**UFS Minutes**

**Meeting: October 12, 2022**

**Attendees:**  Stephen "Mike" Kiel (UFS President), Kristen Eyssell, José Anderson, Joseph Adler, Bill Carter, Jeffrey Ross, Michael Frederick, Mortimer Sellers, Tina DiFranco, Robert Knowles, Kurt Schmoke, Al Gourrier, Alan Weisman, Barbara Aughenbaugh, Candace Caraco, Carey Miller, Christine Spencer, Dan Gerlowski, Danielle Fowler, David Bobart, David Lingelbach, David Patschke, Constance Harris, Heather Pfeifer, Ioan Marginean, Ivan Sascha Sheehan, J.C. Weiss, Jeffrey Hutson, Jim Campbell, John Chapin, Karen Karmiol, Kate Demarest, Kathea Smith, Kathryn Summers, Kelley Chase, Lore Naylor, L.W. Gentr, Magui Cardona, Mary Beth Waak, Mason Paris, Megan Manley, Mikhail Prevzner, Murray Dalziel, Nicole Hudgins, Nicole Marano, Paul N Moniodis, Phillip Korb, Rajesh Mirani, Roger Hartley, Ron Castanzo, Ronald Weich, Roxie M. Shabazz, Sally Farley, Sally Reed, Theresa Silanskis, Vineda Myers, Zach Luhman, Wolf Pecher.

The Meeting was called to order at noon

***Logistical Items***

The agenda and minutes were approved.

***Information Items and Announcement***

***Canvas Faculty Fellows***

A list of the Canvas Faculty Fellows is posted on Sharepoint.

***PBI Grant***

Information on the PBI grant is posted on Sharepoint.

***Student Resolution #30 - Election Day Holiday Observance***

The senate was informed that the SGA put forward a resolution to ask to have the election holiday observed on election day. The resolution shared when it is made available.

***Morale and Burnout Survey***

The senate was reminded that the Morale and Burnout Survey was still open.

**Action Items**

There were no action items.

**Discussion Items**

***Final Enrollment following Census***

Roxie Shabazz (VP for Enrollment) presented the final enrollment numbers after the Census. Overall, UBalts goal for new student enrollment was missed by 3% (117 students). When looking at the different student types (graduate, transfer, and first-year students), new transfer student enrollment exceeded the goal by 20% (51 students). New graduate student enrollment was down by 6% (20 students), and new first-year student enrollment by 37% (29 students).

A year to year comparison revealed that, while new student enrollment declined, the decline slowed down as the new student enrollment (graduate student and undergraduate students) was down by 10% compared to 16% in fall 2021. When looking at total student enrollment, it was down by 10% compared to 11% in fall 2021.

When asked about the timing of the report, the senate was informed that the October meeting after the census was a good time to report the enrollment numbers. While preliminary data is available before the census, the data would be unreliable. The senate was further informed that an enrollment database was build and a web site developed that will give access to more real time data.

It was asked whether the goals that were used were the goals set by the departments or whether the goals were adjusted later. The senate was informed that the enrollment goals used where the goals that were set by a process where enrollment managements recommends enrollment goals based on predictions to the deans of the schools and colleges. The deans would consult their departments, and, if necessary, enrollment goals would be adjusted. Once set the goals were not changed.

The senate asked what, if any, conclusions could be drawn from the numbers and trends. Overall institutions nationwide appear to have enrollment challenges postcovid. In addition, many other institutions started targeting the adult student population, including HBCUs, and there is a general decline of students interest in going to college. Regarding graduate students, precovid an increase in enrollment numbers was observed that flatten or maybe even starts declining. EAB observes an overall decline in domestic students, but an increase in enrollment of international graduate students. Therefore, UBalt may look again at international students.

It was asked when enrollment numbers are projected to be stabilized, and when we would start seeing an increase in enrollment numbers. UBalt expects to reach its goal of 4,000 students in 2026. Regarding increased enrollment numbers it is expected that next fiscal year enrollment numbers should be flat. A continuous focus needs to be on returning students as it is impossible to recruit additional 600 students to meet the goal.

Taken the low enrollment numbers of first year students into account it was asked whether UBalt should continue to recruit first year students. President Schmoke informed the senate that there were multiple reasons, including some programs require a 4 year program for their accreditation. In addition, the board of regents considered UBalt’s structure and recommended that UBalt rremains a 4-year school. Regarding quality of first year students, a few years ago UBalt made the decision to focus on high performing student.

The senate inquired about Shady Grove. President Schmoke informed the senate that he asked for a business plan to determine what in programs should be invested in at Shady Grove. The business plan should be ready by the end of the year.

Concern was raised that, in order to reach UBalt’s goal of 4,000 students by FY 2026 enrollment needs to increase by 4.7% annually. An annual enrollment growth of 4.7% was last achieved in 2009. Enrollment management agreed that fundamental changes have to be made. One area is retention. Furthermore, goals were not met in programs that traditionally had strong enrollment numbers, which needs analyzed and addressed. It was further argured that UBalt should look for new opportunities.

***Budget Projections and Timelines***

Barbara Aughenbaugh (CFO & VP Business Affairs) informed the senate that COLA was approved.

The decrease in enrollment numbers was anticipated and loss of revenue included in the budget projections. The decline in enrollment translated in a $1.3 million decline in revenue which was offset by a $1 million contingency. The structural deficit remained constant and did not increase. The senate was also informed that this FY no further budget cuts are anticipated, and the structural budget deficit did not increase.

New contingencies are develop by December or January. The senate asked if numbers around the contingency could be shared in January. It was also pointed out that the contingency has to be realistic.

It was further argued that while enrollment numbers are important, UBalt also needs to take into consideration increasing numbers of students that generate more revenue, such as graduate students. The senate was informed that the revenue difference between a graduate and undergraduate student is approximately $5,000. And for that reason UBalt is striving to have a 40/60 undergraduate/graduate student ratio. When asked whether UBalt was getting closer to this goal the senate was informed that we were not closer to this goal.

It was also inquired how long can UBalt survive with the current structural deficit. President Schmoke pointed out that the Board of Regents task force report revealed that UBalt was underfunded. Negotations with USM are underway to resolve this issue.

Concern was raised that, unlike in many private businesses, financial numbers are not shared enough and the administration was urged to share these numbers at least with the UFS. It was suggested to build a internal University level dashboard. The senate pointed out the new planned website would give access to enrollment data.

Roxie Shabazz was asked whether the efforts presented in the road map to stabilization at the September meeting will achieve or answer concerns raised. For example, one effort listed is a enrollment management committee. The senate was informed that, while the committee was on pause, this committee will look at all the issued discussed. Documents produced by the committee will be shared if desired.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 2 PM