The University of Akron

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The University of Akron Faculty Senate Chronicle

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Faculty Senate Chronicle November 4, 2021

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SENATE ACTIONS

1. Approved a motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to establish the ad hoc Investment Criteria Committee (Appendix A)

2. Approved the proposals brought forward by the Curriculum Review Committee. (Appendix C)

3. Approved the list of graduates for Fall Commencement.

Table of Contents

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF

November 4, 2021

The meeting of the Faculty Senate took place Thursday, November 4, 2021 in Teams. Senate Chair Kathryn Budd called the meeting to order at 3:05pm.

Of the current roster of 43 senators, 35 attended the meeting. Senator Biddle was absent with notice. Senators Beneke, Buldum, Dresibach, Mudrey-Camino, Nicholas, Palmer and Weinstein were absent without notice.

I. Adoption of Agenda

Chair Budd noted one change to the agenda, the removal of unfinished business, she then called for additional changes to the agenda. None were offered.

Chair Budd called for objections to adoption of the agenda as amended; none were voiced. The agenda was adopted as amended without dissent.

II. Adoption of minutes of September 2, 2021 meeting

Chair Budd called for corrections to the minutes; none were offered.

Chair Budd declared the minutes adopted without dissent.

III. Remarks of the Chair

Welcome to the November meeting of faculty senate. I'd like to remind everyone that this is the legislative body of the faculty at the University level. Our meetings are relatively formal and are conducted according to Robert's Rules of

Order. Senators who wish to be recognized should type "request" into the chat window and wait for me to recognize you. If I mispronounce your name, let me know the correct pronunciation so I can do better next time. To preserve bandwidth for all, turn off your mics and cameras until you are called on to speak.

As I mentioned in my email, please be aware that both senate meetings and minutes are part of the public record, and members of the media are in attendance. If there are any questions or comments that you would prefer to raise in a less public venue, you may forward them to myself or any member of the Executive Committee and we will bring them to our meetings with the Provost. The Executive Committee is reinstating the senate tradition that any senator may submit questions in writing for the President or Provost's review in advance of the senate meeting. The President and Provost have also offered to meet with all senators in a more informal setting, watch your email for an invitation to that meeting which will be Monday, November 15 at 4pm. The meeting is optional, but I urge you to attend if you can. I am personally encouraged by how proactive this Administration has been in soliciting feedback from the faculty and incorporating it into their decision making. Your experience and knowledge are vital to the success of this institution, you need to be heard.

On the agenda today, there is a proposal from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for the formation of an ad hoc committee for academic investment. This committee will fulfill the terms of Section B of the memorandum of understanding between the Akron-AAUP and the Administration. According to Section B, the Office of Academic Affairs will make annual requests for proposals from the faculty for investment to existing academic programs or to support the development of new academic programs. This includes proposals for new faculty positions. Note that Section B as written currently assigns this task to the Program Review

Committee, but this placed too much work of a very different nature on an already highly productive committee.

Accordingly, the FSEC is recommending the formation of an ad hoc Academic Investment Committee, which will review the proposals and identify investment needs and priorities based on annual metrics that have been formulated by the ad hoc Investment Criteria Committee (approved at the September meeting). The AIC will define and communicate the methodology to be used in the proposals for investment, and communicate the criteria used to evaluate those proposals to the faculty. They will then make recommendations for academic investment to faculty senate. If senate approves, those recommendations go to the President for consideration within the annual budget process. The results of the process will be reviewed by the Labor Management Policy Committee to ensure that the input of the faculty, as well as those of the chairs, deans and the Provost have been considered.

For as long as I've been at UA, the mechanism that determines new faculty hires and other academic investment has been less than transparent and changed seemingly every year, or with each new dean or provost. Faculty had input at the departmental level, but weren't part of the prioritization process and couldn't see the "big picture". If approved today, this ad hoc committee will consist of faculty from a diverse set of colleges who will make recommendations for investment across campus in a way that is consistent, transparent and data driven. This is another positive step towards improving shared governance at the University.

In other news, HB 327 - the bill regarding the teaching of "divisive concepts" - continues to make its way through the Ohio legislature. It's been amended, and

likely has more revisions to go. Both faculty and the Administration are working with our respective state level bodies to mitigate its impact and effects.

Finally, you may have seen UA's new advertising campaign here in Akron and further afield. Tammy Ewin, Vice President and Chief Communication and Marketing Officer shared an overview of the campaign's strategy with the FSEC. It is impressive in ambition and scope and combined with all of our efforts to improve recruitment and retention I am hopeful we will see strong growth in enrollment. Please continue to support your college and departmental recruiting efforts, and don't forget to spread the word about UA to your friends and neighbors in the community.

IV. Special Announcements

Emeritus Professor Dr. Darrell Reneker passed away on Oct. 17, at the age of 91. He earned his Ph.D. in Solid State Physics at the University of Chicago in 1959. In 1969 he joined the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and became the manager of the Center for Materials Science. As one of his assignments at NIST, he served as an executive secretary of the Committee on Materials for the White House Science Office.

In 1989, Reneker came to The University of Akron to take on the role of professor of polymer science and the director of the Institute of Polymer Science. His research in polymers, electrospinning and electron microscopy led to important innovations in polymer science and materials research.

V. Report of the Executive Committee

Since our last meeting in September, the Executive Committee has met three times. Since our last meeting in October, the Executive Committee has met three

times. The EC met to discuss the university vaccination policy and to prepare for today's meeting.

The EC met with Provost Wiencek, Senior Vice Provost Hendricks, Chief Communication and Marketing Officer Tammy Ewin, and Dr. Matthew Akers. Akers provided an overview and facilitated discussion of House Bill 435 and House Bill 327. Ewin presented the current strategic marketing campaign and messaging.

The EC has also continued work on the implementation of the MOU on shared governance. Today, we bring a motion to the senate for the establishment of the ad hoc Academic Investment Committee with the following charge and rationale.

Ad hoc Academic Investment Committee

Reviews proposals for academic investment submitted by faculty members and identifies investment needs and priorities based on annual metrics. Defines and communicates the methodology to be used in the proposals, and communicates the criteria used to evaluate the proposals to the faculty. Makes recommendations for academic investment to faculty senate. One non-voting ex officio committee member is designated by the provost.

Rationale: This committee facilitates the faculty role in allocating resources for academic investment.

Chair Budd opened the floor to debate on the motion.

Senator Evans requested clarification on committee makeup and how cross-campus representation would be achieved. Chair Budd stated that, consistent with how other senate committees are formed and populated, the Executive Committee will be tasked with ensuring cross-campus representation.

Senator Sahai commented, in response to Senator Evans, that the committee membership would include non-academic units. Chair Budd clarified that there is

a representative from the provost's office. Provost Wiencek pointed out it is an ex officio appointment; Chair Budd concurred.

Chair Budd called for objections to adoption by unanimous consent; none were voiced.

The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

For more information on these discussions, please contact Angela Hartsock.

VII. Remarks of the President

President Miller thanked senators for their efforts in recruitment and enrollment initiatives.

Legislation: The president provided an update on legislation with impacts on higher education. Regarding House Bill 327, related to the teaching of divisive concepts, members of the administration will be meeting with legislators in the next week, HB327 will be discussed among other topics. The university continues to wait until the appropriate time to submit testimony. That testimony has been viewed by most in the campus leadership groups but it will be undergoing some revisions; Dr. Akers will bring that back to campus leaders after those updates.

IUC: The university has submitted a request for funds from the IUC capital budget. Typically, the IUC capital budget allocation is used for maintenance; the intention is to use these funds for restoration of brickwork on Buchtel Commons, renovations of Polsky, and for safety initiatives. The process is only beginning but the president is encouraged by the budget prospect.

Safety: The university is continuing its work with the city and county on safety initiatives South of Exchange Street. This work has been collaborative and successful. The Board of Trustees External Affairs Committee has taken a prominent role in meeting with landlords. Newly appointed Director of Off-Campus Safety and recent UAPD retiree, Kerry Jackson, will oversee all campus safety and report directly to President Miller.

The president then provided a series of updates or announcements. President Miller and CFO Grundy met with the city on a joint energy project that represents an opportunity for savings.

The university is pleased with the recently released stable outlook ratings from both Moody's and Fitch. The Law School hosted the Ohio Supreme Court. President Miller noted the great event and nice reception attended by thousands of high school students who visited to experience the court. The president extended his gratitude to Janice Troutman and the Art Department for the memorial service honoring Maya McFetridge. President Miller reminded the senate of the Bliss Institute event at InfoCision stadium where Professor Green will speak on the state of political parties.

President Miller invited questions.

Senator Randby referenced the announced COVID testing update and questioned how the random testing of vaccinated individuals is linked to data on breakthrough cases. He also questioned how people who are working fully remotely are covered by the policy.

President Miller affirmed that we do want to monitor certain vaccinated groups, but he was unsure about people who work fully remotely. He directed questions to Eric Green and assured the senate that the details exist but were not included in the announcement. He suggested having Eric Green come to senate to provide details and to answer questions.

Wayne Hill suggested senators email Eric Green and copy him (Wayne Hill) so they can track questions and ensure answers are found.

Senator Bisconti requested details on the announced changes in football staffing, specifically on the buyout of Coach Arth's contract and the source of potential buyout money.

President Miller cited negotiations with Coach Arth that are still ongoing and indicated any buyout would not come from the general fund for academic

purposes but would be donor funds restricted to the football program that can be used for this kind of necessity.

Senator Levin requested more specific information on UA's position on HB327.

President Miller cited UA's position that the bill is an infringement on academic freedom and pointed to the importance of making legislators aware that institutions, like UA, have taken a stance to make sure all positions and ideas are honored; universities are not in the business of indoctrination. There is coordinated testimony between UA, IUC, and AAUP. Senator Levin followed up by noting the professor barred from speaking in Florida. President Miller cited the Akron-AAUP collective bargaining agreement as providing guidance on faculty speech. Senator Evans commented, in response to Senator Randby's line of questioning on COVID policies, that answers to questions about the COVID testing policies should be shared broadly. President Miller pointed to Senator Bisconti and Chair Budd to discuss how to disseminate information through Akron-AAUP and the senate. Chair Budd suggested senators contact her, Eric Green, Wayne Hill, and Senator Bisconti. President Miller requested that if Senator Bisconti or Chair Budd feel it is a broadly relevant question the answer can be disseminated.

VIII. Remarks of the Provost

Enrollment: Provost Wiencek noted that recruiting efforts have been energetic and many great ideas were gathered from campus visits. Applications are up and there is optimism that the goal of pre-COVID numbers can be reached. Recent marketing campaigns have had a substantial impact on applications. Focus will now turn to getting admitted students to confirm. The provost commented on a renewed focus on transfer and graduate student enrollment. This includes working on more articulation agreements with partners in the area including Stark State and Tri-C. If senators know of existing or defunct partnerships, these should

be documented and reported to Kris Kraft, this includes any previous articulation agreements which can be forwarded to the provost, Sr. Vice Provost Hendricks, and Kraft. Provost Wiencek pointed to the need to re-engage on graduate student enrollment with a focus on increasing our market share of master's students.

ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning): Our current ERP platform, PeopleSoft, has become dated and a new ERP is needed. The provost indicated a formal selection is imminent with planned implementation in January. There will be discussions about the transition process and impacts to daily business. The provost argued the tremendous benefits of a new system will outweigh the difficulties of transition. The provost suggested inviting John Corby to senate to discuss the ERP.

Leadership Positions: The College of Engineering and Polymer Science will move forward with an internal dean's search. The committee is being established and the search will progress quickly; Dean Peters from the Law School will chair the search. The search for deans for School of Law and College of Business are moving forward with candidates; both searches used an academic and executive search firm. The search for the dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences is underway; the committee is chaired by Acting Dean McCarragher and is also using a search firm. Other searches moving forward include the Vice Provost of Research and Graduate Studies, the Vice Provost for Pathways and the Honors College, and a Director of Enrollment Management.

Strategic Plan: Implementation of the strategic plan is moving ahead including cascading the plan down into units and departments. Provost Wiencek acknowledged the intentionally slow start and the need to focus on the process and finding a rhythm for annual engagement with strategic planning.

The provost invited questions.

Senator Evans asked about the ERP software and expressed concern about the Peoplesoft database and how it will be transferred and made accessible.

Provost Wiencek stated this is a front and center priority and that the data will be transferred here. He also pointed to data reports (templates) and the need to transfer these as well. He directed the topic back to John Corby. There is also the possibility of a data warehouse that can localize frequently accessed data.

Senator Klein spoke to the importance of graduate programs, especially for individuals wishing to update credentials. She pointed to the loss of many programs and asked about the chances of reinstating some graduate programs.

Provost Wiencek noted the administration has not shut the door to proposals. The ad hoc Academic Investment Committee is a great step to assessing current programs and recognizing opportunities for new programs. He elaborated that it is not as simple as just reinstating programs in the new landscape of the university; cross subsidization is significant and impacts how we instate programs. Programs up for reinstatement would have to be justified and scrutinized.

X. Approve of the List of Graduate for Fall 2021

Chair Budd brought the list of fall graduates for approval. Senator Saliga motioned to approve;

Senator Cole seconded the motion. Chair Budd asked for objections to approval by unanimous consent; none were voiced. The list of graduates was approved by unanimous consent.

XI. Committee Reports

Computing and Communications Technology Committee – Chair Randby

Computing and Communications Technology Committee – Chair Randby

Senator Randby provided an overview of the report. He also supported the provost's comments and the concerns of Senator Evans related to the ERP and preservation of institutional data. He reminded the senate that the senate approved a resolution on replacement of the ERP. Chair Randby will reach out to John

Corby to attend faculty senate to discuss the ERP; potentially at the January 2022 session. (Appendix B)

Curriculum Review Committee – Chair Saliga

Senator Saliga presented the motion bringing 41 course proposals and 13 program proposals for approval (Appendix C). Chair Budd called for debate on the motion; none ensued. Chair Budd asked for objections to approval by unanimous consent; none were voiced. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

XII. AAUP report— Toni Bisconti

Senator Bisconti said the Akron-AAUP has had a busy month with both liaison and chapter meetings. She thanked those who attended. The Akron-AAUP continues to work with the Senate-EC on the MOU on shared governance. There is an Akron-AAUP subcommittee working on a tenure-track faculty workload policy. They have met with HR and General Counsel on appointment letters for NTT faculty. Given changes in the CBA, all contract faculty will receive an appointment letter only at the beginning of their employment with the university, all other appointment letters will be internal. The Akron-AAUP continues to monitor and discuss HB327 with shared governance groups. Senator Bisconti thanked Provost Wiencek for inviting AAUP liaisons to the Akron Zips football game.

XIII. Graduate Council report—Senator Graor

Senator Graor stated there was no report at this time.

IXV. GSG report—Senator Frey

Senator Frey reported GSG had several informational forums for students; many graduate students had great things to say about faculty. Graduate student concerns include access to health insurance and financial insecurity. ZipAssist came to help direct students to resources. GSG is also pursuing enhanced communication for graduate students through Brightspace and newsletters. Graduate students also discussed a graduate student appreciation week and Senator Frey encouraged faculty to give graduate students a day off.

XV. USG report—Senator Kasunic

Senator Kasunic thanked those who attended the candlelight vigil for Maya McFetridge. She reported the GSG leadership has meet with the new Director of Off-Campus Safety (Jackson). They plan to have monthly meetings and a safety task force within USG. USG is implementing Microsoft Forms to collect information on general (non-emergency) safety issues that can be relayed to Director Jackson. Senator Kasunic directed the senate's attention to diversity week events and promoted the diversity week website.

XVI. Report of University Council Representatives—Senator Evans

Senator Evans noted the UC follows the senate format. The first meeting of the chairs of various standing committees will take place to get everyone coordinated and will include strategic planning. On November 9, Tammy Ewin will make a presentation to UC on student recruitment. This will be first in a series of presentations over the next several months; everyone is welcome to attend.

XVII. *New Business*

Chair Budd called for new business; none was offered.

XVIII. Good of the Order

Chair Budd called for items for the good of the order; no items were offered.

XIX. Adjournment

Chair Budd adjourned the meeting at 4:10 pm.

—Angela Hartsock, Secretary.

Questions and comments about the minutes can be emailed to

ahartsock1@uakron.edu.

APPENDIX A

Ad hoc Academic Investment Committee

Reviews proposals for academic investment submitted by faculty members and identifies investment needs and priorities based on annual metrics. Defines and communicates the methodology to be used in the proposals, and communicates the criteria used to evaluate the proposals to the faculty. Makes recommendations for academic investment to faculty senate. One non-voting ex officio committee member is designated by the Provost.

Rationale:

This committee facilitates the faculty role in allocating resources for academic investment.

APPENDIX B

Computing & Communications Technologies Committee Report

The CCTC met on Tuesday, October 19, 2021.
The committee began a review of a draft of an information security awareness training policy that was submitted to the Faculty Senate by Information Technology Services. The review will continue during the next meeting of the committee.
The next meeting of the CCTC will be on November 16.
Scott Randby
CCTC Chair

APPENDIX C

CRC Report for November 4, 2021

We have 41 course proposals and 13 program proposals that we are recommending for approval (see tables below).

	Course Proposals			
	Title	**Status**	**Initiator**	**Received**
2750:200	2750:200: Health Record Content	Edited	knk	10/25/2021
2750:302	2750:302: Clinical Information Systems	Edited	knk	10/25/2021
2750:304	2750:304: Healthcare Management Foundations	Edited	knk	10/25/2021
2750:401	2750:401: Management Information Systems	Edited	knk	10/25/2021
2750:411	2750:411: Healthcare Finance	Edited	knk	10/25/2021
2860:260	2860:260: Electrical and Electronic Project	Edited	aem36	10/25/2021
3200:220	3200:220: Introduction to the Ancient World	Deleted	eg20	10/20/2021
3230:474	3230:474: Special Topics in Biological Anthropology	Deleted	matney	10/20/2021
3230:510	3230:510: Evolution and Human Behavior	Deleted	matney	10/25/2021
3230:572	3230:572: Special Topics: Anthropology	Deleted	matney	10/25/2021
3230:651	3230:651: Seminar in Anthropological Theories Methods	Deleted	matney	10/25/2021
3240:150	3240:150: Time Before History	Deleted	matney	10/20/2021
3240:365	3240:365: Ancient Metallurgy	Added	matney	10/20/2021
3240:460	3240:460: Seminar in Ancient Near East	Deleted	matney	10/20/2021
3240:472	3240:472: Special Topics: Archaeology	Deleted	matney	10/20/2021
3240:499	3240:499: Senior Honors Project in Archaeology	Deleted	matney	10/20/2021
3240:500	3240:500: Archaeological Theory	Deleted	matney	10/25/2021
3240:520	3240:520: Archaeology of Ohio	Deleted	matney	10/25/2021

	Course Proposals			
	Title	**Status**	**Initiator**	**Received**
3240:540	3240:540: Archaeological Laboratory Methods	Deleted	matney	10/25/2021
3240:572	3240:572: Special Topics: Archaeology	Deleted	matney	10/25/2021
3450:140	3450:140: Fundamentals of Mathematics for Primary Educators	Edited	saliga	10/20/2021
3450:145	3450:145: Algebra for Calculus	Edited	saliga	10/20/2021
3450:149	3450:149: Precalculus Mathematics	Edited	saliga	10/20/2021
3450:210	3450:210: Calculus with Business Applications	Edited	saliga	10/20/2021
3450:221	3450:221: Analytic Geometry-Calculus I	Edited	saliga	10/20/2021
3460:209	3460:209: Computer Science I	Edited	toneil	10/25/2021
4100:201	4100:201: Energy Environment	Deleted	carlett	10/25/2021
4100:202	4100:202: Atmospheric Pollution	Deleted	carlett	10/25/2021
4100:203	4100:203: Environmental Science Engineering	Deleted	carlett	10/25/2021
4200:353	4200:353: Mass Transfer Operations	Edited	evanse	10/25/2021
5170:604	5170:604: School Contexts and Community Involvement	Edited	lmp	10/25/2021
5170:607	5170:607: School Law	Edited	lmp	10/25/2021
5170:615	5170:615: Student Services and Disability Law	Edited	lmp	10/25/2021
6100:200	6100:200: Personal Leadership Skills	Edited	ms128	10/20/2021
6500:302	6500:302: Organizational Behavior Leadership Skills	Edited	mjb57	10/20/2021
6500:341	6500:341: Human Resource Management	Edited	mjb57	10/20/2021
7500:657	7500:657: School of Music Performance Seminar	Edited	cblaha1	10/25/2021
7700:620	7700:620: Articulation/Phonology	Edited	carlin	10/25/2021
7700:702	7700:702: Anatomy and Physiology of the Peripheral Auditory and Vestibular System	Edited	ksonstrom	10/25/2021

The University of Akron Chronicle

	Course Proposals			
	Title	**Status**	**Initiator**	**Received**
7700:703	7700:703: Speech Acoustics and Speech Perception	Edited	ksonstrom	10/25/2021
8200:606	8200:606: Information Management in Advanced Nursing Practice	Edited	shanks	10/25/2021

	Program Proposals			
Code	**Title**	**Status**	**Initiator**	**Received**
	: Manufacturing Certificate	Added	sfarhad	10/25/2021
460006GC	460006GC: Motion and Control Specialization, Certificate	Deleted	xgao	10/25/2021
530601MSED	530601MSED: Curriculum and Instruction with Licensure Options-Multi-Age Visual Arts Licensure, MS	Edited	lmp	10/25/2021
555231BS	555231BS: Exercise Science, Coaching and Conditioning	Deleted	kappler	10/25/2021
555233BS	555233BS: Exercise Science, Fitness Management	Deleted	kappler	10/25/2021
640003BS	640003BS: Risk Management Insurance	Edited	thomson1	10/25/2021
640003M	640003M: Risk Management Insurance	Edited	thomson1	10/20/2021
640004BS	640004BS: Financial Management	Edited	thomson1	10/20/2021
640005C	640005C: Risk Management Insurance	Edited	thomson1	10/20/2021
640006BS	640006BS: Financial Planning	Edited	thomson1	10/20/2021
660000MBA	660000MBA: Business Administration, Strategic Marketing Concentration, MBA	Deleted	dmukher	10/25/2021
820400MSN	820400MSN: Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, MSN	Edited	shanks	10/25/2021
H70006MA	H70006MA: Speech - Language Pathology, MA	Edited	carlin	10/25/2021