

The University of Akron

IdeaExchange@UAkron

The University of Akron Faculty Senate Chronicle

10-6-2022

Faculty Senate Chronicle October 6, 2022

Heather M. Loughney
hl@uakron.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/universityofakronfacultysenate>
Please take a moment to share how this work helps you [through this survey](#). Your feedback will be important as we plan further development of our repository.

Recommended Citation

Loughney, Heather M.. "Faculty Senate Chronicle October 6, 2022." *The University of Akron Faculty Senate Chronicle*, 6 Oct 2022. *IdeaExchange@UAkron*, <https://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/universityofakronfacultysenate/187>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by IdeaExchange@UAkron, the institutional repository of The University of Akron in Akron, Ohio, USA. It has been accepted for inclusion in The University of Akron Faculty Senate Chronicle by an authorized administrator of IdeaExchange@UAkron. For more information, please contact mjon@uakron.edu, uapress@uakron.edu.



October 6, 2022

17 pages

SENATE ACTIONS

1. Approved a resolution from the Computing and Communications Technology Committee to interface Brightspace, Qualtrics, CourseLeaf CIM, and the system that handles student evaluations of teaching with Workday until an evaluation of Workday's capabilities can be completed (Appendix D).

Table of Contents

Minutes of Faculty Senate meeting held October 6, 2022 3

Appendices to Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held on October 6, 2022

- A. Knight Polsky concept drawings..... 11
- B. Academic Policies
 Report..... 12
- C. Computing and Communications Technology Report..... 13
- D. WorkDay resolution 14
- E. Program Review Committee Report..... 15

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF

October 6, 2022

The meeting of the Faculty Senate took place Thursday, October 6, 2022 in Teams. Senate Chair Kathryn Budd called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

Of the current roster of 43 senators, 36 attended the meeting. Senators Biddle, Buldum, Povitsky, Sahai and Weinstein were absent with notice. Senators Bisconti and Mudrey-Camino were absent without notice.

I. Adoption of Agenda

Hearing no changes, the agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

II. Adoption of minutes of September 1, 2022 meeting

Hearing no changes, the minutes were adopted by unanimous consent.

III. Remarks of the Chair

Welcome to the October meeting of Faculty Senate. The Senate is the legislative body of the faculty at the University level. Its 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. Please be aware that both senate meetings and minutes are part of the public record, and members of the media are in attendance. I know that you will keep debate civil and respectful; address comments to the chair to de-personalize any contentious issues. 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.

Today you will hear a report by the Program Review Committee. This year, the committee reviewed the Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering programs. As is their practice, the PRC conducted a thorough and thoughtful formative evaluation,

pointing to both successes and possible areas for improvement. On their recent visit to campus, the HLC visit team commented on the quality of the program review process and reports, and rightfully so. It's clear that the committee understands and appreciates each programs' individual character and circumstances, using that knowledge to tailor their report rather than applying a one-size-fits-all metric. The reports also make clear that our faculty are working continuously to improve and update our programs and curricular offerings even during the disruption of the pandemic. I hope all senators get a chance to read the full reports; they may find useful strategies to benefit their own programs.

We held our first senate retreat last month at which Vice President for Enrollment, Dr. Stephen McKellips, gave an overview of the new enrollment strategy; senators were able to give feedback and ask questions. Parts of the strategy include potential changes to academic policy and the Academic Policies Committee will be charged with making a recommendation on these proposals when they come.

Thank you to all who participated in the retreat, it was a pleasure to see and connect with you in real life. Our next retreat will be Wednesday, November 30th at 3:30pm, I hope you are able to attend. As I mentioned at the last senate meeting, the retreats are intended to be informal gatherings that give us a chance to connect with each other and the administration in a setting that encourages open dialogue. I would like our next retreat topic to come from you, the senators. Please contact me with your suggestions, I value your input and need to hear your issues and concerns.

As you know, Dr. Suzanne Bausch, Vice President for Research & Business Engagement requested a slate of five names from faculty senate to be considered for the new Standing Research Council. The council will "keep the UA research community apprised of new developments and work through continuing challenges".

We put out a call for nominations to the faculty and received twenty. We are now in the process of gathering your input. You were sent a poll on Monday morning, please be sure to complete it by Friday at 5pm. Check your clutter folders if you don't see it in your inbox.

This concludes the remarks of the chair.

IV. Special Announcements

Cheryl Kern-Simirenko passed away on July 24, 2022, at the age of 76. She had earned degrees in Russian, Russian History and Library Science. Her career as an academic librarian and

administrator took her to Syracuse University, the University of Oregon, Purdue University, West Lafayette and finally, The University of Akron, where she led the University Libraries as dean from 2005 to 2012.

Among her many accomplishments at The University of Akron, Kern-Simirenko led the collaborative effort that resulted in the Bierce Renovation and Learning Commons project.

Under Kern-Simirenko's leadership, the Learning Commons developed its mission to support the critical thinking, problem solving, and information/technology literacy skills that are essential for our students. Providing opportunities for multimedia development and integration, research on technology-enabled instruction, and the introduction of innovative instructional methodologies, Kern-Simirenko's tremendous impact on the University Libraries is still embraced today.

Professor Emeritus Augustus "Gus" Leon Harper passed away on Aug. 31, 2022, at the age of 75. Harper's work ethic and determination were unparalleled. He earned his bachelor's degree from Case Western Reserve University and, in 1973, an MBA from The Wharton School at The University of Pennsylvania.

His career included accounting and finance positions with Arthur Andersen, Cleveland Trust and the City of East Cleveland. He founded and operated A. Harper & Co. CPAs, Inc., for more than 45 years. Harper started his teaching career at Cuyahoga Community College and went on to teach at several institutions, including his alma mater, Case Western Reserve University as well as John Carroll University, Lake Erie College, Notre Dame College and Baldwin Wallace College, where he also served as president of the National Association of Black Accountants.

In 1987, Harper joined The University of Akron as an associate professor in what was then the Business and Information Technology Department in the former College of Applied Science and Technology. He earned professor emeritus status at UA after 31 years of service.

Dr. Edward Lim passed away on Sept. 20, 2022, at the age of 91. Lim received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from St. Procopius College (now called Benedictine University) in Illinois. He went on to graduate studies at Oklahoma State University. He began his academic/teaching career at

Loyola University and went on to teach at Wayne State University in Detroit, where he would be a professor for the next 20 years.

In 1989, Lim joined The University of Akron and held a chaired professorship as the Goodyear Professor of Chemistry.

Dr. Barry Lovell Richardson of Columbus, Ohio passed away on Sept. 9, at the age of 79.

Richardson earned a B.A. in Biology from Ohio University in 1965, and a Ph.D. in Zoology from The Ohio State University in 1971.

Richardson joined the faculty of The University of Akron as an assistant professor of biology where he taught from 1971 to 1977. He then accepted an appointment at the College of Medicine at the Medical College of Ohio (now the University of Toledo College of Medicine) in 1977, and went on to hold appointments as professor of physiology, associate dean for Admissions and assistant vice president for Multicultural Affairs.

A moment of silence was held for our colleagues.

V. Report of the Executive Committee

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

We met with Provost Wiencek and discussed enrollment, retention, and the positive impact of The College Tour on our marketing. Provost Wiencek also shared that access to DFW reports for courses will be taken up by the new Senior Vice Provost when they are hired; the EC had previously asked for faculty access to this information. He also shared a list of items included in Vice Provost McKellips enrollment plan so that the EC could flag items of importance to faculty. VP McKellips highlighted and discussed those items during the informal senate retreat in September.

We met with President Miller and Vice President of Development Kim Cole to discuss the recent \$20 million gift from the Knight Foundation to reimagine Polsky and the interface between the

campus and the city of Akron. They are excited to begin the planning phase of the project and will be seeking input and including many members of the UA community.

We were pleased to receive twenty nominations for VP Bausch's research council and EC felt it appropriate to bring the list to a full senate vote for selecting the five names to be forwarded. That voting is currently open and closes tomorrow, Friday October 7th.

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

VII. Remarks of the President - given by Dr. Paul Levy, Vice President & Chief of Staff.

Dr. Levy spoke to the senate on the Knight Foundation gift and shared a slide presentation (for an excerpt, see Appendix A). He invited those interested in seeing the full set of slides to contact himself or Vice President of Development Kim Cole. The project started with a white paper, "Leading with the Arts", and inspired the Akron Arts Study Group. It has grown to include much more than a focus on art. He emphasized the transformation of the architecture, technology, and programming of Polsky. He assured senators that those currently occupying Polsky will not be displaced from the building. He shared the architectural vision and the opportunity provided by the 2.5-story drop in elevation down University Avenue. There is an emphasis on the idea of a pathway from campus directly into downtown.

Chair Budd invited questions.

Senator Levin asked how this will impact University Archives. Dr. Levy and VP Cole shared that the archives will not move but will gain increased visibility.

Dr. Levy encouraged everyone to watch The College Tour and promoted the new commercial.

VIII. Committee Reports

Academic Policies Committee – Janet Klein (Appendix B)

Senator Klein reviewed a diversity statement to be required on all syllabi.

Senators asked several clarifying questions related to the use of inclusive language, the first-person writing style, and whether the statement was being brought as a recommendation or a requirement. Parliamentarian Rich noted there is an issue with requiring personal statements by

faculty and recommended it be returned to APC; he volunteered to consult with APC on the language. Chair Budd called for objections to referring the motion back to APC, hearing none, it will be referred to committee.

Senator Klein noted that following the NEXT conference, APC was notified that some instructors are working to achieve the online promise or affordable learning initiative designation. However, it was pointed out that students have no way of knowing what instructors or courses are doing this. APC supports an effort to tag these courses pending Stellar and WorkDay changes.

Computing and Communications Technologies Committee – Scott Randby (Appendix C)

Senator Randby presented the motion. (Appendix D) Chair Budd called for debate on the resolution; none ensued. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Program Review Committee – Craig Wise (Appendix E)

Professor Wise reviewed the report submitted by the program review committee.

Chair Budd extended her appreciation to the committee for their work.

Senator Lyuksyutov posed a question regarding the programs eliminated during the tenure of the former provost and specifically referenced the physics program.

Chair Budd indicated the question was better posed to the president or provost; Professor Wise concurred.

No further questions were offered.

IX. Akron-AAUP report— Toni Bisconti

The report was presented by Senator Evans on behalf of Senator Bisconti. Professor Ira Sasowsky led a hiking tour of the Ledges; Professor Randy Mitchell will lead a walk at Bath Nature Preserve. There is a liaison meeting on October 14th. The next chapter meeting is October 28th from 10:00-11:30AM.

The LMPC has been working on the workload plan documents and workload policies. Documents have been collected and are being reviewed. The committee met with department chairs to discuss changes and items in need of review.

XI. Graduate Council report – Senator Karriker

The council met on September 19th, the committee welcomed Dr. Bausch and discussed subcommittee compositions. The committee discussed the Target X application which is being used at the graduate school this year; graduate school applications are up. Senator Karriker shared an update from the bursar that out-of-state students who earn a bachelor's degree from an Ohio university will not have to pay out-of-state fees for a graduate degree.

XII. GSG report—Senator Swanson

The GSG is still working on recruiting students for vacant senate seats. Outreach events are being planned to engage graduate students including surveys to determine important issues. GSG has reached out to the Career Center to connect graduate students to available resources.

Senator Lyuksyutov inquired about statistics on graduate admission from China.

Chair Budd directed the question and any follow-up to Dr. Bausch or Graduate Council.

XIII. USG report—Senator Garchar

Senator Garchar congratulated the homecoming royalty. USG has finished senate elections. There are many upcoming events including Diversity Week and Rethinking Race. He promoted the College Tour episode featuring UA students. Finally, he reminded senators to be mindful of student mental health as we reach the mid-point in the semester.

XVI. Report of University Council Representatives – Senator Evans

The UC continues to review committee work and descriptions to streamline the roles of committees. Elections were held for chair (Tonia Ferrell re-elected) and secretary (Kris Kraft re-

elected). The provost reported to UC that the HLC visit went smoothly and he was pleased with the faculty for their role in the process.

XVII. New Business

No new business.

XVIII. Good of the Order

None.

XIX. Adjournment

Chair Budd adjourned the meeting at 4:17 pm.

—Angela Hartsock, Secretary.

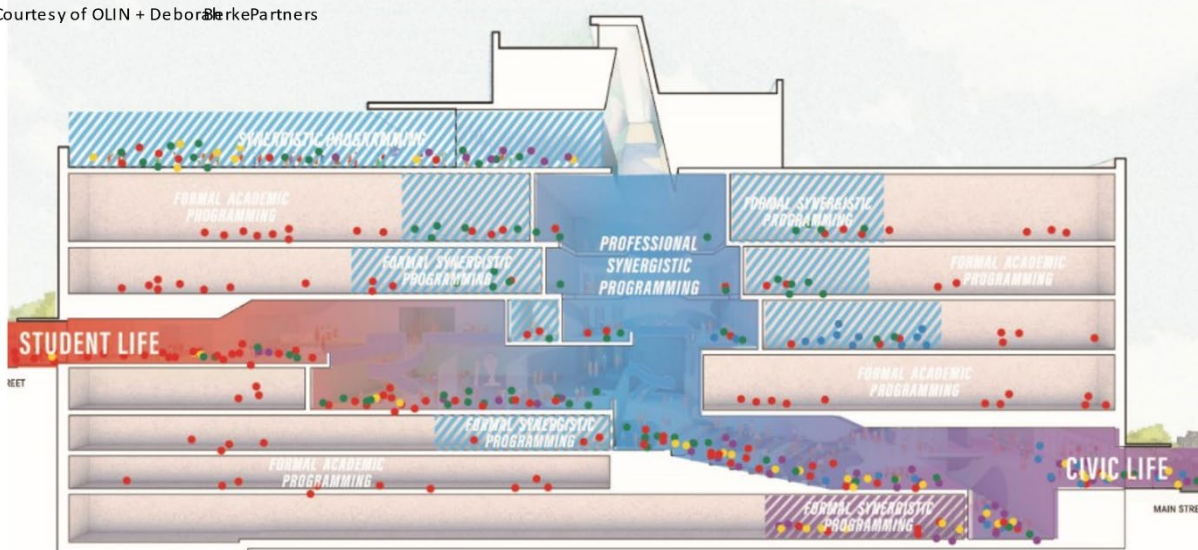
Questions and comments about the minutes can be emailed to ahartsock1@uakron.edu.

APPENDIX A



The University of Akron

Courtesy of OLIN + Deborah Berke Partners



The University of Akron

APPENDIX B

Report of the Academic Policies Committee Oct. 6, 2022

Diversity Statement for Syllabus

APC has reviewed a number of statements that different parties on campus have requested to be included in all syllabi and concluded that although these statements and links to various campus services and policies were indeed important and should be made available to students, the sheer length of this ever-growing list was making syllabi *very* long. As approved by Senate in a previous meeting, faculty should draw attention to the “What students need to know” link, where students can learn about a range of university services and policies. For example:

University policies: This link contains information about the Student Code of Conduct and academic misconduct; add, drop, withdrawal, and refund policies; inclusivity; Title IX and sexual harassment/violence; support for students with disabilities; ZipAssist (if you have trouble finding shelter, food, money for fees, etc), and more: <https://www.uakron.edu/oaafaculty-affairs/What-students-need-to-know>

APC reviewed the diversity statement submitted by Mary Triece and approved by Sheldon Wrice. Committee members concluded that if there was a statement that should be spelled out in full on syllabi it was this one. Committee members agreed that this welcoming statement indicates to students that they are in a safe, inclusive space and might thus feel more comfortable reaching out to faculty for support if they need it. The committee voted unanimously to include this statement in all syllabi. We also urge faculty members to have students introduce themselves by the name they wish to be called at the beginning of the class as some students’ preferred names are not the names on the roster.

Diversity Statement

Drafted by Mary Triece with input from a committee of faculty and staff committed to LGBTQ issues at UA May 2022

This class, as well as the broader University of Akron community, respects diversity and strives for equity and inclusion of all students. Diversity includes how we as individuals identify along the lines of race, national origin, citizenship status, language, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, ancestry, or genetic information. Inclusion and respect for diversity make the classroom and the larger community stronger and foster dialogue and democratic decision making. As part of ensuring this class is a safe space for all students, please avoid use of generalizations, stereotypes, and insensitive or hateful statements toward groups of people. Please respect your classmates’ pronouns. Each of us is responsible for creating a safer, more inclusive environment. If you feel there is something I can do to make the classroom more inclusive please let me know either in person, via email, or you can even place an anonymous note in my mailbox. For support services on campus, go to www.uakron.edu/ie/lgbtq or www.uakron.edu/zipassist.

APPENDIX C

Computing & Communications Technologies Committee Report

The CCTC met on Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

Scott Randby was elected as chair for the 2022–2023 academic year.

The committee discussed and passed a resolution regarding the Workday project,

The next meeting of the CCTC will be on October 11.

Scott Randby

CCTC Chair

APPENDIX D

CCTC Workday Resolution

The following resolution was passed by the Computing and Communications Technologies Committee on September 13, 2022. The committee submits this resolution to the Faculty Senate.

Scott Randby
CCTC chair

Resolution

Whereas the systems that interact with PeopleSoft (the current enterprise resource planning software) must be evaluated to determine if they will be replaced by Workday or interfaced with Workday, and

Whereas a system is eligible for replacement if it is determined that Workday contains the full functionality of the system, and

Whereas the systems that are most critical to faculty are these: (1) Brightspace, (2) Qualtrics, (3) CourseLeaf CIM (the curriculum proposal system), and (4) the system that handles student evaluations of teaching, and

Whereas it is unclear that Workday contains the full functionality of the aforementioned systems and there is a limited time frame to evaluate Workday's capabilities; therefore be it

Resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends that Brightspace, Qualtrics, CourseLeaf CIM, and the system that handles student evaluations of teaching be interfaced with Workday until an evaluation of Workday's capabilities can be completed.

APPENDIX E

The University of Akron Program Review 2021-2022

Program Review Committee Final Memo

Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences (BCAS)

Mathematics

Statistics

College of Engineering and Polymer Science (CEPS)

Computer Science

Electrical and Computer Engineering

8/23/2022

RECURRING CHALLENGES COMMON TO REVIEWED PROGRAMS

The Program Review Committee (PRC) completed an initial report of the programs in the 2021-2022 review cycle which provides a detailed review of each of the programs. This final memo encompasses a high-level view of the programs, as well as input to improve the program review process.

The committee would like to begin by commending all of the units in this review cycle for their efforts in making this process possible. We look forward to their positive influence on the effectiveness and quality of program review moving forward. Additionally, we would like to thank the Chairs and Deans for their letters that provided valuable input and direction to committee discussion. This review cycle was conducted at a time still very much affected by the pandemic, as well as, significant campus changes and restructuring. The quality of the reports and letters are a true testament of the dedication of our faculty and their commitment to the education of our students. As we have been in earlier stages of the pandemic, the committee continues to be impressed by the ongoing efforts of the faculty to improve their programs and better support their students.

At this time, the PRC is not going to further comment on the Academic Investment Committee (AIC). The PRC was involved in significant discussion with The Faculty Senate Chair and believes there is a shared understanding and agreement in allowing the program review process to continue as a formative process where programs can freely acknowledge and discuss weaknesses and strategies towards improvement without fear of judgement. These open discussions among the faculty, the committee believes, are the critical catalyst for addressing deficiencies and obtaining faculty buy-in in doing so. As such, it is critical to allow, and even encourage them, to continue.

The PRC would like to reiterate a concern with forgoing program review for programs that are accredited. The PRC raised the issue as to a formal process by which accreditation concerns, particularly with respect to faculty: student ratios are noted. The PRC requests that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee discuss a process by which the concerns get to the AIC where they can be considered. Whether this would be the responsibility of the academic unit heads/deans to share directly with the AIC or PRC to add as part of its reporting paperwork, should be considered. The PRC will defer to an approach approved by FS EC. The committee is simply raising this issue so these programs are not overlooked for investment.

The committee noted some recurring themes common to the programs reviewed in this cycle. These concerns are also addressed more specifically in relation to individual programs discussed within the report.

The current faculty staffing levels appear to be at a bare minimum which makes it difficult to offer additional needed courses, engage in department and university service such as marketing and recruiting, and otherwise leverage innovative program opportunities. In some cases, programs are struggling to provide, and staff, enough sections of elective and upper-level courses; in other cases, research has been stalled while addressing these staffing needs. The committee concurs with the programs that efficiency gains have been realized and faculty investment is needed.

The university's priority to increase interdisciplinary degrees, certificates, activities and initiatives across campus is clearly heard and programs are succeeding at identifying opportunities. The committee believes more guidance and support is needed to fully realize these opportunities. It seems universally accepted that marketing efforts through social media, updated branding, and outreach are needed. And though faculty are making concerted efforts to promote their programs and opportunities, the committee believes that administrative program support is necessary. The university's reorganization has resulted in relocation and/or integration of degrees and programs that the committee concurs have advantages for all stakeholders. Deans should be encouraged to engage the faculty in discussion on how to best integrate the programs and maximize opportunities. In

particular, programs appear to be struggling with how to remove boundaries that are preventing or delaying the integration of former CAST programs.

Respectfully submitted by the PRC members (2021-2022):

Committee Members

Jennifer Hebert, Assessment Director, MA (Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences) Jutta
Luettmmer-Strathmann, PhD (Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences)
Lynne Pachnowski, PhD (Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences) Scott
Palasik, PhD (College of Health and Human Sciences)
Linda Shanks, PhD (College of Health and Human Sciences)
Shenyong Wong, PhD (College of Engineering and Polymer Science)

Co-chairs:

Craig Wise, MSc, PE (College of Engineering and Polymer Science) Faculty Co-Chair
Marnie Saunders, PhD (Graduate School)