

SEAC University Council Reports

Date Reported:

University Council

Marjorie Hartleben & Kathee Evans

University Council (UC) Meeting Highlights

The University Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

- President Miller was unable to attend.
- Provost Wiencek's remarks included:
 - President Miller and Provost Wiencek are proud of and thankful to the UA community for continuing the forward, positive momentum during the continuing pandemic.
 - Strategic Planning – workgroup split into two groups: current/immediate short term and long term. Full group is meeting this week and he expects to see the outcome of the work so far.
 - Dean Searches: BCAS is negotiating with the candidate, expect an announcement by end of January; CBA search is underway and receiving applications; PSPE Director Search has started.
 - Enrollment is continuing to evolve. Fall applications were down in the double digits but it is getting better; admissions are approximately 7% behind last year at same time; fall to spring retention is close to our annual average.
 - Budget remains fluid with uncertainty of expenses due to COVID-19. We are receiving external funding for COVID-related expenses such as testing.
 - Academic changes: Faculty Senate is looking at COVID-related issues such as offering credit/no credit options with plans to make decisions earlier in the spring than happened last fall semester.
 - CBA jumped 19 places in a ranking system to 39th place. UA is ahead of OSU on these rankings!
 - College/department reorganization:
 - College of Engineering and Polymer Science – name is official, has been approved by the BOT
 - College of Business Administration is exploring a name change
 - College of Health Professions is exploring a name change and internal department reorganization
 - COVID-19 vaccines: currently nothing from State of Ohio to include university employees in the education phase (K-12 currently)
 - OAA reorg: hopes to finalize during the spring semester.
- Graduate Student Government reported that they are developing a mental health workshop that they hope to offer in late February.
- Award nominations are being sought for Achievement Awards. Please consider recognizing someone!
- HR and Talent Development Committee reporting that they are reviewing the performance review process and hope to send out a survey on the 19th.
- Temporary water filling stations (from Culligan) have been placed in 20 locations across campus. Permanent water filling stations have been ordered.

University Council Executive Committee

Marjorie Hartleben & Kathee Evans

No Report.

Board of Trustees

Kathee Evans and Nathan Yost

No Report.

Budget & Finance

Communications

Richard Newsome

No Report.

Information Technology

Nathan Yost

☐ WebEx to MS Teams Migration Discussion: John Corby stated that negotiations are still going on the WebEx contract. Migration to MS Teams is being considered. But some departments and instructors are using paid WebEx service for continuing classes. Resolution: Proposals were made that WebEx shall be used for video conferencing till August 2021. Than from Fall '21 MS Teams shall be used for classes. In emergency, Google Meet will be used for meetings. (Google meet was not working for some the users on the December 14th 2021 morning)

☐ Problems in Secondary Teaching Assistant Email Accounts Discussion: Carrie Buo raised the issue of whether the secondary UAkron accounts used by the TAs will follow the same regulations as the student Outlook accounts or not. There are 400 such accounts among which some accounts are shared and some are not. ITS will inform everyone after checking on what will happen to such accounts.

☐ Adobe Licensing Discussion: When the Pandemic started, at the start of March 2020, Adobe provided active students with free license of Adobe Creative Cloud for lab instruments. But this free license was ceased in August 2020. Now personal licensing is required for personal use. Adobe does not allow virtual platform of the Creative Cloud from the lab instruments.

The University of Akron has licensing through labs and other technology for staff and students. So in the pandemic, it has been difficult to use the licenses for lock-down and lab sharing. On the other hand, personal Licensing requires one time purchase. Adobe provides 50% discount for the one-time purchase which amounts to \$138.16. But to avail this offer, a block 100 licenses need to be purchased which will amount to \$14000.

CARES grant has funded the first 100 licenses from November 2020 for a year. But even after offering online facilities, the license expires after a year.

Markus Vogel expressed the concern that if the licensing shuts down in Spring 2021, many more licenses (almost around 350) will be required. The CARES grant may likely be extended. There is also a possible availability of State Fund.

The Adobe licensing runs well on high configuration equipments in the University. But nowadays most students have their own equipments. Some students have their own licenses. So it becomes burdensome for labs as it is expected that students will come.

In the worst case, students will need to purchase personal licenses. For grants and funding, the Department of Development needs to be involved. The Department of Arts alone needs 100-200 licenses. The ITS budget is 11000\$/year and it is already used up for different purposes.

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| <p>Institutional Advancement Michele Novachek</p> <p>The Institutional Advancement Committee met January 15th via Microsoft Teams continuing our speaker series. Claudia Kaeberlein, Director of Development – Annual Fund shared the process and success of annual giving, sesquicentennial campaign and provided samples of mailings sent over the past year to alumni and friends. The purpose of the presentation was to educate the committee on the ongoing outreach to our alumni and friends through annual giving.</p> <p>Notes from December: Ali Doehring, Director of ZipAssist presented at our December 11 meeting educating the committee about ZipAssist programs, needs, and the success of outreach to our alumni and friends.</p> |
| <p>Physical Environment Max Fightmaster</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> |
| <p>Recreation & Wellness Nancy Lupi</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> |
| <p>Student Engagement & Success Dierdre McDonald</p> <p>No Report.</p> |
| <p>Talent Development & Human Resources Matthew Dowd</p> <p>The HR and Talent Committee had one item. There is currently a Questionnaire for Staff concerning the review process. All are encouraged to fill it out and provide input.</p> |
| <p>Campus Community Outreach Keren Childers</p> <p>No Report</p> |
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