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Faculty Senate Chronicle December 1, 2022

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December 1, 2022

16 pages

SENATE ACTIONS

1. Approved a resolution recommending the adoption of the Carnegie Foundation definition of Community Engagement (appendix A).
2. Approved a list of program and course proposals from the Curriculum Review Committee (appendix D).

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MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING OF

December 1, 2022

The meeting of the Faculty Senate took place Thursday, December 1, 2022 in Teams. Senate Chair Kathryn Budd called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

Of the current roster of 42 senators, 32 attended the meeting. Senators Klein and Povitsky were absent with notice. Senators Buldum, Davis-Dieringer, Franks, Mudrey-Camino, Sahl, Swanson, Weinstein and Yi were absent without notice.

I. Adoption of Agenda

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

II. Adoption of minutes of November 3, 2022 meeting

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

III. Remarks of the Chair

Welcome to the December 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 bandwidths for all, turn off your mics and cameras until you are called on to speak.

I welcome Michael J. Saxon and Brooke M. Campbell, joining us from the University of Akron Board of Trustees.

Thank you to everyone who attended yesterday's retreat, where President Miller gave us an overview of the master plan for the campus. President Miller has said that as the plan is further developed, he will continue to include senate in the discussions, I very much appreciate his willingness to hear our perspective.

During the executive committee report, you will be asked to vote to adopt The Carnegie Foundation definition for community engagement. To give a little background, The University of Akron has been awarded the Elective Classification for Community Engagement by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching since 2008 and needs to reclassify in 2026 to continue this status. Dr. Christin Seher and Dr. Matt Wyszynski, co-directors of EX(L) Center, are leading the effort. The process is similar in complexity to re-accreditation and involves intensive assessment and reporting. The University of Akron has numerous programs that engage with our community, and, as Director Seher notes, "This is a chance for us to really assess and tell the story of what we do".

(Correction: Dr. Wyszynski was mistakenly named Co-Director of the EX[L] Center when he is Co-Chair of the Carnegie Reclassification Working Group along with Dr. Seher. Anoo Vyas is the co-director of the EX(L)Center.)

Consider the groundbreaking EX(L) Center and the richness it has brought to both our students and community, or the collaboration between the School of Education faculty and the I Promise School. Another example is the Art Bomb Brigade led by Dr. Elisa Gargarella, whose participants have beautified our city with their gorgeous murals created in collaboration with area High School students.

It's clear that as an institution, UA is deeply committed to community engaged learning and values the strength it brings to our learning community. One of the Carnegie Foundation's "best practices" for classification is that we have an articulated definition for community engagement.

The resolution sent to you states, "articulating an institutional definition of community engagement advances a shared understanding of the process and purpose of community engagement

across campus and community constituencies”. As the definition adopted by the Carnegie Foundation describes so perfectly what UA is already doing, the executive committee recommends that senate vote to adopt the definition as written. The full resolution was sent to you with the other meeting materials, and we will vote during the executive committee report.

We have a full agenda so I will keep my remarks short, but as this is the last senate of the year, I wish you all a happy holiday season. May you finish grading well before midnight on Tuesday 13th, may all your advisees have completed their registration for spring semester, and may all of your holidays be peaceful and restful.

This concludes the remarks of the chair.

IV. Special Announcements

None.

V. Report of the Executive Committee

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

The EC met with Chair Gingo, President Miller, Chief of Staff Levy, and Provost Wiencek. We discussed the makeup of residential and commuter students, the process for allocation of graduate assistantships, and the ODHE list of recommended program closures and how to integrate this into the normal program review cycle. We also discussed topics for our next senate retreat with President Miller.

The EC began reviewing the status and charge of current senate committees. The EC voted to discontinue the ad hoc Scholarly Communications Committee after feedback from the committee indicated the committee was no longer active. Finally, the EC voted to recommend to senate the adoption of The Carnegie Foundation definition as a guiding framework of community engagement at The University of Akron.

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

Chair Budd brought forward the motion to adopt the Carnegie Foundation definition for Community Engagement. Hearing no debate and no apparent opposition, the motion was approved by unanimous consent.

VI. Remarks of the President

President Miller updated the senate on capital planning and the intent to share a draft plan for developing or disposing of physical assets. Shared governance groups will have the opportunity to review the plan; it will be brought to the Board of Trustees in spring.

Laura Lanese has been named president and chief executive officer of the Inter-University Council of Ohio. President Miller expressed excitement and cited her involvement in statewide shared governance.

President and Mrs. Miller continue alumni outreach through meetings in Columbus, Houston, and New York. The spring schedule of alumni receptions include Tampa, Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Charlotte, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Akron. They are making many connections and advancement follows up with contacts. The alumni groups are engaged and are providing opportunities to our students and donations. The president visited Schaeffler in Wooster finding it to be an innovative plant employing many alumni.

Citing discussions with student leadership, President Miller reminded senators this is a difficult time of year for students with converging challenges around the end of the semester, the holidays, and a severe flu season.

President Miller extended holiday wishes and invited everyone to the Student Union on December 7th for a holiday reception.

President Miller invited questions.

Senator Levin asked for feedback on Chair Gingo's visit to campus. President Miller reported that Chair Gingo had a great time and was impressed with the work and creativity he witnessed. He will share the positive experience with the rest of the board, and he extended Chair Gingo's gratitude for faculty hosting him.

VII. Remarks of the Provost

Positions Update: Provost Wiencek shared that all positions are filled. There are no interim status direct reports to the provost. They have a recommendation for a strong candidate for the director of the school of nursing.

Transfer Credit Evaluation: The APC is working on this and the provost appreciates the partnership. They engaged in co-discovery and identified miscalibrations on both sides. Provost Wiencek recognized this as an opportunity for significant improvement in the process and speed. They are talking to other institutions to benchmark our process and plan to bring a proposal within the next few months.

AIC: The AIC is considering ways to benchmark quantitative data (including the Delaware Cost Study). The committee will consider issues around access to and sharing of that data. The provost stressed not making decisions based solely on quantitative data and the need to consider qualitative data when thinking about the future. The new budget process employs the philosophy of distributed decision-making and an evolution toward more efficient resource use.

UC: UC is engaged in strategic planning and has launched an updated website. President Miller will be releasing an announcement. Aligning with the five promises, collaborative communities will form to develop the next plan. The current plan ends this fiscal year, these communities would develop the plan and AKRs (goals) in each area. The provost encouraged everyone to participate in these discussions. This will be linked to the budget process to seed ideas. The intent is to celebrate and encourage each other to meet our goals. When we achieve success, this can scale and be amplified. Provost Wiencek encouraged everyone to extend vulnerability and trust and engage in the process.

Enrollment: The provost reminded senators that we are in the applications phase of the funnel and are currently seeing a lag in applications (single digit year-over-year declines). Corrective actions are closing the gap. Modeling indicates UA is on track for flat or slightly increased applications; the provost is optimistic about the trajectory.

Provost Fellow for Modeling and Forecasting: The deadline is extended for applications. There could be multiple appointments if multiple qualified applicants. The goal is to be able to forecast and predict on a variety of metrics (enrollment, revenue, research) and develop a toolset for sophisticated future planning.

Research: VP Bausch's group is looking at research incentivization. The group is launching a survey; the provost encouraged participation.

Staffing: Provost Wiencek noted the staffing concerns throughout the university with many vacant positions and recent departures. The administration is aware of these trends and is working with deans and departments to mitigate the impacts. Turnover is higher than normal and we will see a lot of replacement hiring.

Provost Wiencek invited questions.

Senator Evans noted that in the research survey questions were lacking about off-setting costs with increased revenue streams. He noted, if we feel it's important to include reduced graduate tuition on proposals, could we offset that with increased graduate student course enrollment.

Provost Wiencek pointed to the committee that investigated options and narrowed them down to those that were viable.

VP Bausch reminded everyone that this is for right now, if we can show that it's possible to increase revenues it could be revisited later. Currently, that was not a possibility.

Senator Evans noted it would have helped to put that kind of caveat in the survey, that we are thinking of 2-3 year horizon.

VP Bausch said the task force had a set of slides that were intended to be shared with faculty that covered those parameters.

Senator Pellegrino participated in the first rendition of survey and indicated this his colleagues weren't understanding a lot of the choices.

VP Bausch noted that different college representatives polled their constituents, CHHS decided to do this, which is why they saw two surveys. The representatives on the task force will try to represent diverse perspectives.

Provost Wiencek feels a large part of what we should do is to benchmark.

VP Bausch shared we are not doing much benchmarking, mostly fielding requests. They did look at benchmarking in terms of graduate assistantships and did talk a bit about the summer tax versus faculty paying for student tuition on grants. The group will take the results of the survey and benchmark from there.

Senator Makki pointed to the variety of types of research and types of grants. Some do a lot of service grants which are not technically research; in the past there hasn't been a lot of flexibility in accommodating this type of research. She questioned whether there are discussions about how policies might apply differently to different types of grants and different types of research.

VP Bausch believes that once we get the results of the survey there will be a second conversation about implementation. She noted that nothing is going to happen in the near term, and we will be able to look at funding agency restrictions. This won't prevent people from writing grants just because they can't match the priorities.

VIII. Compliance Training Task Force Update – Jill Bautista, Chief Compliance & Risk Officer

Jill Bautista noted the task force was launched by CFO Dallas Grundy as a collaborative and cross functional group. The group is focused on this year's compliance efforts on three mandatory compliance topics: Title IX harassment, Hazing, and Information Security. The training has been centralized in Brightspace to make it accessible and user friendly. Content is better and all new; pilot participants tested the training and interface, and the group was able to troubleshoot issues. They are planning better communications on what the training is, why we are doing it, and nudges toward completion. The trainings will be run as a campaign style approach, launching the second week of December. Everyone is enrolled through Brightspace. There will be an announcement in The Digest and a mobile push. The campaign will run for three months. She encouraged everyone to check it out; people can go in and out of the trainings with their progress saved. They will see completion badges. She also encouraged providing feedback to the task force to allow for longer term recommendations and enhancement of compliance training. She invited questions.

Senator Randby questioned the projected time span to complete all three trainings.

Jill Bautista reported 2-3.5 hours.

Senator Evans asked about making the Kognito training available through the training Brightspace.

Jill Bautista liked the idea and noted that we are focused on making sure we are staying true to scope of required training. This is recognized as one of our top risks for students and employees. The

Kognito training has been launched and is available. She will talk with Patrick Tabatcher about how to integrate it and make it more prominent.

IX. Committee Reports

Accessibility Committee – Scott Bible

The committee is looking for ways to partner with the accessibility office and faculty to identify student needs. They launched a liaison program of advocates to speak to departments about accessibility needs for students. This semester included lunch-and-learn topics for liaisons to take information back to departments. They did a survey that asked about needs and opportunities that exist in campus community. The committee invites faculty to express needs, concerns, and challenges for students around accessibility.

Two items:

1-The need to educate faculty on tools that are highest priority. The STARS instructor portal that summarizes all accommodation information for your students:
<https://york.accessiblelearning.com/Akron/Instructor/Login.aspx>

2-Share with departments a paragraph that explains what the accessibility office does.

Senator Randby commented on the STARS system noting that he attempted to login and found no profiles. In general, finding things on the system is difficult.

Senator Bible acknowledged this as useful information for the committee.

Athletics Committee – JJ Ramirez

The committee shared a report on the process of reinstating men's cross country at UA (see Appendix B). Athletic Director Guthrie brought the decision to the committee in the spirit of transparency. The committee questioned the financial viability and was satisfied that the program reinstatement would result in revenue.

Student athlete mental health is a hot button topic at NCAA faculty representative meetings. The MAC and UA are leaders in this area.

Computing and Communications Technologies Committee – Scott Randby

Senator Randby presented the report (see Appendix C) and emphasized the need to update HDMI ports.

Senator Evans commented on the need to update and make connections consistent to minimize the need for different cables and connectors.

Curriculum Review Committee – Linda Saliga

Senator Saliga introduced the motion for approval of seven program and ten course proposals (see Appendix D).

With no debate on the motion and no apparent opposition, the proposals passed by unanimous consent.

IX. Akron-AAUP report— Toni Bisconti

Akron-AAUP spearheaded the day in the life of a faculty member. Chair Gingo had a great time; he is interested in a different board member doing it each semester. Akron-AAUP will solicit volunteers to host board members; pay attention to communications. Senator Bisconti acknowledged Jordan Renna for execution of the event.

XI. Graduate Council report – Senator Karriker

The council met and voted to accept several curriculum changes and approved a change in graduate faculty status. ELI is being brought back. Nothing to bring forward for action by senate at this time.

XII. GSG report—Senator Swanson

No report.

XIII. USG report—Senator Garchar

Senator Garchar echoed President Miller’s sentiments that finals week is a stressful time; please extend grace to students. USG is finishing the semester and looking forward to spring. An end of semester review video will be launched on Instagram.

XVI. Report of University Council Representatives – Senator Evans

Senator Evans reminded senate that UC is similar to senate in meeting format. UC is wrapping up review of standing committees and considering roles of committees moving forward. UC reviews topic submissions monthly and anyone can submit a topic on the UC website. Topics get reviewed immediately by UC-EC and then forwarded to the appropriate standing committee or administrative office on campus. Guest speakers are lined up for spring semester; UC-EC is actively working on strategic planning.

XVII. New Business

None offered.

XVIII. Good of the Order

Chair Budd shared that the Holiday Art Sale is going on in the School of Art.

XIX. Adjournment

Chair Budd adjourned the meeting at 4:19 pm.

—Angela Hartsock, Secretary.

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

APPENDIX A

Resolution brought by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate – December 1, 2022 to endorse the Carnegie Foundation definition of Community Engagement

Whereas, The University of Akron strives to be a leading public urban research university with an **unsurpassed commitment to community engagement** with a great American legacy city, Akronⁱ;

Whereas, The University of Akron has been awarded the Elective Classification for Community Engagement by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching since 2008ⁱⁱ;

Whereas, The Carnegie Foundation defines community engagement in both process and purpose as “the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity. The purpose of community engagement is the partnership of college and university knowledge and resources with those of the public and private sectors to enrich scholarship, research, and creative activity; enhance curriculum, teaching and learning; prepare educated, engaged citizens; strengthen democratic values and civic responsibility; address critical societal issues; and contribute to the public goodⁱⁱⁱ;

Whereas, articulating an institutional definition of community engagement advances a shared understanding of the process and purpose of community engagement across campus and community constituencies;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved, that the faculty senate recommends the adoption of The Carnegie Foundation definition as a guiding framework of community engagement at The University of Akron.

APPENDIX B

Athletics Committee report to Faculty Senate – 11/11/22

Reinstatement of Men's Cross Country Team at the University of Akron

In the interest of transparency with the faculty, Athletic Director Charles Guthrie presented the committee with the proposed reinstatement of the Men's Cross Country Team as an NCAA Division I sport. The program was eliminated as a cost-cutting measure during the COVID-19 pandemic, and AD Guthrie, Senior Associate Athletics Director Jackie Wallgren and Senior Vice President & CFO, Dallas Grundy presented the committee with the rationale for reinstatement.

On the forefront of the committee's discussion was the financial aspects of bringing back the program. The committee was made aware that the NCAA provides institutions with funding based upon the number of sports that the institution sponsors. Adding men's cross country would result in an increase of the sport sponsorship distribution by approximately \$37,000. The proposed budget for the reinstated men's cross country program is roughly \$21,000, which brings a total increase in revenue of approximately \$10,000. The additional revenue would go towards funding the overall Athletics Department budget. The proposed budget of \$21,000 does not include an increase in athletic scholarships, as the men's track and field program currently receives nine scholarships, which would remain flat and now support the combined men's track and field/cross country program. There would be a minimal impact to the number of student-athletes on the roster (small increase) but would change the distribution of the type of athlete (e.g., distance vs. sprinters, etc.). The coach for the men's cross country team will be Dr. Tim Sykes, the current women's cross country coach; therefore, funds to hire another coach would not be needed.

When asked about the reasons for restoring a men's cross country team now, we discussed the past reasons and timing of discontinuing the program. AD Guthrie's restructuring of the Athletics Department affords the ability to host the program with nominal cost. This move will also serve as a gesture of goodwill towards alumni and donors who were displeased with the elimination of men's cross country. When discussing the downside of adding the program, one area of concern would be the stress of adding another program to athletics with the current levels of support staff, but that impact would be minimal.

The committee was supportive of reinstating a men's cross country program, especially because this would be done at relatively no cost to the University.

Student Athlete Mental Health at the University of Akron

Another issue discussed at the meeting was the importance of Student Athlete Mental Health at the University of Akron. Faculty Athletic Representative Dr. Matthew Juravich reported that this was a hot-button topic at the latest NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative Association meeting. Jackie Wallgren educated the committee that the MAC conference are leaders in this area as a conference, and the University of Akron is among the leaders within the MAC. As a part of their overall sports medicine agreement, Akron Children's Hospital has taken over Sport Psychology for our student-athletes and schedule sessions regularly. As a committee, we hope that UA Athletics may serve as a model for other athletics programs.

APPENDIX C

Computing & Communications Technologies Committee Report

The CCTC met on Tuesday, November 15, 2022.

The committee discussed the need for a process for requesting technology fee funds, the HDMI ports located on projector stations in classrooms, Ethernet ports in classrooms, and laptop peripheral options. No decisions were made by the committee.

The next meeting of the CCTC will be early in the spring semester.

Scott Randby
CCTC Chair

APPENDIX D

CRC Report
12/1/2022

CRC brings forth seven program proposals and ten course proposals for the Senates approval.

Program Proposals

2750002BS Allied Health Care Administration
370019GC Applied Political Communication
555003MS Exercise Physiology
620004MSA Accounting, MSA
H75000BA Social Work
H750000BAT Social Work
H750000MSW Social Work, MSW

Course Proposals

ACCT601 Financial Accounting
BAHA220 Introduction to Health Care Analytics
CISS451 CIS Senior Design Project I
NURS436 Evidence Based Practice in Nursing/RN Only
SOCIO200 Social Justice
SOWK601 Generalist Field Practicum I
SOWK602 Generalist Field Practicum II
SOWK620 MSW Field Seminar I
SOWK621 MSW Field Seminar II
SOWK624 Ethics and Professional Behavior
