**UFS Minutes**

**Meeting: Feb 9, 2022**

**Attendees:** Mike Kiel **(**Senate President), Aaron Wachhaus (Senate Vice President), Aaron Wachhaus, Al Gourrier, Alan Weisman, Alicia Campbell, Andrea Cantora, Antieris, Bill Carter, Bill Schnirel, Candace Caraco, Catherine Andersen, Christine Spencer, Constance Harris, Dan Gerlowski, Danielle Giles, Dave Bobart/UBalt, David Lingelbach, David Patschke, Frank van Vliet, Gabriela Wasileski, Ian Power, Ioan Marginean, Ivan Sascha Sheehan, J.C. Weiss, Jeffrey Hutson, Jeffrey Ian Ross, John Burns, John Chapin, John Chapin, Julie Simon, Karen Karmiol, Karyn Schulz, Kathea Smith, Kristen Eyssell, Kurt Schmoke, Lakeisha Mathews, Laura Wilson-Gentry, Lore Naylor, Lourdes White, Magui Cardona, Marilyn Oblak, Mary Beth Waak, Matt Mazick, Michael Frederick, Michael Hayes, Michael Shochet, Mikhail Pevzner, Mortimer Sellers, Nico Gleeson, Nicole Marano, Nicole Munchel, Patricia Hall, Paul N. Moniodis, Phillip Korb, Roger Hartley, Ron Castanzo, Ron Weich, Roxie Shabazz, Sally Farley, Seyed Mohammadi, Sharon Glazer, Stan Kemp, Theresa Silanskis, Tina DiFranco, Vicki Schultz, Vineda Myers, Wolf Pecher

The Meeting was called to order at noon

***Logistical Items***

The agenda and Minutes (Meeting on January 2022) were approved.

***Information Items and Announcements***

Senate President Mike Kiel informed the Senate that a link to the UFS share point folder is provided on the UFS web page.

***LMS Review Update***

**Constance Harris (**Director of Online Learning) provided the Senate with an update on the LMS review process. A review of the LMS is overdue. UBalt has been using SAKAI for 10 years. Since then other systems came on the market. The goal of the LMS review is to identify the most appropriate system available today. LMS looked at include Canvas, Blackboard, Desire to learn, and Sakai. Timeline (also on sharepoint): By Feb 11 vendors sent TORP questions UBalt. Feb 14 the LMS Review Committee has an orientation meeting to discuss the evaluation process and sign non-disclosure agreements. Non-disclosure agreements are necessary since vendors might share proprietary information. By March 3rd vendors present technical proposals and provide sandboxes for faculty, staff, and students. Vendors are also asked to provide narratives and videos about their systems. Case studies that allow to evaluate the systems will be provided. During the last 2 weeks of April 2 vendors will present demos of their system. By May 31 the LMS review committee will make recommendations. By Jun 30, an LMS is selected. If a new LMS is recommended, UBalt is transitioning to the new platform by Fall 2024. During the transition, a dual system will be set up (Sakai and the new platform).

*Questions/Comments*

It was asked if, at the minimum Sakai would be upgraded to the latest version. Dr. Harris confirmed that Sakai will be updated within one version. When asked about the costs of a new learning system Dr. Harris responded that the budget is handled by the CIO and senior leadership. At this stage it is hard to give an exact number since in addition to a base level system ad-ins to meet our need may be required that will cost more. Once the recommendation is made leader ship will have a budget that includes features of the system, costs of transition, support, maintenance, etc. Dr. Harris was also asked what benefits can be expected from possibly transitioning to a new LMS. Dr. Harris pointed out that over the years users have asked for certain features (integration with other programs, training, adaptability of the system, archiving, etc.) that would need to be implemented in the new LMS. In addition, the new LMS should be easy to use.

 ***CUSF***

Lorenda Naylor informed the senate that CUSF sent out 3 faculty surveys on (1) Academic Integrity, (2) Technology, and (3) COVID that should be done by Feb 11. The surveys are not extensive and should take around 10 min per survey.

**Action Items**

***Faculty appointee to Workday transition team***

Danielle Fowler (Assoc. Professor, MSB) was elected as the faculty appointee to the Workday transition team (12 votes, no apstentions).

***Definition of full-time status for doctoral students***

The Academic Policy Committee proposed that full time status for doctoral students is changed from 9 credits to 6 credits. The reduction to 6 credit would help to alleviate challenges with financial aid, as well as international students. The proposal was already reviewed by financial aid and the doctoral programs.

The proposal was approved (14 votes, no abstentions).

***Program name change***CAS proposed to change the name of the Integrated Arts Program to Arts Production & Management. Ian Power (Assistant Professor) the current Program Director of the Integrated Arts program explained that the proposed name change reflects the goal of the program better and makes it clearer for students to understand what to expect.

The proposal was approved (13 votes, no abstentions)

***Awards Committee***

Julie Simon, Lorenda Naylor, and Wolf Pecher volunteered to serve on an Awards Committee.

The senate elected all three faculty members (10 votes).

***Changes to the General Education Ethics requirements***

Bill Cater (President of the School of Business Faculty Senate) presented a joint proposal from MSB and CPA to change the General Education Requirements for Ethics: (1) changing the Gen Ed requirement from 3 credits in Arts & Humanities – Ethics (AHE) to a more general category definition and (2) amend the SLO 1 and 2 and replace SLO 3 and 4 that are arts and humanities specific with a more general SLO to apply principals to a specific field.

It was stressed that the proposed changes will not alter the number of general education credits required but will allow individual schools and programs at the University to provide for their students’ ethics courses best suited to those programs. In addition, from the standpoint of MSB, these changes would allow MSB to meet the latest AACSB accreditation standards (that include social responsibility and focus on ethics related content) without having to add additional courses.

Motion: The UFS requests that the General Education council reviews the joint proposal and determines what is best for our students.

*Discussion/Comments*

It was pointed out that the proposal was very timely as the GenEd Council currently reviews SLOs, and the content of courses should meet the needs of the students. It was clarified that AACBS does not require certain courses, but that certain content is covered. The current SLOs for the ethics requirement do not allow to cover discipline specific topics outside of the arts and humanities, and may force programs to add additional courses to the curriculum. However, since ethics is a general education and graduation requirement, courses in this category need to cover more theory. The question was raised if a change to the structure of the ethics requirement will actually help enrollment. If not, the senate should not ask the GenEd Council to look into this issue as it is work intensive.

The motion was approved (14 votes, no abstentions)

**Discussion Items**

***Pandemic update***

Has there been issues with more class in person and more students on campus?

Concern was raised if all students in face to face classes were compliant with the vaccine mandate. Nicole Marano clarified that students who were not compliant were dropped from classes and card access removed. Concern was raised that card access was not necessary at the Law School since it was encouraged to use the revolving door (to safe energy). It was clarified that people entering the law school were checked by security. Senate President Mike Kiel acknowledged the hard work and effort of the people behind the scene to ensure that all mandates were followed, and who handle pandemic related health protocols including Stephen Morag, Lletra Esters, Christina Toven from the Office of Student Support as well as the Assistant and Associate Deans and the Registrar.

The senate also inquired if there would be an update on the requirement of wearing KN95 or equivalent masks. The KN95 rule was implemented due to the Omicron variant, but to low at positivity rate as well as incidence rate it may not be necessary anymore.

President Schmoke informed the senate that at the USM level the lifting of mask mandates is reviewed. A decision will be made that is based on science.

***Enrollment***

Roxie **Shabazz** (Vice President for Enrollment) was asked to give an update on the partnership with the EAB. EAB is an educational research, marketing and technology company. It helps UBalt to expand the prospective student pool, with the goal to triple the pool. EAB also increases the engagement and communication with existing prospects and at a larger scale. EAB is using tools such as Deposit IQ, a predictive modelling tool that allows to identify by student if a student will likely enroll. Furthermore, EAB set up campus tours using YouVisit. Since the EAB campaign started in May 2021, EAB contacted over 40,000 graduate and transfer students of which 2,600 were engaging with EAB. About half of these students are now new leads for UBalt. As a result, for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 235 transfer students and 433 graduate students applied. Nationally for Spring 2022 institutions as an increase in 3% graduate applications, 1% increase in admissions, and a 7% decrease in a final commitment. In contrast, UBalt experienced and increase by 33% in applications, 5% in admissions, and 4% increase in final commitment.

The senate asks what faculty could do to make the programs more attractive. Was there a way to communicate the data so that informed changes to programs can be made? The senate was informed that EAB currently reviews programs in terms of potential, including marketability, and possible enrollment obstacles. The senate inquired if a rough timeline could be provided to the faculty of this review. At this point not all programs are reviewed.

One of the challenges to increase enrollment numbers was the small size of the student prospect pool. With the help of EAB a significant increase in the prospect pool is expected by Fall 2022.

When asked about spring enrollment numbers, the senate was informed that UBalt was close to the set target (-0.8%), 181 new students, 164 transfer students (target: 173), and 12 freshmen (target: 20). The retention rate was up (2.8%). The partnership with community colleges needs to be rebuild to increase enrollment of transfer students. Data for the law school will be provided at a later time.

The senate inquired when the enrollment dashboard will be rebuilt. The dashboard is back up for spring, however, at this point automated updates are not working.

The meeting was adjourned at 2PM.