the faculty member and chair of department.