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The University of Akron Faculty Senate Chronicle

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Faculty Senate Chronicle for May 1, 2014

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Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of May 1, 2013

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate took place Thursday, May 1, 2013 in room 201 of Buckingham. Senate Chair William D. Rich called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

Of the current roster of 65 Senators, 41 were present for this meeting. Senators Bove, Dejbord-Sawan, Fant, Huff, Koskeyu, Lashbrook, Mukherjee, Onita, Sastry, Schwartz, Shanks and Witt were absent with notice. Senators Barrett, Blewitt, Braun, Chronister, Feldt, Hamed, Huss, Lavrentyev, Sancaktar and Youngs were absent without notice.

I. Approval of the Agenda

Senator Raber moved to adopt the proposed agenda. The motion was seconded by Senator Clark.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

II. Remarks of the Chairman

Chairman Rich remarked as follows:

I will keep my remarks short because we have a full agenda today, including the election of representatives to the University Council and the Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics, several items of business from the Academic Policies Committee, two items of business from the Part-Time Faculty Committee, and one large, important item of business from the ad hoc General Education Revision Committee.

I want to thank all of the members of this body, and all who serve on Faculty Senate committees, for their service to the University this academic year.

As I reported to you by electronic mail, last Wednesday the Board of Trustees adopted all of the recommendations of the Faculty Senate concerning the suspension of academic programs. As a result, 13 of the 55 programs originally proposed for suspension will not be suspended, and 22 will be suspended temporarily, rather than permanently, so they can be strengthened and re-started.

Senior Vice President and Provost Mike Sherman is out of town attending a conference today. He has submitted his remarks in writing (Appendix A). I distributed these to you by electronic mail earlier today. In those remarks, he states, and I quote, "We will begin a new APR next year having consulted broadly before implementing the next APR process." I trust that this means that the Faculty Senate will be consulted about how academic program review will be conducted in the future. I believe there is much that needs to be improved about the process, and look forward to expressing my views on this subject to the Provost in the near future.

I am glad to report that the University Council Budget and Finance Committee, Vice President for Finance and Administration David Cummins, and Senior Vice President and Provost Mike Sherman have agreed to alter the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 University budget. Under this agreement, the budget

cuts imposed on the academic units will be approximately half of those originally proposed, and will not include any cuts that the deans, respectively, indicated would hurt revenues. To make up the difference, the proposed increase in scholarships and the new funding for the Achieving Distinction initiatives will be eliminated. Although this does not resolve the problem of recurring deficits, I believe it is the best outcome that could be achieved under the circumstances, and I thank all involved for their work. I especially want to acknowledge the willingness of CFO David Cummins to consult meaningfully with the Budget and Finance Committee over the last two months, and the support of both the Provost and the President for such consultation. I believe that we have finally established the proper role of the Budget and Finance Committee, and I hope and expect that the Administration will continue to consult meaningfully with that committee during the next academic year and beyond.

As you all know, this week the three finalists for appointment as president of the University have been on campus interviewing and giving public presentations. On Monday, your three representatives and the three representatives of the Akron Chapter of the American Association of University Professors will meet with the Board of Trustees in executive session to offer our views of the three candidates. I encourage any faculty members who wish to express their views of the candidates to the faculty representatives.

Finally, this is the last Faculty Senate meeting during Luis Proenza's 15-year tenure as President of the University. There will be a resolution offered later in the meeting as an item of new business, but I want to personally thank President Proenza for providing leadership to the University during his 15 years of service as President, and for his accomplishments, including strengthening research activities at the University, transforming the campus, and enhancing the reputation of the University. Thank you, Mr. President. This concludes my remarks.

III. Reports

Executive Committee

Senator Miller reported as follows on behalf of the Executive Committee:

During the month of April, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee met twice as a committee and once with the President, Provost, and Vice Provost. On April 17th the EC met for regular senate business and to prepare for the meeting later that afternoon with the President. The EC appointed Alvaro Rodriguez, Vice President of Graduate Student Government, to the Faculty Senate University Libraries Committee.

With the President, Provost, and Vice Provost, The EC first discussed its concern about the recent budget cuts and the likely negative impact on academic programs. The EC urged the administration to uncover pragmatic reductions without harm to academics and to include faculty in the decision making process. The EC also raised the issue of the potential consolidation of the Bierce and Science & Technology libraries. The Provost assured the EC that the issue of consolidating the libraries is not a factor in the FY '15 budget and will be done mindfully by engaging students, University Libraries Committee, Faculty Senate, and University Council. No decision will be made over the summer and the constituent groups will be engaged this fall to continue the conversation. Also discussed was the

recommendation from Summit College faculty to rename and reorganize the college. The Presidential transition was also discussed. The President reported that the short list of interviews was complete and the BOT search committee will invite finalists to campus the week of April 28th. The committee will confer with the constituent groups the week of May 5th to inform their final decision and the transition will occur at the end of May and June. Also discussed was the merging of the Criminal Justice programs and the part time faculty recommendation to increase credit hours from 8 to 9 in order to eliminate the requirement to report hours.

The EC next met on April 24th for regular senate business and to prepare the agenda for today's meeting. The EC approved the following non-CCTC members to the CCTC subcommittee on online course evaluations: Elizabeth Erickson, Graham Kelly, and John Savery. The EC also certified senate elections from several colleges. The College of Health Professions elected Terry Hallett, Lori Kidd, and Ron Otterstetter. The Association of UA Retirees re-elected Bob Gandee and Neal Raber. The College of Business Administration elected Asoke Dey and Douglas Hausknecht. Congratulations to the new and returning senators.

Remarks of the President

The President remarked as follows:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, colleagues. I first want to thank you for your kind remarks. I really just came here today to say thank you. It's been a splendid 15, soon to be 15 and a half years, and I thought I would just reflect on a couple of very minor items.

So tomorrow we celebrate Founder's Day with the retirees, and it's a time to be mindful of those that have gone before us. And indeed as I was telling the chairman a few moments ago, watching the candidates and meeting the candidates during this week put me back on a trip in time as much as a trip forward in time. This was a trip back in time because it was the same process that of course was followed then.

And so I watched the new colleagues who might be my successors and might be your new colleagues, and certainly as we reflected, you can look at each one of them and find great strengths and some weaknesses as is true in all of us.

So in the spirit of Founder's Day, what I wanted to simply say is that it has been a pleasure. It has been tremendous to build on the shoulders of folks who came before us as it will be for you to go forward and make this university even greater and better than it has been.

We have accomplished a great deal as your chairman outlined some of those. It has been quite a remarkable transformation both academically and physically. I am ecstatic about much of what has happened, much of what we built. Some of the new colleagues are superb, some of our old colleagues continue to be superb. So we continue to build a tremendous University of Akron.

I would be remiss if I did not say that the nature of higher education in general and the public higher education in particular continues to be somewhat challenging, both because for some reason everybody right now has decided that it's appropriate to blame the institutions themselves rather than those that either make up the regulations or those that make the individual decisions that create the conditions for either their success, failure, indebtedness or lack thereof.

It is an interesting time, and I guess I might offer to you just the advice that I give our student groups each time that I meet with them. I think we need to be far more vocal in talking with the larger public at large, whether it is our community here in Akron, the legislature in Columbus or of course the Congress and the people of the United States of America.

I think it is incumbent upon us to try to more clearly delineate, and I have to joke with you a little bit because every time I've tried to talk with my colleagues about these points, it is so very true, everybody says we have such a great story to tell, we just have to tell it a little bit better. And I've heard that for the 40 some odd years I have been in higher education. So I'm not optimistic about that. But I would be optimistic if we all joined together and told that story very vigorously and actively and made it part, frankly, of a public advocacy agenda that is sadly lacking both in Columbus and in Washington.

So my deep thanks to all of you, my very best wishes. I look forward to being back after the first sabbatical of my career. I've talked to several of you about some of the things we might do together, and I welcome any questions you may have, and I thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

IV. Elections

University Council representative faculty at large, non-senator (unexpired 2-year term)

Chair Rich called for nominations. Senator Lillie nominated Senator Koskey. Senator Koskey accepted the nomination. Senator Clark moved that the nominations be closed and that Senator Koskey be elected by acclamation. Senator Hajjafar seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) representative (2-year term)

Chair Rich called for nominations. Senator Miller nominated John Nichols, Chair of the Athletics Committee. Senator Jones moved that the nominations be closed and that John Nichols be elected by acclamation.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

V. Committee Reports

Academic Policies Committee

Vice Provost Ramsier reported as follows on behalf of the Academic Policies Committee:

The Academic Policies Committee brings forward the following report that unanimously recommends the Senate adopt the following items (Appendix B):

1. **Transfer students:** Recommend that University regulation 3359-60-02 be amended as indicated in the attached copy of said regulation in order to provide that inter-college transfer (ICT) of transfer students be based solely on their University of Akron cumulative grade-point average, after the completion of 15 or more credit hours at the University of Akron. ICT would not be based on grades earned at the institution from which the student transferred, as it has been until now. This change is intended to facilitate transfer students' enrollment in degree-granting colleges of the University of Akron, and to bring the University's practice in this regard into line with those of other Ohio colleges and universities.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

2. **Department of Allied Health Technology:** Adopt the following resolution approving the movement of the Department of Allied Health Technology from Summit College to the College of Health Professions:

Whereas, The faculty of the Department of Allied Health Technology has voted to move as an academic unit to the College of Health Professions;

Whereas, The faculty of the Summit College has voted to approve the move;

Whereas, The faculty of the College of Health Professions has voted to accept the move, and has made the necessary changes to their College bylaws and retention, tenure and promotion criteria and procedures; and

Whereas, The mission of the Department of Allied Health Technology aligns well with the mission of the College of Health Professions;

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate recommend that the Department of Allied Health Technology be moved as a unit to the College of Health Professions effective July 1, 2014, where it shall be the School of Allied Health Technology.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

3. **Community Services Technology – Addiction Program:** Adopt the following resolution approving the movement of the Community Services Technology – Addiction program from the Department of Public Technology in Summit College to the School of Social Work in the College of Health Professions:

Whereas, The faculty of the Public Services Technology has voted to support the move of the Community Services Technology – Addictions program to the School of Social Work in the College of Health Professions;

Whereas, The faculty of Summit College has voted to approve said move;

Whereas, The faculty of the College of Health Professions has voted to accept the move, and has made the necessary changes to their College Bylaws and Retention, Tenure and Promotion processes; and

Whereas, The Academic Policies Committee concludes that the mission of the Community Services Technology -- Addictions program aligns well with the mission of the School of Social Work in the College of Health Professions;

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate recommend that the Community Services Technology – Addictions program be moved to the School of Social Work in the College of Health Professions effective July 1, 2014.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

4. **Summit College:** Recommend the following with respect to Summit College:
 - a. **Change the mission statement of the College** to the following: “The mission of the College is to prepare students for professional and technology-based careers through applied degrees and partnerships with area businesses and the larger community. Its diverse, interdisciplinary, student-centered faculty promote creativity and innovation by connecting theory to practice.” This mission statement was approved by the faculty of Summit College.
 - b. **Change the name of the College** to the College of Applied Sciences and Technology or, if not that, the College of Technology and Professional Studies. These names were approved by the faculty of Summit College, which expressed a preference for the former name. The faculty of Summit College also approved as a new name the College of Technology, but this was the faculty’s least preferred of the three new names. The Academic Policies Committee does not recommend this name because it is too narrow to encompass the proposed mission of the College.
 - c. **Reorganize the College** into four departments: The Department of Engineering and Science Technology; the Department of Business and Information Technology; the Department of Public Service Technology; and the Department of Associate Studies. This reorganization reflects the movements of the Department of Allied Health Technology and the Addictions Program recommended above, and the movement of Developmental Programs from Summit College.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

5. Direct admission criteria: Adopt the following resolution approving criteria for direct admission to degree-granting colleges of the University:

Whereas, University regulation 3359-2-02(C)(2) provides, “The functions of the faculty of a college shall be to prepare and recommend to the faculty senate curricula and courses for the college, changes in departmental or school organization, requirements for admission to and graduation from the college, and candidates for degrees and certificates”;

Whereas, The criteria for direct admission to degree programs in the attached document have been approved by the appropriate departmental or school faculties and submitted by the appropriate colleges; and

Whereas, The Academic Policies Committee has concluded that these criteria appear to be the result of a thoughtful exercise of professional judgment of the respective faculties;

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate approve said criteria; and

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate encourage the colleges to consider using the admissions index in rule 3359-60-02 to determine direct admissions.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

6. **Fall Enrollment Deadline:** Recommend the adoption of August 1, 2014 as the deadline for the enrollment of new, first-year undergraduate students for the Fall Semester of 2014, except that students may be enrolled after that date if, taking the status of their financial aid (if any) into account, it is determined that their finances are likely to be in order by the beginning of the semester. For years, students have been permitted to enroll as late as the end of the first week of Fall Semester. The August 1, 2014 deadline is recommended for the following reasons:
- a. Students who enroll after August 1 are likely to perform poorly in their first year of college and are less likely than other students to be retained after their first year.
 - b. Students who enroll after August 1 are less likely to have their financial aid in order and are often in classes for a period of time without having obtained the required books. Financial aid personnel need several weeks to process federal and other student financial aid for new students.
 - c. Advising staff often have to orient students in a hectic manner after August 1, when they should be focusing more on the needs of continuing students returning to the University. This situation often creates a less engaging experience for all students, new and continuing.
 - d. Faculty members face challenges with students who enroll late, especially with those who enroll after the semester has begun.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

The Academic Policies Committee has received a Status Report on Centers and Institutes at the University of Akron, April 2014, from the ad hoc Faculty Research Subcommittee. APC briefly reviewed this report but did not have time to consider carefully the action items in it. APC decided to transmit this report to the Faculty Senate for informational purposes only (Appendix B).

Vice Provost Ramsier presented a report of the APC's April 29th meeting with the following two recommendations (Appendix C):

1. Adopt the following resolution in order to promote student success by giving students enough time to get from one examination location to another during final examination week:

Resolved, That there should be a minimum interval of 15 minutes between the scheduled end of each final examination period and the beginning of the next.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

2. Adopt the following resolution in order to heighten students' awareness of the Code of Student Conduct and the requirement of academic honesty; the availability of accommodations for students with disabilities; and the add, drop, withdrawal, and tuition refund policies:

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate recommends that faculty members inform students of the availability of information at http://www.uakron.edu/provost/faculty_staff/what-students-need-to-know.dot about the Code of Student Conduct and the requirement of academic honesty; the availability of accommodations for students with disabilities; and the add, drop, withdrawal, and tuition refund policies.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

Curriculum Review Committee

Vice Provost Ramsier reported as follows on behalf of the Curriculum Review Committee:

The Curriculum Review Committee brings forward a list of curriculum proposals (Appendices D & E) that have reached the end of the curriculum review process without objection or comments that are unresolved, and we bring these proposals to you for your final approval and consideration.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

Computing & Communications Technologies Committee

The Computing & Communications Technologies Committee submitted a written report (Appendix F).

Faculty Research Committee

The Faculty Research Committee submitted a written report (Appendix G).

Part-time Faculty Committee

The Part-time Faculty Committee submitted a written report (Appendix H). Senator Osorio also reported as follows on behalf of the Part-time Faculty Committee:

The committee brings forward two resolutions for the Senate's consideration (Appendices I & J).

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate requests that the Administration consult with the Faculty Senate about any proposed changes to the University rule governing the appointment of part-time faculty.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

Whereas, The Internal Revenue Service has promulgated a final regulation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act providing a safe harbor allowing an adjunct faculty member not to be considered a full-time employee if the number of credit hours taught in a semester multiplied by 2.25, plus the number of hours of service required of the faculty member outside of the classroom excluding teaching-related tasks such as class preparation and grading of papers and examinations, is less than 30; and

Whereas, part-time faculty members at the University of Akron teaching nine or fewer credit hours per semester would fall well within said safe harbor;

Whereas, an increase in the number of credit hours part-time faculty members are allowed to teach would serve the interests of both the University and said part-time faculty members; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the maximum number of credits part-time faculty members may teach in a semester be increased from eight to nine; and

Resolved, That part-time faculty should no longer be required to report to the University the hours they work.

Senator Lillie moved to postpone consideration. The motion failed for lack of a second. Chair Rich called for the vote on the main motion..

The motion was adopted without dissent.**Athletics Committee**

The Athletics Committee submitted a written report (Appendix K).

University Libraries Committee

The University Libraries Committee submitted a written report (Appendix L).

Ad hoc General Education Revision Committee

The Ad hoc General Education Revision Committee submitted a written report (Appendix M). Chair

Subich presented recommendations by the ad hoc committee for major changes to the general education requirement and a set of procedures for effecting that change. Chair Rich called for debate on the motion.

Senator Bouchard moved to postpone consideration of the motion until October to allow more time for faculty to review the proposal. The motion was seconded by Senator Ducharme. Senators Lillie and Schaffer spoke in opposition to the motion to postpone and advocated adopting the proposal now with the possibility of amending the proposal later.

The motion to postpone was defeated.

Senator Lazar moved to insert “University Libraries” into sections 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D allowing library faculty the opportunity to be selected for these committees.

The motion to amend was adopted.

Chair Rich called for the vote on the main motion.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

VI. New Business

Senator Miller moved to adopt the following resolution. The motion was seconded by Senator Lillie.

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate thanks Luis Proenza for providing leadership to The University of Akron during his 15 years of service as its president, and for his many accomplishments including the strengthening of the university’s research activities, the transformation of the campus, and the enhancement of the reputation of the university, and wishes him well in the next phase of his career and his life.

The motion was adopted without dissent.

VII. Faculty Senate Representatives to University Council

Senators Lillie and Erickson reported that the UC will meet the following week to consider the recommendations of the UC Budget and Finance Committee. The senators also thanked Senator Hajjafar and CFO Cummins for the rigor and dedication they exhibited in the performance of their service to the committee this past year.

VIII. Adjournment

Chairman Rich adjourned the meeting at 4:52 pm.

Any comments concerning the contents in *The University of Akron Chronicle*
may be directed to the Secretary, Frank J. Bove (x5104).
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