

The University of Akron
Staff Employee Advisory Committee (S.E.A.C.)
Minutes January 24, 2008

Members and Attendance:

Name	Attendance
Gary Beckman	Present
Charlene Calabrese	Absent with notice
Mary Dingler	Present
Jeri Farwell	Absent with notice
Lissia Gerber	Absent with notice
Tedd Guedel	Absent with notice
Michael Kimble	Present
Joy LiCause (ex-officio)	N/A
Jim Shuster	Present
Peggy Speck	Present
Laura Spray	Present
Bob Stachowiak	Present
Mary Tabatcher	Present

Meeting called to order at PFOC conference room at 12:20 PM.

No previous minutes reviewed.

Chair Bob Stachowiak announced that Tedd Guedel is leaving UA; therefore SEAC needed to elect a new secretary. Mary Tabatcher volunteered and took minutes for the meeting.

Board of Trustees 1/23/08 (www.uakron.edu/bot/): Peggy Speck (reporting) & Gary Beckman - Spring 2008 head count as of the first week of the semester is up 4.5%. Total credit hour production is up 5.5%. The official counts will be released after the 14th-day but according to these figures we have 1,000 more students attending than in the spring of 2007.

Students now occupy 95 rooms in the Quaker Square Inn as student housing. Ninety-five rooms have been set aside as hotel rooms. The students were experiencing some difficulties with internet connection but arrangements have been made for a dedicated line with AT&T for a temporary wireless connection for those students at Quaker Square until the problem is resolved.

The Medina County University Center recently opened and there are approximately 100 full-time students attending. A Board Meeting will be scheduled at this site sometime in the future.

“Zippy” has won the Capital One Bowl Mascot of the Year Challenge by defeating “Goldy Gopher” from the University of Minnesota. The basketball team defeated Miami of Ohio. We now hold first place in the Mid-American Conference with Kent State in second place.

Dr. John Green from the Ray C. Bliss Institute presented information about the institute. The University of Akron recently put into place a “JD/Master of Applied Politics” program. This is the only program of this sort in the country.

Dr. Charles Fey, VP Student Affairs, reported that the “one stop shop” service has been a huge success. He has received much positive feedback.

The School of Law welcomes a new dean, Martin H. Belsky, a former dean at the University of Tulsa College of Law who replaces Richard Aynes who served in that capacity for 12 years.

Next board meeting March 26, 2008.

Faculty Senate (www.uakron.edu/president/faculty/Senate/index.php): Mary Tabatcher (reporting) & Lissia Gerber - Special meeting to discuss merit and review history of University Council; voted to move it forward to the next level.

By-Laws: Joy LiCause, Tedd Guedel & Laura Spray - No report.

University Council: Joy LiCause & Bob Stachowiak (reporting) - Haven’t met and are looking for spring 2008 meeting time. Last meeting was on 1/10/08. Starting to look at feedback from various entities; management wants to have president’s cabinet.

Benefits Committee: Tedd Guedel & Laura Spray (reporting) - Will be meeting at end of month. Are researching current wellness offerings and will be presented at next meeting.

Social Committee: Charlene Calabrese, Peggy Speck, Mary Tabatcher & Jim Shuster (Bob Stachowiak reporting) – Proceeds from the 50/50 raffle allowed SEAC to donate \$100 to Haven of Rest on behalf of UA staff. SEAC now has an account to handle events funding. Laura will forward emails to SEAC-C about the new account.

Are we going to have a spring party? If so, we only have seven weeks to organize it. Should we try to get the student union or wellness center? Any suggestions? Social committee should have meeting to decide.

Website Committee: Shuster (reporting) - Minutes sent. UA wants to focus main website towards prospective students vs. current students; want to improve Zipline for faculty/staff and current students so more links are on Zipline instead of spread out over all department web sites. Not in any hurry. Bob mentioned that the website is not

conducive to mobile devices and should be included in updates as more and more technology is accessible from mobile devices. Jim also mentioned handicap accessible compliance.

Operations Advisory Committee: Dinger (reporting) - Subcommittee on Student Union is trying to find out why it is booked so much, what are policies on bookings. Committee met with Student Union Assistant Manager Diane Doll on who is using rooms and when. Student Union is going to advertise calendar so people know what is available. John Case does not handle Student Union but does Quaker Square.

Performance Evaluation Subcommittee: Lissia Anderson (no report)

OSCHE Meeting at Ohio State: Representatives were unable to attend. Important to have somebody go to the next meeting at Bowling Green w/Eric Fingerhut. OSCHE is Ohio Staff Council of Higher Education. They just rewrote bylaws and Bob will email them to the "C" list after the meeting today. They need to know who the rep to their organization is going to be as they want two named voting reps. Laura asked what happens if the named voters can't attend -- do they have a proxy vote? OSCHE is good for info on HB 187 and networking between the institutions. Wright State was very aggressive on HB 187. The bill has assurances that organizations like ours will be consulted of any changes. Laura says Bill Viau should come and talk about HB187.

OSCHE – we can name three alternative voting members. Fall and spring are 1-day meetings and there is a summer conference. Usually have presentation about what each council is doing but that has been moved to summer conference. SEAC needs to consider how to set up voting reps and alternates. Chair should be one of voting reps (and maybe vice chair). Have to predict who can go. Alternates should not be first year but 2nd or 3rd year SEAC members. Shouldn't be problem as our people start in August. OSCHE is looking at ways to get money to operate so there may be future fees. There is already a fee for summer conference, but not fall and spring. This summer the meeting will be held at Lorain Community College. Need questions for the Fingerhut meeting on 4/4/08 at Wright State (Dayton). Chair and vice chair should plan on attending w/alternates at needed. This is a self-pay event.

Committee on Researching Performance Review Process: Lissia is chair and she's been out. Having open training for process. No changes this year – wait until A.G. Monaco reviews it. Jim thought committee could work on things they could share with staff to amplify benefits of performance review process. The Training and Development website has a log form to keep track of performance. Grievance procedures may never really be resolved as UA not able to report personnel actions against a supervisor.

Ask AG how he feels about rating supervisors. What is recourse for employees? Can we put something together so people know their recourse? Would require 360 degree review. Bob talked about online review service and Laura says we may have that but don't use it.

Miscellaneous:

A discussion took place on the future budget issues related to the stadium project. Expect it will effect raises; re: the 1/24/08 Beacon Journal article regarding the issuing of \$187 million for bonds and the fact that we can't issue more because we are maxed out. How to fund next big building projects such as a parking deck? Quaker Square needs attention so will require lots of work and money too.

Emeritus status for staff (non-bargaining)? Need more research. Title only? Faculty retirees made issue at senate about returning retirees having to pay for parking. People like Mallo, etc. Retirees have parking permit that says emeritus. They get UAnet id's. Emeritus Faculty is by name only. Expected to contribute. Need to find out if anybody else has title – Bob will email OSCHE people to see if any Ohio state universities have such a designation.

Websters definition of "Emeritus:" One retired from professional life but permitted to retain as an honorary title the rank of the last office held.

New Business:

SEAC is primarily a presidential advisory committee. President requires stuff not fluff. We basically only deal with issues that effect all staff, not individual staff.

Open discussion ensued.