Minutes of the faculty senate meeting held November 14th, 2013.

1. Call to order.

  RM called the meeting to order at 3.30 pm.

2. Approval of the minutes of the October 10th meeting.

  Unanimous vote to stand as posted, no amendments, no additions.

3. Faculty chair report.

On Tuesday, Ron Jackson stepped down as Dean of Arts and Sciences. Kristi Nelson has been named interim dean. There will be a national search, but no time line has been set. I have not had a chance to discuss the transition with Provost Davenport yet, but I did see her briefly and she indicated that we will meet and it is a matter of finding a time.

On October 16th, Michael Eric Dyson (Georgetown) spoke on “Breaking the Polite Silence: A Conversation About Race” at the Great Hall. The talk was very well attended. Professor Dyson met privately with Presidential Cabinet on the 17th. This was in response to the racially insensitive cartoon about Ron Jackson and Carol Tonge-Mack that was hung in McMicken Hall. Professor’s Dyson’s comments and insights were enlightening and appreciated. In a further response to this incident, I made a statement to our Board of Trustees on the need to engage in a conversation on the rights and responsibilities of free speech. My remarks were later published in the News Record.

Third Century – As previously reported, President Ono has formed the Supporting our Transformation – the Third Century task force. According to the Provost, there are about 16 separate plans or documents that suggest changes, including UC 2019 and the Academic Master Plan. This task force is not looking at new ideas, but is trying to look at all of these plans prioritize actions steps. This effort is informed by the “Listening to our Future” meetings that occurred last year. There a six separate subgroups. I am co-chairing the “Investing in Faculty” group with the Provost and I am part of the E-Learning subgroup. The other subgroups are Research, Enrollment, Student Experience and Resources. The groups are just starting to meet and I will keep Senate informed of progress.

As part of the Third Century, Bill Ball formed committees on research. These committees had significant faculty representation. The Committees are reporting out and seeking additional input through faculty input sessions. The first was yesterday on East campus and it was sparsely attended. There is one tomorrow at UCBA at 3 pm (119 Muntz), one on Nov 19th on West Campus (Cinema at 4 pm) and one at 8 am on Nov 22nd at Clermont in Kreuger Auditorium. Please attend and encourage your colleagues to attend.

Bob Ambach formed the Advancement Funding Taskforce. This taskforce is looking at the operation and funding of the Foundation and the relationship of the Foundation to the University. Christine Ackerman will chair. Bob asked for me to serve or to provide a Faculty Representative. I attended the first meeting just to understand what the Taskforce is about. All of the members are people who have financial backgrounds and this is basically a finance committee. It was clear to me we needed an appointment to this Taskforce based on expertise and we needed someone with finance or accounting background. I contacted the LCOB Senators and Constantine Polychroniou nominated Margaret Reed from Accounting. Senator Ratee Apana concurred. I have known Margaret for a long time and know she would serve us well in this position. I contacted her and she was accepted the appointment so Margaret Reed is the Faculty Representative to the Advancement Funding Task Force.

Life of the Mind – The Life of the Mind Committee cancelled this year’s program. Last year, we ran into a number of scheduling problems with Semesters and they continued this year. For the most part, it was being able to schedule speakers. After meeting with Provost Davenport, the Committee decided to cancel the program this year, but restart it next year. The committee also decided that rather than inventing new themes, we would set the themes based on the Common Freshman Reading so that Life of the Mind might also be useful to Faculty using the common reading in their classes.

There were two Faculty Input Sessions on the vendors new Student Information System. On November 5th, Oracle/People Soft presented. On November 13th, Ellucian/Banner presented. Attendance was light.

The first Faculty Coffee was October 16th. About 50 Faculty Members attended. The next one is November 25th at 4 PM. At the suggestion of some attendees, President Ono is considering serving alcoholic beverages along with soda, tea and coffee. An announcement about this month’s Faculty Coffee should come out soon.

On November 9th, the Faculty Senate Cabinet was honored at the UC/SMU football game. Members of the Cabinet were introduced on the field during the first quarter.

I represented the Faculty at the dedication of the Neil Armstrong exhibit on November 6th. There was a large crowd. The exhibit is still going on in the art gallery in the Steiger Student Life Center. Parts of it will eventually be moved to Rhodes Hall. At this same ceremony, UC and NASA signed a space act agreement which will make cooperation between UC and NASA easier.

Tomorrow I will be meeting with our lobbyists from Columbus and Washington. They will brief me on current legislation and other governmental items of concern to Faculty. It will also be an opportunity for me to provide feedback to them on issue of concern to Faculty.

UC has started the budgeting process for FY2015. The budget is at a very early stage and right now we are just looking at some possible scenarios – but there is nothing concrete to report. One problem is that the new funding formula is so complex; we and OBR are having problems determining exactly what our State funding level will be. Kathy Qualls met with our Budget and Priorities Committee and Bob Ambach will meet with them soon. Please see the Committee’s reports for further details.

Daniel Langmeyer (former Senator and FS Budget and Priorities Chair) requested a copy of the “Red Book”, UC’s annual budget summary and was informed that is it no longer published. It appears that UC changed the accounting system about 10 years ago and the Red Book is no longer in synch with the new system. It had become an artificial creation used by only a few
people, so it was discontinued. Dan was told the University would provide any information he wanted, so he set up a meeting with the Comptroller. He invited Adrianne Lane (Chair Elect and FSBP Chair) and I to this meeting. This is a really good opportunity for all of us to review what information FSBP will need and how to get it in a digestible form now that the Red Book is gone. I appreciate Dan’s willingness to provide his expertise in assisting us in this task.

Finally, there have been several places in my remarks where I have noted opportunities for faculty feedback/engagement and also noted sparse crowds. I serve on many committees and taskforces. Many are eager for faculty feedback, but some have to be reminded. It is difficult for me to make a case for faculty feedback opportunities if they are provided and no one shows up. I urge member of Senate to make an effort to attend and to encourage your faculty members to attend these events.

**CG:** We should perhaps disabuse BD of the notion that the replacement for Ron Jackson (Dean of A & S, resigned) needs to be an external hire. This has not worked well in the past, and we can infer from this that someone from the inside would be a better choice.

**RW:** Women’s studies concurs with this opinion.

**KG:** But a national search does not preclude ultimately hiring from within. Previous experience has shown that deans from outside, or from within can be just as incompetent. It needs to be communicated to the search committee that not conducting a national search reflects poorly on UC.

**CG:** I made no accusations of incompetence. For some candidates, UC would be a stepping stone in their rising careers.

**RM:** Whether the search for a new Dean is internal or national is up to the faculty governance of the college of A & S. The faculty senate would be happy to assist if this is the will of A & S faculty.

4. Election results

   a. At-large senators

   *Due to a delay in constructing the voting survey (UCIT), the at-large election is still ongoing. The results will be announced; voting closes on Monday (11/17/2013).*
b. Conflict of Interest committee member

Julie Sroga, MD (Ob/Gyn, COM) received the most votes for election to the conflict of interest committee.

5. Message by the Chair to SGA on Senate Resolution on Calendar Sharing.

RM: Our statement that we do not want this calendar sharing unless it is an “opt-in” choice has been submitted to the Student Representative (JB) and UCIT; there is no response as yet.

6. Resolution on Senate representation to the Ohio Faculty Council (Senate Cabinet)

Presented by MH & AL. The document is available online or from MH or AL directly. Our emphasis is on the last line regarding consistency and sustained influence.

CG: Is there a preference for a particular officer to represent the faculty senate chair? If first preference is not available, who is the second preference?

RM: Does the alternate have to be a member of senate, or not?

MH/AL: No, however it is unlikely that a regularly attending member of the OFC would not be a member of UC senate. The main thing is that OFC would prefer a consistent presence.

If the alternate is a past member of the OFC, they do not have to be a senate member, but if not, they will be invited to senate as a non-voting member to the senate cabinet meetings.

RM: Propose resolution-all in favor?

Resolution passed, unanimous vote.

7. Cross-College Curricular Coordinating Committee (FS Academic affairs)

A powerpoint presentation was given by TH & RL. The point of the CCCCC is to minimize redundancy between colleges teaching similar courses, and to align curricula so there is consistency between, say Blue Ash and main campus teaching of a particular discipline. It is discipline-based. This was presented to the Academic Affairs committee, and was well-received by the committee and the associate deans. Foreign Languages stated that they thought it would be particularly useful.

MH: If someone runs a course out of Blue Ash, can it be stopped by this committee?
TH: No, it is not an approval committee, but if this same course is offered in more than one location, the committee can make sure they match and the curricula align.

RM: So, units can rely on the fact that a student who has Psych. 101 from any college has the same level of knowledge, or is it programmatic?

TH: Yes, if a student switches campuses in the middle of a program, they should align.

RM: All in favor?

No objections were noted, unanimously approved.

RM: additional questions have come up in academic committee. What happens if 2 colleges share the same course? But this is a future issue.

MH: What is the composition of the committees?

TH/RM: It is the intent to have at least one member from each college, but where more than one would be appropriate (e.g. foreign language) that would be fine. The associate deans also sit on this committee.

8. Formation of an ad hoc committee on travel/gifts/conflict of interest.

RM: This is to address UC’s policy if you travel and are reimbursed by any entity other than UC or a federal agency. This is a big problem, and lots of questions were posed to the interim Legal Council, apparently there are many violations of the Ohio Ethics Code. It was suggested that we create a faculty guidebook for travel-related issues, so that we know the rules. It is a violation punishable by fines and more. Do we want to form such a committee?

JG: Motion to form this ad hoc committee.

ST: Seconded.

CA: We already have a University Compliance Officer, shouldn’t they be invited?

RM: We have already approached them. They can answer specific questions, but they do not travel, so it is up to us (faculty) to provide the right questions to them to answer. So, the ad hoc committee would provide scenarios to them, and gather typical scenarios. They wanted specific examples to answer.

CA: If you declare it on your Outside Activity Report, you can propose a conflict management plan.
GJPG: But OARS are retroactive, you may already have broken a rule.

RM: COM and COE deal with these issues all the time, there are many other faculty that do not, on a regular basis.

CA: So we should check with general counsel first?

JH: But unless the method for providing this information, and getting answers is clear and easy (like radio buttons) then there is too much burden on the faculty.

RM: Ideally there will be a set of rules “Here’s what you can’t do, 1, 2, 3 etc” The rules have become so complex that there is no support when we try to follow them.

WM: When do the new rules come into effect?

RM: July 1st, 2013.

WM: What about when I travel for work but the details of the work are confidential and I have signed an affidavit of secrecy, but they pay for my travel?

RM: Should not have to detail what you were doing exactly, just state “XYZ Corporation paid for travel”.

RM: All in favor?

Unanimous agreement to form a committee to deal with these questions.

RM: I will send an email asking for volunteers to sit on this committee.

9. Discussion of College Issues

RM: BD is unlikely to make it back in time for her input session (Agenda item 13). Propose addition of item to the agenda regarding update on Blackboard from Paul Foster.

CG: Is it necessary to use the senate meeting for informational sessions like this?

AL: Can you elaborate?

CG: As senators, we should be making decisions, not just acting as a messenger.

RM: Any objections?

None noted.
The powerpoint presentation file is available from facultysenate@ucmail.uc.edu.

PF: There will be a series of Town Halls on this topic where we would value faculty input.

RM: How will this new iteration of blackboard work with either of the 2 new Student Information Systems we are likely to go with?

PF: The old Bb code was written by UCIT. These new SIS software enables fast 2-way communication with Bb, so we should be good regarding integration.


We have been examining student fees across UC and comparing college-college differences in fees charged in addition to tech and student life. Fees range from $430-$1500 per annum, plus co-op fees of $1965 p.a. and does not include $1800 p.a. UC health insurance, on top of tuition. SGA met with the provosts to request to make this a more transparent fee structure. Students pay $901 per semester per student for health insurance, however, AHCA says we have to have insurance anyway, so perhaps we don’t need to pay that any more.

Regarding student trustees voting rights. There is a UC student and graduate student trustee appointed by the commissioner of the State of Ohio. We want to take this to legislature proactively so that we have a vote.

Safe housing fair. There will be a safe student housing fair on West campus (TUC) on January 15th, from 11 am until 2 pm. There will be booths and opportunities for interaction with the Fire Department, UC police, Cincinnati police and others.


There have been some changes in the eligibility criteria for graduate student travel awards. The new clause became effective 9/1/2013, and addresses students under the E160 Federal Regulations for Student Travel Reimbursement. If student is to be paid from a grant, it should be processed through an A113, just as if you were a UC employee.

JG: What about students not funded through the grant?

AM: The student may now have to choose; you cannot be paid for by the grant, and ask for the $400 p.a. from GSGA.

RL: So GS with unfunded research; can the Department provide additional funds to encourage participation in travel related to their research?
AM: As long as the money is internal (Taft fund, Department, College level) they are still eligible for the GSGA funds.

AM: There was a graduate student and family housing meeting in September, but the process has stalled. I met with Santa Ono last week to reenergize the process.

Safety: Some 2500 UC GS are international. Many do not report crimes that happen on and around campus for cultural reasons. Hotspots are identified based on police reports, so it tends to reflect UG only.

Fellowship applications: There will be $1200-1400 available per student for the Spring Semester as of 11/22.

Community building events: GS feel disenfranchised, so we have been organizing events such as soccer and cricket tournaments, thanksgiving parties, conflict resolution workshops and so on. There are also dissertation writing groups teaching structured writing.

Student trustee voting rights: VP Government relations (Columbus) and GSGA involved. Once the house committee approves the choice, there are 90 days within which the BoT has to decide if we can vote or not.

Kimberly Fulbright (Ombuds) and Margaret Hanson (Associate Dean of the Graduate School) have been invited to facilitate conflict resolution discussions with GSGA.

GJPG: It would be great if faculty could also attend, so that we know what issues GS perceive. I will email you.


There are no sessions this week or next (Thanksgiving etc). No progress really. Healthcare proposals are being considered. You can go to the AAUP website and submit a picture and healthcare testimonial. This helps us to keep the issues in the public eye. Also, come to the BoT meetings( http://www.uc.edu/trustees.html ) , that definitely drives discussion at the table. It affects talk around the table when faculty show up and the trustees take notice.

Bargaining has been slow due to the holiday season, will likely extend into February. Even after signing, there are several weeks for college meetings, voting and approvals.
I went to WKU (Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green) to talk to faculty governance. Their president wants to raise their research profile, but not spend any money. Build new buildings, recruit and support athletes, no spending lines for faculty.....sound familiar?

Cliff Peel is preparing an article on the Healthcare aspects.

JG: We appreciate the AAUP’s effort in these tough negotiations and leadership. SO wants to invest in human capital, so that should be a positive step and good timing for AAUP negotiations.

GL: BD says she wants to invest in faculty development and support, so there are plenty of opportunities to talk and now act, using the contract negotiations to do that.

RM: Motion to adjourn, 5.06 pm.

Unanimously approved.