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the university of akron
Chronicle

a report to the faculty of
the university of akron



1985-86, No. 3 (7 pages)

January 20, 1986

Changes to University Council Membership

<u>Community and Technical College:</u>	Dr. Fred Sturm replaces Mr. Robert Weyrick
<u>Presidential Appointment:</u>	Mr. Robert Weyrick replaces Mr. Howard Baldwin
<u>Associated Student Government:</u>	Mr. Tony Brown replaces Mr. Walter Morton

Deadline: For Faculty Research Grants to be awarded in the Spring of 1986:

February 19, 1986

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Any comments concerning the contents of The University of Akron Chronicle may be directed to the office of the Senior Vice President and Provost.

MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, December 5, 1985

The regular meeting of the University Council was called to order by the Chairman, Senior Vice President and Provost, Dr. Frank Marini, at 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, 1985, in Leigh Hall 307.

Fifty-four of the seventy-seven members of Council (including three ex officio for 1985-86) were present. Those absent with notice were Lloyd Anderson, James Dunlap, William Fleming, Elton Glaser, Claibourne Griffin, Barbara Heinzerling, Louis Hill, Julia Hudson, Doreen Iafelice, Donald Jenkins, Gerard Knieter, Walter Lehrman and William Muse. Absent were: C.S. Chen, Robert Eley, Ed Garbash, Valerie Hill, Jacqueline Johnson-Chambers, Ginger Lynch, Walter Morton, and Russell Davis.

The Chairman, in calling for consideration of the minutes of the regular meeting of the University Council of November 7, 1985, as printed in The University of Akron Chronicle of November 28, 1985, noted the following corrections:

Page 1: Dean of C&T Search Committee, David Robinson from Electronic Technology should be added to the committee membership.

Page 2: Council members present at the November meeting but indicated as absent were Donald Jenkins, David Kessler, and Elton Glaser.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the minutes be approved as corrected.

Dr. Marini then turned to special announcements on the agenda, the approval of candidates for the 1985 mid-year commencement and January 1986 degree conferral. Mr. Weyrick moved approval of the two lists and Dr. Watt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Beginning the reports from the standing committees, Dr. C. Frank Griffin reported that the Procedural Committee met to establish the agenda for today's meeting. They also discussed the proposed amendment to the University Council Bylaws which would change some of the functions of the Athletics Committee. This amendment was circulated with the agenda for today's Council meeting, but can not be voted on today. It must be tabled until the next meeting (February) when it can be acted on. The Procedural Committee also deliberated on a question raised by a tenure committee from Bierce Library as to whether the tenure guidelines set forth by Acting Provost John Watt in a memo dated February 6, 1985, were consistent with the regulations in the Faculty Manual. After discussion by the Procedural Committee, Dr. Marini indicated that he would refer the matter to the Rights and Responsibilities Committee. Lastly, three new members of council were given committee assignments: Russell Davis to Campus Facilities Planning, and Ralph Turek and Linda Weiner to Academic Policies, Curriculum and Calendar.

Mr. Robert Weyrick followed with a report from APCC. Mr. Weyrick, on behalf of APCC, moved approval of the proposed academic calendar for 1986-87 which was distributed to members of Council. This new calendar will replace the one that was adopted as the tentative calendar at the last meeting. There are two changes in this calendar as compared with the last one adopted. One change is the introduction of the mid-year commencement on January 11, 1987, a date which falls midway between the end of the fall semester and the beginning of the spring semester. The other change is to move the starting date for Summer Sessions back one week, from June 8 to June 15. This change makes it consistent with the calendar for the current academic year. Dr. Charles Dye seconded the motion.

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Dr. Gary Oller proposed an amendment with regard to the cancellation of classes for May Day. He moved that classes be cancelled on Friday, May 1, 1987, from noon to 5 p.m. at the discretion of the instructors. The motion was seconded. Mr. Tim Elsass spoke against the amendment. He indicated that approximately 170 students participated in the planning and implementation of May Day 1985, which included the inception of the Muse's Marauder's Baseball team and many booths for charity. He further stated that there were several complaints about the noise level from instructors who were holding classes; and in order to avert this friction in 1986, he proposed that all classes be cancelled. Attendance in 1985 grew to 6,000 and cancellation of classes in 1986 would allow for the continued growth of the May Day celebration. Dr. Paul Merrix suggested holding the activities on a Saturday in order to preserve class time for instructors, increase attendance, and eliminate concern about noise level. Mr. Elsass pointed out that it would be difficult to get students to return to campus on a Saturday. With no additional discussion, the amendment was put to vote and carried.

Following the vote on cancellation of classes for May Day, Mrs. Debra Weber expressed concern about the date of mid-year commencement. She reported that the students expressed a preference for commencement to be held immediately at the close of the fall semester. Although a later date allows for later preparation of grades and enables diplomas to be distributed with names on them, she felt the late date would considerably reduce the number of students who participate in the mid-year commencement. She motioned that Council consider an earlier date, perhaps December 21. Dr. Lillian DeYoung seconded the motion.

Dr. James Inman reviewed some of the items the committee considered in determining that date. He reported that they considered the practices of other public universities in Ohio. Other universities hold commencement at an earlier date, but do not give diplomas with the students' names on them, or determine honors. In order to preserve the tradition of giving out legitimate diplomas, the subcommittee decided upon the later date. The later date would also enable faculty members to give final exams to seniors along with the rest of the class and to have adequate time to determine grades. The survey the committee conducted, reported Dr. Inman, did not include any statistics on attendance.

Dr. Merrix moved to close debate and call the question, which was seconded by Dr. Dye. A vote was taken on the proposed amendment to change the date of mid-year commencement to an earlier date. The amendment failed.

Mr. Elsass moved to table the calendar until a survey of the student preferences could be conducted to determine a date for mid-year commencement. After additional discussion it was suggested that the date for mid-year commencement could be removed from the calendar and then the calendar could be voted on. Mr. Elsass then withdrew his motion of tabling the entire calendar and moved to delete the date for mid-year commencement until such time that a survey may be made. The motion was seconded. Dr. Katherine Hinckley expressed concern over who would conduct the survey. She reported that feelings are mixed about the survey which was used to determine this year's mid-year commencement date. Some felt the survey was not clear in expressing concerns such as an early grading system. After additional discussion, the Chairperson called the vote and the amendment carried. Following the vote, Dr. Watt moved that the question of a commencement date and traditions related to the giving out of diplomas be referred to APCC for a thorough study. The motion was seconded. Hearing no discussion, the Chairperson called the vote and the motion passed.

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After the vote was taken, the Chairperson called for additional amendments to the calendar. Hearing none, he called the vote on the calendar and it passed.

Continuing with the committee reports, Dr. Walter Arms reported for the Athletics committee. The committee met on November 21 to approve the report of the subcommittee. This included a recommendation to delete the present functions of the Athletics Committee as set forth in the Addendum to the University Council Bylaws and substitute new functions. As mentioned earlier, this amendment must be tabled until the next meeting of University Council. In addition, the committee unanimously recommended that the athletic director take appropriate action to seek affiliation with the Mid-American Conference, as well as accept the opportunity to play in post-season competition.

Reporting for Campus Facilities Planning was Dr. David Timmerman. The committee met on December 3 and continued its examination of physical and environmental problems and questions on campus facilities. Mr. Edward Hegnauer, Associate Director of Physical Plant, met with many to answer their questions on different problems and he also explained what was being done with short-term and long-term revenue problems. He advised the committee to remind faculty that they should call in problems they see here on campus. Their building monitor should be contacted, who will call the problems in to Physical Plant. Dr. Timmerman reported that the Committee is planning to have another survey early in the spring semester to pin down some specific problems in classrooms as well as find out what the faculty feel are good points as a guide to minimum classroom standards.

There was no report from Faculty Rights and Responsibilities.

Dr. June Burton reported for Faculty Well-Being Committee. The Faculty Well-Being Committee met on November 25. Dr. Faith Helmick was introduced as the administration's liaison to the committee and she addressed several long-standing questions. She indicated she would provide the committee with general figures on the retirement buy-out that was turned down by the President last year. Dr. Helmick also reported to the committee that last year the Board of Trustees recommended that the University health plan have a complete review rather than have changes made piecemeal. An outside consultant will be hired and faculty will have immediate interaction with this consultant. It is expected that at least 10 percent of faculty will be included in the review procedure, according to Dr. Helmick. Representative groups consisting of faculty and staff will be set up to provide input during the review process. As new business items, the committee discussed the need to update the information sheet prepared by the committee in 1983 on tax deferred annuities sold on campus. Because of the changes in tax structure now in progress in Congress, the committee thought it advisable to wait. The second item of new business was the University's affirmative action policy in regards to sexual harassment. Only a vague policy statement on sexual harassment has ever been presented for approval by the Board of Trustees. That was in November 1982. The committee is familiarizing itself with unsuccessful drafts of procedural guidelines drafted in 1983. They are anticipating new documents to be issued from Neal Holmes and AAUP Committee W. Presently, there is nothing in the faculty manual, staff manual or student handbook that tells how to file a sexual harassment complaint.

Next, Dr. John Gwinn reported for Library and Learning Resources. The Committee met on November 18. They are looking at problems with computer software used throughout campus. He also reported that, with one exception, there were no strong objections to the new regulations for faculty borrowing privileges. In addition, he reported that the University now has the equipment to clean and maintain films from the Akron Public Library. Additionally, the Library is going to purchase about 8 or 10 films that faculty members on campus had previously borrowed from the Akron Public Library, so they will be more readily available to faculty.

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There was no report from the Reference Committee

Dr. Alan Gent reported for the Research (Faculty Projects) Committee. The Committee met on Tuesday, November 12. They had 24 applications for Faculty Summer Research Fellowships to consider at that time. These fellowships provide a stipend of \$4,000 plus a research grant for \$500 for research expenses. The committee agreed to make 8 awards that would total \$36,000. A list of those faculty members receiving awards can be found in the November 28 issue of the Chronicle. Dean Gent reminded Council that the deadline for receipt of applications for the second round of these grants is February 19, 1986.

Dr. Robert Dubick reported that the two subcommittees of the Student Affairs Committee met on December 3. The Subcommittee on Awards, Grants and Scholarships approved guidelines covering distribution of aid for the coming year and provided data outlining the distribution for this year. The Extra-curricular Activities Sub-committee met as well and approved three new student groups, including the University Program Board, The University of Akron Society for Plastics Engineers (a graduate group), and The University of Akron Gay/Lesbian Task Force. They also approved some first-time funding of two student groups, the Rainbow Coalition and Stargate.

Dr. Fleming, the representative to the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, was in Columbus to attend that meeting. His report is on page six of this Chronicle.

Following the committee reports, Mrs. Linda Weiner asked the Chairperson when Council, as well as part-time faculty members, would hear the report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Part-time Faculty. Dr. Marini turned the question over to the chairperson of the Ad-hoc Committee, Dr. Faith Helmick. Dr. Helmick reported that the committee was presently preparing a report and expected to submit it to the Provost before the end of December. Dr. Marini assured Mrs. Weiner that he would share the report as soon as it was available.

There was no old business for discussion. Under new business, Dr. Marini reminded Council of the proposed amendment to the bylaws of University Council affecting the Athletics Committee. He also reminded them that it would have to be tabled until the next meeting.

The Chairperson also made one further announcement. He reported that, following a recommendation he had made after consulting with the deans and the Provost's Advisory Committee, the President had invited Dr. Gerald Levin, a retired faculty member in the English Department, to be the mid-year commencement speaker and that he had accepted.

Following the Chairperson's announcements under new business, Mr. Elsass requested permission to address Council. Returning the the issue of cancellation of classes at May Day, Mr. Elsass reiterated the value of having the celebration and urged the faculty to keep in mind the importance of this tradition to the University.

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

APPENDIX TO MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, December 5, 1985

REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON REPRESENTATIVE TO THE FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS--reported by Dr. William Fleming

The morning session of FAC on December 5, 1985, focussed on pending legislation, especially Congressional, and salary adjustments. Passage of a mandatory Medicare bill would almost surely hasten consideration of mandatory Social Security. Opposition must be vociferous to be effective, since only six states have their own pension funds. (Legislators, however, report surprisingly few letters expressing constituent interest in such matters.) Similarly, while a proposal to tax proceeds of private pension funds (e.g., TIAA) would not immediately affect collegiate faculty, it would set a worrisome precedent. Closer to home, House Bill 497 (Pringle) is still alive, though its wording has been changed to focus only on TA's.

As of September, Akron ranked twelfth of twelve in salary adjustments this year. Average increase ranged from 11.0 percent to 6.0 percent, according to a study done at Toledo.

In the afternoon, Chancellor Coulter distributed copies and discussed some principles of the 1986-87 (and beyond) capital expenditures plan, which should go to the General Assembly by late January. He singled out two provisions for special emphasis: First, the plan proposes to reduce a resident student's share of his college costs from 40 percent current to 38 percent in 1986 and 37 percent in 1987. (The student's share in 1980 was 33 percent.) Second, higher education's share of the General Revenue Fund has declined since 1969-71, in spite of recent apparent increases. Budget requests which would require increased debt service would be counterproductive, since debt service competes with higher education for its share of funds. OBOR's first priority, therefore, is to protect instructional subsidies while attempting to maintain and develop capital facilities.

So far, nine Eminent Scholar positions have been funded, but only five have been filled, including one at Akron.

Finally, a move is under way in the legislature to provide for better training of EMS personnel, with OBOR as the central accrediting agent. Chancellor Coulter believes such accreditation could be better handled by a state health agency, with training provided by the two-year colleges who, in many cases, already have faculty in place for such work.

The next FAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 1986.

Respectfully submitted,

William S. Fleming

APPENDIX TO MINUTES OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL, December 5, 1985

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON
Academic Calendar 1986-87

Fall Semester 1986

*September 1, Monday	Labor Day
September 2, Tuesday	Classes Begin
November 11, Tuesday	Veterans Day (classes meet; Staff Holiday)
**November 27-29, Th-Sa	Thanksgiving Break
December 1, Monday	Classes Resume
December 13, Saturday	Final Instructional Day
December 15-20, M-Sa	Final Examination Period
To be announced	Mid-year Commencement

Spring Semester 1987

January 19, Monday	Classes Begin
February 10, Tuesday	Founders Day
March 23-28, M-Sa	Spring Break
***May 1, Friday	May Day
May 9, Saturday	Final Instructional Day
May 11-16, M-Sa	Final Examination Period
May 24, Sunday	Commencement

Summer Session I

June 15, Monday	First 5-week & 8-week session begin
*July 3, Friday	Independence Day
July 17, Friday	First 5-week session ends

Summer Session II

July 20, Monday	Second 5-week session begins
August 7, Friday	Eight-week session ends
August 21, Friday	Second 5-week session ends

Fall Semester 1987

August 31, Monday	Classes Begin
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*University Closed

**University closed from Wednesday, November 26, at 5 p.m.
until Monday, December 1, at 7 a.m.

***Classes suspended noon to 5 p.m. at the discretion of the instructors

FRANK MARINI
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
AND PROVOST