**UFS Minutes**

**Meeting: April 13, 2022**

**Attendees:** Stephen “Mike” Kiel, Aaron Wachhaus, Aaron Oldenburg, Alan Weisman, Alicia Campbell, Andrea Cantora, Barbara Aughenbaugh, Betsy Yarrison, Bill Carter, Bill Schnirel, Candace Caraco, Christine Spencer, Cindy McGowan, Constance Harris, Dan Gerlowski, Danielle Fowler, Danielle Giles, David Lingelbach, Deb Stanley, Gabriela Wasileski, Ioan Marginean, Ivan Sascha Sheehan, J.C. Weiss, Jeffrey Hutson, John Chapin, Julie Simon, Karen Karmiol, Karyn Schulz, Kristen Eyssell, Kurt Schmoke, Lore Naylor, Lourdes White, Magui Cardona, Marilyn Oblak, Mark Jacque, Michael Frederick, Michael Hayes, Michael Shochet, Mikhail Pevzner, Mortimer Sellers, M. Paris, Nico Gleeson, Nicole Marano, Nicole Munchel, Paul N. Moniodis, Phillip Korb, Roger Hartley, Ron Castanzo, Ron Weich, Sally Farley, Sarah Lausch, Seyed M., Sharon Glazer, Terese Thonus, Tina DiFranco, Vineda Myers, Wolf Pecher

The Meeting was called to order at noon

***Logistical Items***

The agenda and Minutes (Meeting on March 9, 2022) were approved.

***Information Items and Announcements***

***LMS Review***

Constance Harris (Director of online learning) reported that more than 50 faculty and staff participated in the campus review of the LMS systems. 2 vendors were scheduled to present their product on April 26, 2022 (D2L), and April 27, 2022 (Canvas). Dr. Harris encouraged faculty to participate in the presentations and participate in a short survey. She also asked faculty to encourage students to participate. In May the evaluation committee (comprised of 18 people) will prepare recommendations.

Questions/Comments.

Concern was raised that only 2 vendors were participating in the presentation. Dr. Harris informed the Senate that two other vendors, Blackboard and Sakai were given ample opportunity however declined to present. It was further inquired whether, once the recommendations were made faculty and students would have opportunity to comment and provide feedback on the recommendation. The senate was informed that once a decision was made no announcement was made. It was also pointed out that faculty and staff have ample opportunity to provide feedback before the recommendation is prepared. Faculty was encouraged to provide additional feedback to the evaluation committee. A list of the members will be shared on share point.

***President’s Update on Bylaws and Governance Steering Council***

Senate President Mike Kiel reported that the GSC continues to exploring the possibility of naming buildings after persons of color.

He also informed the Senate that the Bylaws Committee will be proposing changes to the Bylaws in the May meeting. Changes proposed include the position of a Vice President Elect who becomes the President the following term.

***Introduction of Sarah Lausch***

Sarah Lausch introduced herself to the Senate. She is a new instructional designer at CELTT. She asked faculty to nominate faculty for the Excellence of Teaching Award.

**Action Items**

***Workload Policy***

The work load policy was approved (10 votes in favor, no abstentions)

***Change of Title for the Concentration of Police Science Concentration***

The College of Public Affairs proposed to change the concentration “Police Science Concentration” within the Forensic Studies major to “Forensic Investigations Concentration”. The new title reflects better on where the field is moving to. Furthermore, students have a better understanding on what they can expect.

***New Area of Concentration (Nonprofit Management)***

A new area concentration (Nonprofit management) for the Human Services Administration Masters was proposed.

The proposal was approved (11 votes in favor, no abstentions)

**Discussion Items**

***Staff Senate Resolution on Communications of Strategic Decisions***

Nicola Gleeson, vice chair of the Staff Senate discussed with the Faculty Senate the Staff Senate resolution on communications of strategic decisions. The Staff Senate requests that major institutional decisions are communicated GSC within 30 – 60 days where feasible. Furthermore, wherever possible the decisions should be shared widely to the campus community.

Discussions/Comments

Senate President Mike Kiel asked if the Staff Senate was asking the UFS to endorse the resolution. The Staff Senate would appreciate if the USF would have a similar resolution. Senators were in favor of supporting the resolution. A motion was moved to present the Staff Senate Resolution to the respective colleges and schools.

The motion was approved (12 votes in favor).

***General Education Council Proposal for new SLOs and Assessment Plan***

Betsy Yarrison (Chair of the GEC) presented the recommendations of the GEC for changes to the General Education to the UBalt program and to develop a new assessment plan. As part of this process, the GEC also looked at the joint proposal from MSB and CPA to change the general education ethics requirements. 5 recommendations were made: (1) replacing current area definitions and SLO’s with 2022 area definitions and SLO’s developed by college-wide faculty teams with expertise in the subject areas replace area definitions, (2) adopting new generic rubric for all general education assessment, (3) dropping Arts & Humanities-Ethics requirement from General Education suite, (4) moving the university requirement for “one upper-division ethics course” from General Education: Arts and Humanities—Ethics to Institution-Specific Courses per COMAR legislation, and (5)​ adopting new area definition and SLO’s for upper-division ethics. ​The SLO’s for upper-division ethics were proposed by MSB and accepted by UBalt’s Hoffberger Center for Professional Ethics and slightly adjusted to meet area definition requirements.

Discussion/Comments

It was asked whether the proposed changes would impact acceptance of AA degrees from community colleges. The Senate was informed that the proposed changes would not affect acceptance of AA degrees. It was inquired whether the changes had any adverse impacts on any college or school. Betsy Yarrison explained that the changes were discussed with stake holders and should provide the colleges and schools with what they need. Adverse impacts are therefore not expected. The power point presentation was uploaded to sharepoint.

***Pandemic Measures Fall Course Modalities***

President Schmoke informed the Senate that USM lifted the vaccine mandate. However, USM strongly encourages faculty, staff and students to get the most up to date vaccine for the up coming semester. USM was only able to impose a vaccine requirement because Maryland had declared a state of emergency. Without a state of emergency USM does not have the authority. It was asked if UBalt could impose its own mandate. The Senate was informed that UBalt can establish its own guidelines. UBalt will adapt local recommendations and restrictions. UBalt continues to encourage and recommend masks where appropriate. UBalt will not mandate vaccines at this time. UBalt can only impose mandates or stricter guidelines if UBalt can provide evidence based on data that suggests an increase of cases within the UBalt community.

***Future of the Campus***

Attendees were asked to think about and share their views on campus operations moving forward. The pandemic has changed how programs are delivered, etc. In addition, elective officials are pushing to expand the reach of community colleges. So far, the state has not moved to allow 4-year programs at community colleges, however, it pushes 4-year institutions to approve community college credits.

Questions about course modality were raised, and clarification was sought around the terms hybrid and flexible hybrid. The senate was informed that UBalt established a flexible hybrid workgroup working on a definition change of flexible hybrid. Some students need to be on campus; however, small programs might not be able to offer courses in hybrid and face to face modality at the same time. Possibilities include have sections offered on campus and virtual. The Senate was also informed that there is no USM definition hybrid. Hybrid is difficult and the definitions need to be revisited. Different agencies and organizations (DHS, Veteran, Middle State) have different requirements, but there is no guidance yet. It was further pointed out that modalities for entire programs cannot be changed easily as students have the right to finish the program in the modality they started. It was suggested that questions around modality should to be handled on the program level.

In regards to how the campus could look like in the future, it was suggested to include budget considerations and try to figure out what campus to have that eliminates the deficit budget. Other thoughts included to identify how to make the campus attractive again and how to entice students to come back onto the campus. Furthermore, it was suggested to continue to develop a strategy to make money of buildings or restructuring the campus to be able to have a more viable and vibrant community. President Schmoke informed the Senate the leasing options are currently explored and that the changes of Penn Station as a transportation hub provides UBalt with opportunities.

***Search Committee for Provost Position***

President Schmoke announced that UBalt will have a national search to fill the provost position. A national search was recommended for institutional reasons. This move should not be seen as being critical to the current interim provost. He asked for input in regards to the membership of the committee. It was suggested to include the Faculty Senate chair. The search committee should also have representatives from all stake holders. It was suggested to look back at the previous search to identify issues that could be improved. It was asked if the search would include a search firm. President Schmoke confirmed that a search firm will be involved.

President Schmoke was asked whether a search was done for the CFO position. President Schmoke informed the Senate Kurt said that there will not be a search for the CFO. It was recommended to split the position into two, one for administration and technology, and one for finances. Beth Amyot, our current CFO & VP of Admin & Finance will be overseeing the transition. President Schmoke further pointed out that the interaction of the provost with the faculty is much different than the interaction of faculty with the CFO.

The meeting was adjourned at 2PM