

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of September 26, 2023
FACULTY SENATE

<http://www.utoledo.edu/facsenate>

Approved @ FS on 10/10/2023

Summary of Discussion

Note: The taped recording of this meeting is available in the Faculty Senate office or in the University Archives.

President Rouillard: Welcome to the third Faculty Senate meeting of academic year, 2023-24. I call this meeting to order, and I ask Secretary Coulter-Harris to call the roll.

Senator Coulter-Harris: Thank you, President Rouillard.

Present: Ammon Allred, Elissar Andari, Tomer Avidor-Reiss, Gabriella Baki, Bruce Bamber, Sharon Barnes, John Bellizzi, Sheri Benton, Terry Bigioni, Timothy Brakel, Ritu Charavarti, Carmen Cioc, Daniel Compora, Deborah Coulter-Harris, Maria Diakonova, Holly Eichner, Hossein Elgafy, Elyce Ervin, Collin Gilstrap, Karen Green, Sally Harmych, Rene Heberle, Samir Hefzy, Cindy Herrera, Mitchell Howard, Gary Insch, Ahalapitiya Jayatissa, Dinkar Kaw, Lauren Koch, Revathy Kumar, Linda Lewin, Kimberly McBride, Daniel McInnis, Thomas McLoughlin, Mohamed Moussa, Kimberly Nigem, Mahasin Osman, Mohamed Osman, Elaine Reeves, Jennifer Reynolds, Linda Rouillard, Eric Sahloff, Paul Schaefer, Barry Scheurmann, Gaby Semaan, Kathy Shan, Chunhua Sheng, Puneet Sindhvani, Stan Stepkowski, Steven Sucheck, Weiqing Sun, Jami Taylor, William Taylor, Kasey Tucker-Gail, James Van Hook, Jerry Van Hoy, Aela Vela, Randall Vesely, Don Wedding.

Excused absence: Jason Huntley, Catherine Johnson, Lee Strang
Unexcused absent: Vicki Dagostino-Kalni

Senator Coulter-Harris: President Rouillard, we have a quorum.

President Rouillard: Thank you, Secretary Coulter-Harris. Okay, our next order of business is to adopt the agenda. Is there a motion to adopt the agenda?

Senator Van Hoy: So moved.

Senator Semaan: Second.

President Rouillard: All those in favor of approving the agenda, please signify by saying ‘aye’ or ‘yes’ in the Chat Box. Any noes or abstentions? That looks like that is passing. ***Approval of Agenda Passed.*** Our next order of business is to approve the Senate Minutes from September 12th. I believe Quinetta circulated those already. Are there any changes that need to be made to those Minutes? Is there a motion to approve those Minutes?

Senator Semaan: So moved.

President Rouillard: Is there a second?

Senator McBride: Second.

President Rouillard: All those in favor of approving the Minutes from September 12th, please signify by saying ‘aye’ or ‘yes’ in the Chat Box. Any nays? And abstentions? Quinetta will let us know about online. The Minutes Passed. ***Motion Passed.***

That then brings us to the Executive Report: I would like to let you know that the Faculty Senate Standing Committees are now mostly populated; please check the FS webpage (<https://www.utoledo.edu/facsenate/committees.html>) for the remaining openings. Chairs have been

appointed. If your college still has no member on any committee, please volunteer. Otherwise, you will leave your college without a voice in curricular, policy, or senate matters. I know that we are all over-committed, but shared governance is vital.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on Friday, September 15th. We established some deadlines for the ad hoc committee that is working on the academic misconduct policy: FS ad hoc committee will forward another draft to Grad Council Executive Committee by November 1st. The Graduate Council Executive Committee should respond to this policy draft by December 4th, either with suggestions for the policy, or the decision to not participate in this policy revision. In between the November 1 and December 4th deadline, the Faculty Senate Exec. and Academic Regulations will also review the draft as well.

If Graduate Council Executive Committee decides to participate, the policy final draft would be due March 1st and distributed to FS before spring break. The Faculty Senate would vote on the policy by the end of the semester, allowing for discussion between March 1 and the last week of classes.

We also discussed the process history of the Institute of American Law and Thought going back to 2019, and models that were used for that proposal specifically from Georgetown and Princeton. Prof. Strang has been invited to speak at FS about the institute. He also had some questions, as did some members of Faculty Senate, about his eligibility to continue serving on Senate given his position as director of the Institute. The Faculty Senate Exec. is considering that issue, and we also forwarded it to the Constitution and Rules Committee for their input.

The other thing that Faculty Senate Executive Committee is working is the possibility of doing a survey on faculty experiences related to the latest round of budget cuts. We are still working on a questionnaire, and delivery and how to exactly deliver this. But I think it is important that we get a sense of exactly how these budget cuts are affecting individual colleges, programs and departments. We will keep you posted on that.

I attended the two online BOT committee meetings yesterday: Trustee and Governance and Finance and Audit, which reported mostly on Q4 for FY23. In Finance and Audit, Mike Dennis reported that collections from UTMC are robust; student accounts receivable are good, especially after moving the due date to early August. And that cash flow is good. Matt Schroeder's report focused on UTP (University of Toledo Physicians) including an \$8.8 million net income loss with a -6.39% operating margin as of June 30, 2023.

They reported on the UT-MAC, which houses malpractice insurance for the institution, as well as the self-insurance premiums for employee health insurance currently holds \$10.4 million.

Trustee Zac Isaac asked about the increase in UTP expenses of about \$2-3 million dollars. Mindy Ward answered that some of this was due to the legacy system prior to EPIC and to outside sourcing costs on anesthesia personnel.

Trustee Ciucci asked about the steep rise in agency expenses. Troy Holmes and Rick Swaine responded that the big struggle was with technician agency hires because our competition is offering technicians much higher compensation. This was also the reason given for the resignation of an entire 7-8 member medical staff office. Part of this agency expense increase was also due to the need to bring in extra help for the implementation of the EPIC system. Mindy Ward indicated that UTP is struggling in the first 2 months of this fiscal year with a loss of 2 million.

I will ask Quinetta to post screen shots of those numbers. [\[Insert Links\]](#)

The Finance and Audit Committee also passed two resolutions:

1. Resolution No. 23-09-34: Intercompany Loan Between UToledo and UTF authorizing a \$10 million loan, \$2.5 million of which to buy a new MRI. Draws on this loan are to be repaid in 5 years
2. Resolution No. 23-09-35: Approval of UTP Line of Credit with UTF for 5-year \$5 million line of credit. UTP also has a \$5 million line of credit with Huntington Bank.
3. Resolution 23-09037 approval for subscription of Dell APEX FLEX on demand for data storage backup and recovery. This is for \$625k spread over 5 years.

These resolutions go to the full Board on September 27 at 9am.

President-Elect Kimberly McBride met with Diane Miller and Interim Provost Molitor; she'll report on that. Sharon Barnes participated at an OFC event and will report on that as well.

That is all I have for the Executive Report. Before President-Elect McBride and Senator Barnes give their reports, do other members of the Executive Committee have anything to add to this report? Okay, then I will pass it to President-Elect McBride.

Senator McBride: Thank you, President Rouillard. So, I had the pleasure of meeting on Friday with both Interim Provost Scott Molitor as well as Dr. Angela Paprocki. In this meeting—I'll keep it short since we are going to have Interim Provost Molitor here—the first thing that we asked about was summer. What we've been told is that indeed the colleges are managing their own summer schedule. So, this is not going to be something that is a directive of the Provost Office this year. The budget funds are in the college and the colleges are going to be making choices about priorities.

The second topic was the \$17.5 Million dollar cut that is being talked about from Finance. We were informed that we can expect that to happen, so no changes in that. I'm not sure how that's going to hit and where it's going to hit right now.

Another point of interest is the Honor's College will be dissolving at the end of the year, and faculty will be returning to their home departments. They will be taking their lines with them. So, in terms of financial costs to the departments, there won't be any. However, that does change what they look like on paper in terms of budget. I'm not sure how that is going to be handled.

And then finally, we talked about the plans for this upcoming year, what that is going to look like. Again, decisions about enrollment are being made at the college level. Those aren't decisions that are going to be led by the Provost Office. So, we can expect courses to be based on what our colleges' needs are.

Then one more thing to mention, HHS and Nursing are the colleges that are talking about merging. It's very, very early right now. But what Interim Provost Molitor plans to do, is to meet with each group and talk with faculty and look at the feasibility of that, and whether or not that is a financial savings as well as does it make sense in terms of our students needs and what our faculty need. Any questions or comments?

Senator McLoughlin: It was just a question in the Chat that asked, 'Can you share the screen of the presentation?' There was not a presentation.

Senator McBride: There is no presentation to share. And then I met with Dianne Miller. A couple of things: SB 83 apparently may have one more day of testimony. She thought that it might open in October. So, we will see what happens with SB 83.

The second thing that I asked her about is Issue 1, and whether or not, we are making any preparations around that. So, if there is a rollback of reproductive rights, what that might look like at the University. So, things like, the availability of plan 'B.' She wasn't sure about that, and so that is something that I am going to be exploring – just thinking ahead.

That was, I think the highlights of our meeting. We talked a lot about things that Faculty Senate would like to achieve this year. So, less reporting from her and more sharing from us. All right, thank you.

Senator Barnes: Hello, everybody. Nice to see you. Can you hear me?

Senator Van Hoy: Yes.

Senator Barnes: Okay. I went down to Columbus last Friday with Dr Rouillard, September 22nd to meet with the Faculty Congress of Ohio, which for those of you who don't know, it's actually two separate entities, the Ohio Faculty Council, which represents all 14 of the public four-year institutions in the state, and something called the Ohio Faculty Senate, which represents all two-year community and technical colleges. And together, they make up the Faculty Congress of Ohio. We met at Ohio State for the day. A couple of things about the entities. They are recognized by the chancellor and the Ohio Board of Regents. They are supposed to be in our forum for discussion of issues, and an opportunity to advocate with each other, amongst each other and to share and advocate with the state. So, it is a good opportunity. The first part of the day from 10:30 to noon, we met separately. I wanted to say a couple of things about what came up during that. Then the second half of the day, from lunch on, we were together and really hearing presentations about the issue of mental health. I don't imagine that's going to come up in your talk at all, Dr. Spann. So, a couple of things that came out of our morning session that was just for the four years. We heard from Sarah Kirkpatrick from the Ohio AAUP. She's the Executive Director of the Ohio Congress at the AAUP, and her report about Senate Bill 83 was actually somewhat optimistic. She reminded us that the very conservative senator who is really pushing the bill doesn't represent all the Republicans in the Ohio Statehouse, and that many of them are not in favor of this as well. And she said that she was "cautiously optimistic." In fact, she was optimistic that it wouldn't have enough votes in the committee, let alone in the larger body. But she did also caution us that things could change on a 'dime.' So, I don't know how 'optimistic' we should be. She emphasized that it is an opportunity for us to do education and outreach too. You know, write local op eds; she talked about how important that is. And maybe Republican Congress senators would be looking for support from their constituencies to explain their vote on the issue, and that's something that we could provide as folks who are very painfully aware of the consequences of that. The other issue she talked about and [it] also came up later, was the intellectual diversity initiatives that we're seeing. She again encouraged us to do the public outreach and to emphasize the impact on students—not just on faculty, but also on students—of those initiatives. She said that making it about students is of course, persuasive. So, cautiously optimistic.

The other issue that came out of the morning session for the Ohio Faculty Council was there's an award committee that gives a Tech Optimization award, and they will be making that announcement at our next meeting in October. Apparently, the deadline was August 18th. So, if folks are not aware of that, that is, of course, something we should be paying attention to. We passed a resolution, in fact, to increase the number of awards to also focus on teaching and possibly potentially, even service and governance. To forward that, we asked all the participating universities to send their outstanding teacher faculty awardees to the state and we are going to forward those. I don't think it already happened yet, but it's going to happen. The chancellor will then give an opportunity to recognize all the excellent faculty teaching awards around the state. So, a nice opportunity for outreach and education about something that's already being done.

On those intellectual diversity institutes, we talked about a possible video conference with colleagues from public universities where this is already in deeper, already passed such as North Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and I think there are some other states that are considering such initiative. So, I know you've been working on that and we're trying to arrange that probably for spring?

President Rouillard: Yes, it may take that long.

Senator Barnes: It is going to take awhile to get it organized, but it seems like it would be interesting. Let's see, what else? The afternoon sessions were all about mental health. I'm just going to say a couple of things. One presenter mentioned that a lot of money has been spent exploring the mental health consequences of the COVID pandemic on students, but not a lot has been spent on the impact on faculty and staff. Maybe that is something that we could potentially do some advocating around as well. And it seemed—and this is my observation, not said by anyone specifically—in the presentations, and we saw seven presentations, that there was a lot of focus on efforts for students and then some efforts to employees, which were perceived somehow as different than staff or even faculty. So, it seemed like faculty might be falling through the cracks a little bit in terms of what are really creative and powerful initiatives that folks are engaging in around the state. One of which was repeatedly mentioned was embedding a counselor in colleges. That seemed to be something that people found really effective and that person was there doing treatment services, which is really different than other kinds of things that council should do. You probably know; I don't exactly know the difference. But, I just want to say one more thing about that. The head of counseling at Ohio State's presentation said, he always encourages people to make a list of the three things they do to relive stress and the three positive health behaviors that they do, and keep the list somewhere. And whenever you are overwhelmed, frustrated or exhausted, look at the list and he will guarantee that you're not doing any of those six. So, I think it kind of stuck with me, that that is a useful thing to think about, in terms of how we take care of ourselves. And so, I think that is it for me, except that I also wanted to say to our younger colleagues, to remember, we know why we are here. It seems like I'm getting from Interim Provost Molitor's presentation two weeks ago the sense that the Board is trying to figure out who we are and what we do. I think it is really important for those of us, especially those of us who've been here since the last century, to remind our newer colleagues or anybody who is getting exhausted, we know why we're here and we know the fantastic work our students doing and we are doing with each other. So, I just wanted to put that out there as for mental health. And, don't forget the joy of the people we work with everyday and really the high quality of work that we do. We need to share that more with the Board and upper administration. We are fully capable of doing that. So, let's do it. That, President Rouillard did not ask, I just said.

President Rouillard: Well said.

Senator Barnes: And they had a really good thing---

President Rouillard: Any questions for Senator Barnes?

Senator Heberle: Also the Ohio Council of AAUP, they also be trying to schedule all faculty meetings at the five institutions...

President Rouillard: Thank you, we'll watch for that. But I do want to thank both President-Elect McBride and Senator Barnes for those reports. And Senator Barnes for a reminder that yes, we do know why we're here even if these chronic cuts don't seem to recognize we know why we're here.

Next on the agenda is the Provost report, and then, that would be followed by an address by Dr. Sammy Spann. And then at 5 o'clock we will be---

President Rouillard: Okay, Provost Molitor, are you there?

Provost Molitor: I am. Can you hear me?

President Rouillard: Yes. Please, go ahead.

Provost Molitor: Apologies that I can't be there in-person. I had a meeting that went right up to 4 o'clock. Thank you, Dr. Rouillard. I wanted to start on a positive note. As I am sure you are aware, the University had the honor of hosting the Reverend William Barber for the 2023 Shapiro Lecture. What a fantastic event. Doermann Theatre was standing room only, and the energy was incredible. Kudos to the Shapiro Lecture committee, Dean Gregory and her colleagues in the College of Arts and Letters for hosting a wonderful event with such an inspirational speaker.

I am also pleased to announce that early last week, Dr. Dan Hammel from the College of Arts and Letters has agreed to serve as acting Vice Provost for Graduate Affairs, and Prof. Mary Humphrys from the Neff College of Business and Innovation has agreed to serve as acting Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. Dr. Hammel has had a long history of service to our institution, serving as a department chair and associate dean for graduate affairs in Arts and Letters, and as a longtime member of Graduate Council and Research Council. Prof. Humphrys also has had a long history of service at UToledo, having served as a department chair, president of Faculty Senate, representative to the Ohio Faculty Council and will continue to serve as a special assistant to the Provost for transfer initiatives. Both will continue some of their teaching and scholarship activities in their respective colleges during their tenure in the Office of the Provost.

For the second meeting in a row, I feel the need to respond to information provided in two recent AAUP newsletters. I really don't want to make a habit of doing this, but again I feel compelled to respond publicly given the content of these newsletters, which I believe to be factually inaccurate and misleading.

The first relates to the newsletter from this past weekend that Dr. Marc Seigar, the dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, has been "indoctrinated" by Faculty Labor Relations to report on faculty about any issue no matter how trivial. In contrast to the information provided in the AAUP newsletter, our concern is more serious than a single research report being submitted a few weeks late to the National Science Foundation. I am unable to give more details, as the University does not publicly discuss ongoing investigations.

I would like to note, however that federal grants are awarded to the institution, not to an individual investigator. As an institution, it is our responsibility to ensure that we comply with all the requirements of these grants. Otherwise, we may jeopardize the ability of our institution to continue receiving such grants, which would adversely impact all faculty and students whose research relies on such funding. And I would like to reiterate that neither Finance nor Faculty Labor Relations staff are making decisions regarding disciplinary issues involving faculty. Although Faculty Labor Relations provides Academic Affairs assistance with conducting investigations, ultimately Academic Affairs is solely responsible for making any determinations about disciplinary actions that may result.

I would also like to address a statement in a previous AAUP newsletter that we are cutting faculty and programs vs. administration. Over the past few years in the Office of the Provost, we have gone from three vice provosts to one and we have eliminated the associate vice provost for student success position. Across Academic Affairs, we have eliminated an associate dean position and one half of a dean position

in the College of Graduate Studies; and we are exploring similar changes in Honors and University College. In contrast, there have been no cuts to programs that have resulted in elimination of faculty during the 2024 fiscal year budget development. Any reductions in faculty have been the result of not filling vacant positions and reductions in part-time and visiting faculty through workload and course scheduling efficiencies.

I certainly appreciate that these reductions have further impacted faculty and staff that are already stretched, just as similar reductions have impacted staff in the Offices of the Provost and other areas. The reality of the situation is that we have seen a dramatic decrease in tuition and auxiliary revenue due to historic and ongoing decreases in enrollment, and as a result most areas are aligning their budgeted expenses with our new revenue realities.

Which brings me to the final topic of my report – the well-being of our faculty, staff and students. Kudos to Senate President-elect Kimberly McBride and her executive committee colleagues for raising this issue when we met this past Friday. Our greater University community has been adversely affected by internal factors such as budget cuts, added workload and uncertainty about organizational changes. This is in addition to external factors such as the recent Supreme Court ruling, pending Ohio legislation, the UAW strike, and a potential resurgence of COVID. The well-being of our faculty, staff and students has weighed heavily on me since accepting the interim Provost role.

So let me try to end on a positive note, again courtesy of our executive committee colleagues. During our conversation on well-being, the discussion turned to little things we could do to take care of each other. Dr. McBride mentioned she was organizing a group to take a trip to MacQueen's apple orchard for some apple picking and other fall activities. Dr. Coulter-Harris mentioned that she was organizing a group to go see a performance by the Dept. of Theatre and Film of the Diary of Anne Frank. As an aside, we also learned that Dr. Herrera's daughter is playing Anne Frank in this production!

I truly felt invigorated after that conversation. As soon as the meeting ended, Angela Paprocki came to my office and said we should organize a similar outing for the Provost Office Staff. So, this is where I want to end my report – despite the ongoing challenges, make sure you take the time to take care of yourselves and to take care of your colleagues. We can make it through these challenging times and come out stronger on the other end.

Again, thanks for your time, and I'm happy to take any questions.

Senator Avidor-Reiss: Are there following cuts that we're going to see in the Provost Office? So, the Office of HR, the HR people, there are 40 of them, are they going to increase in size?

Provost Molitor: I couldn't hear all of that. You were asking about cuts in other areas outside of the Office of the Provost?

Senator Avidor-Reiss: Yes, especially outside of it. Mainly the HR unit.

Provost Molitor: I cannot directly answer that. You will have to ask Matt Schroeder about the HR budget. My recollection of the FY24 budget discussions were that all areas, including Academic Affairs, had to meet cuts at a certain percentage. I think it was pretty much across the board for all units. So, you would have to ask Matt how HR and other units under his supervision had met those cuts. I can't provide the details.

President Rouillard: Any other questions? All right, thank you---

Prof. Reuille: I have a hand up.

President Rouillard: Please, go ahead.

Prof. Reuille: Hi, I'm Kristi Reuille from the College of Nursing. Thank you, Provost Molitor. I wanted to follow-up to the discussion about the AAUP newsletter. About the Provost Office and about cuts in the Provost Office, that again is a cut in academics, and it is affecting faculty. My primary question is, I did attend one of the meetings about the search for the new provost. I don't remember from that whether or not there was discussion of, I remember seeing a slide that said, 'these are the responsibilities of the provost office at the time the new provost is appointed.' Is Faculty Labor Relations in that bucket, or is it going to stay under HR, Matt Schroeder?

Provost Molitor: My understanding is that the Faculty Labor Relations group will remain in Human Resources and will not be under the purview of the new provost.

Prof. Reuille: And have you been given an explanation for that? Or do you have, I mean, you may or may not be able to share that. But Faculty Labor Relations not being under the Provost Office has been problematic in the last little bit.

Provost Molitor: Again, this has been ongoing. Faculty Labor Relations has been in HR going back to 2019 when I first got involved in Faculty Affairs. So it has been in HR under three different provosts. I don't know if there has been any conversation to change that. And again, I'm not quite sure what you think is not working. Given how Academic Affairs relies on the service that they provide, and from my perspective and my time here in the Provost Office, which obviously has been limited, this arrangement seems to be working. So, I am not sure how anything would differ if it is over here. Again, Academic Affairs ultimately is responsible for making all the decisions regarding faculty issues.

Prof. Reuille: Right, and I appreciate that, and I appreciate your feedback. However, when your budget or the Provost Office budget, or the academic budget comes from Matt Schroeder's Office, and HR is led by Matt Schroeder Office; you know, in conversations we're being told the provost is the second highest office at the University of Toledo. Candid conversations among faculty would indicate that perhaps there's another individual who is unfortunately occupying that role. And if not, then in the org chart, at least in the reality of university. That is all I'm going to say about that. I appreciate your help, Provost Molitor and I appreciate your feedback. Thank you.

President Rouillard: Any other questions?

Senator Wedding: Don Wedding has a comment. I stand by my newsletter last Saturday. I was at the meeting on Friday. I took good notes. I took comments. Everything I said in that newsletter was accurate. The only issue I have is why is HR investigating, because that is what it was, a very high-ranking research scientist for "whether or not he turned in a SF Grant on time or not?" It is to me an overkill. In fact, I like to know why HR even has any jurisdiction in this matter? Why it would not be taken place with Research Council or with Frank Calzonetti? HR is in everything on this campus. And Kristi is right with what she just said, Matt Schroeder is draining this University.

Provost Molitor: Okay. Again, I cannot comment on the specifics of an investigation. And again, this is not initiated and or determined by HR, or Faculty Labor Relations or Finance. This is a concern that came

out of Academic Affairs given conversations we had with the granting agency. We must protect our institution. Grants are awarded to the institution, not to an individual investigator. And this affects everyone whose work is supported by federal grants. We must protect our institution's ability to continue receiving those grants. In order to continue receiving those grants, we must comply with the requirements of those granting agencies.

President Rouillard: Okay, thank you very much. We will have to cut the questions there because our next speaker, Dr. Spann has to be somewhere. Provost Molitor, thank you for coming and spending time with us, and updating us with things from your office. So, thank you. Without further ado, I would be happy to introduce Dr. Sammy Spann.

Dr. Sammy Spann: Thank you so much. Good afternoon, family. I want to talk to you about some things positive that we have accomplished. I am more than happy to answer any questions as it relates to Student Affairs, the things that we've been doing in Student Affairs, and the remarkable support that we've been getting from faculty and the deans when we have issues with students. The Case Center, the Center for Advocacy and Student Experience has been getting a lot more calls. We're now working very closely with the Counseling Center that are now going to be doing some more programs for our students as it relates to mental health and activities like that. So, that is what I'm always excited to talk about. Usually when I come, I always have gifts; this time is just a smile.

I just want to tell you all, thank you for what you have done in the past, and what you would collectively do for our students as we move forward. The student experience is the foundation of my existence here. And I know that is in the classroom and outside the classroom as well. I want you to look at me and the division of Student Affairs as a partner.

I want to talk a little bit to you about Rocket Kids. It is a \$11.5 Million Dollar grant through the Department of Army that we have received. Those of you who have been here since the previous decade, as you mentioned earlier, remember a program called Camp Adventure. Camp Adventure folded about three years ago, and the military reached out to the University of Toledo specifically to jumpstart this program. There were about 13 universities that have training sites, 80 universities total that fitted the program, and we sent out over 1500 students, 2000 students a year. The military reached out through all those 80 universities to the University of Toledo and said, could you please create something similar and better than the Camp Adventure Program? We answered the call, and now we have a program called Rocket Kids.

I'm going to present a few slides. Rocket Kids is the newly designed service and learning program. I'm working with Faculty Senate to create the credit hours. Students will be able to get about 12 university credit hours. We're also working with the Registrar's Office and faculty to create an indicator in the transcript of service-learning. On your transcript also, students will be able to get a certificate. So it is a certificate program if they do a successful 12-hours and the experience out in the field. Students go through a lot to get in this program. It is an interviewing process. We interview students like you. We interview them in groups. We are looking for people who have highly energy and excited to work with youth. And also very patriotic because a lot of times we're giving back to the military. A lot of these military bases, the reason why they came to us is because without our help, they got to close-down to youth centers. So, you have someone who lived in Hawaii three years. They moved to Texas for two years, and now they're over in Germany and they need childcare. The one spouse is in the military and the

other spouse is looking for a job, and they are having issues because they don't have enough childcare facilities. That is where the University of Toledo has come in at.

Benefits from the students are simple. This is one of our students who just went this past summer, Mr. Kenyatta from Columbus. He never had been on a plane or a train. He never did much outside of the state Ohio, and he traveled to Belgium. There are some fun stories that I can tell you about him, but I know he would be embarrassed. But his experience was phenomenal. Remember, he never had been on a plane. He flew to Chicago from Detroit. If you have ever flown out Chicago, you know it's kind of confusing. He walked outside the security gate and saw a Burger King. He left his passport and everything and couldn't get back in. He missed his flight. But although that was painful, we worked through it with him. It was a learning experience for it. Right? Then he got to Germany. So, if the students have more than a 15-minute walk, the military provides transportation. He had an 18-minute walk so they gave him bikes, but he doesn't know how to ride a bike. So, Kenyatta learned a lot this summer. That is just a little note from me. He would 'kill' me if he knew that I was telling you this, but hopefully he doesn't mind. So the youth get to experience a variety of cultures. Kenyatta was there for 12 weeks, and he went to nine countries. Every weekend they got on the train--got an Eurail Pass--and they went somewhere different. So he went from going to one different country in one summer to a total of nine countries, 10 including the one that he stayed in for to run the program.

I talked to you a little bit about housing, travel and living stipend being provided. The military pays 90% of all costs. The students got a chance to discover who they are. They were lost. This is not like study abroad. Students who do this program, Monday through Friday, they work with the children, and during the weekend they can travel. But they must register if they are going to travel, and they must travel with a buddy. The worst-case scenario -- and I'll talk about it in a moment -- what students have to pay, is not that much. We sent 30 students this past summer. They had a remarkable experience. Part of the contract agreement is that we do site visits and make sure things are going right. So, I went over this summer and Dr. Postel came over as well and had dinner with the students. And when I tell you, that was a defining moment, not just to Dr. Postel, but to the students. It was a remarkable experience.

I think this video may work. Well, it is not going to work so I'll talk you through it. It was a video clip to show you some highlights. So right now, currently, we go to Belgium, Germany, Italy, and in Netherlands. We have students in NATO. The students who stayed in NATO had a remarkable experience and they got a chance to see the Dutch side and the French side, right?

President Rouillard: Yes.

Dr. Spann: I got to see it. It was unique to see the students go in there. The military pays for the student's housing. So, they either live on the military base or somewhere close by the military. The one in the Netherlands, they stayed in a hotel that was above a bar. I was so nervous about it, but the family that owned the bar were like parents to them. When they came in, they fixed them food. Fed them for free. They would not let them hang out around the bar. It was a good experience. I just thought it was something unique that I saw.

The program cost that the students would pay: the worst-case scenario, the student pays \$500 for the credit hours. The funding for the credit hour comes back into the program to reduce the cost for the student to go out in the field. So right now, it is \$500 per credit hours. Travel: The background check, the passport and the insurance (we get patriation and life insurance on the students), they pay for that, that is \$500. Then they have to wear a uniform with a logo. I have one on myself right now. First aid: they are First Aid and CPR certified. And worst-case scenario, the student will get about \$1,300 dollars. But if they have a passport, you could knock off \$109. So, you can see where I'm going. That is why I said,

'worst-case scenario.' In return, students are going to get \$25 dollars each day. For a 12-week stint, that is about \$2,000 dollars. So the students are going to get \$2,000 dollars up front and a plane ticket and they are going to get taken to their destination. The spring semester, the students are going to go through training. They go through 80 hours of training, not just CPR, first-aid and all those important parts, but they also get child development stages. Living in another country that may not be familiar with non-Western experiences. We invite faculty members to come and talk about ages and stages for children, or military personnel that talk about what is like to be on a military base. We go through all of these different trainings all semester long. This year the military is requesting 200 students. We only sent 30, and so that lets you know we are far behind. We partnered with several other universities. We have that 'overt buzzer' down South, Bowling Green, and we have San Diego State University. We are also working with Georgia State University who partnered with us to send students. The best thing about this is those students are going to be 'Rockets' when they go out in the field. They are going to be enrolled in Rocket courses. They are going to be on our Blackboard. They are going to be doing a lot of great things. Dr. Postel had a chance to meet a student who was from Iowa who did a program this past summer. She is graduating, and guess where she is going to get her master's? The University of Toledo. So, there's a lot of opportunity here for this program to expand. Once we get to 200, the military is going to open it up to all the other branches. Right now, Hawaii is asking, South Korea is asking. Okinawa Japan and Mainland Japan, those are the ones who are inquiring. We have two years to really build this program. We have a five-year contract with them. After the fifth year, they will open it back up for the RFP. So that's why you will see a lot of aggression on my part to talk about it in spaces like this, so we not only get the word out, but also to build the program. At full compacity, this program will send out 1500 students to over 36 military bases around the world. It's all safe places, but this is something that we can have, and we can own. When the University of Northern Iowa owned the previous program, the University of Toledo did not benefit from it at all. We get a lot out of this because, as the program grows, citizenships will be coming in, research opportunities will be coming in place, and so on and so forth.

Finally, as the program goes on, part of the agreement is that we have to do is site visits. Some of you all have done site visits for me with my study abroad programs. But we would like to take faculty over, so they would not only see the program, but they also get to experience what the students are experiencing when they come back. The students come back highly engaged. Three of the students got job offers. It is beyond belief of what happens. Ninety percent of the parents who allow the students to do this program have told me, I wish this was there when I was in college. And so, that's a really good warm feeling that we know we have. We know we got a lot of things that are happening at the university level nationwide, but it's good to start looking at these small victories that we're having and we're going to continue to build these.

These are things that we're covering. These are a few students who just gave some of their experiences. Sam and Angelina are two students who from the University of Toledo and went and did a remarkable job. It opened their eyes to a whole new venture. One student changed their major from education to engineering. Why? They realized they don't want to be with that many kids. One student changed their major from adolescent young adult to early childhood. We had about five BG students go on this trip, and they fell in love with it. One is also talking about coming up for grad school. So, there are opportunities for us not only to sell our university and build a wonderful program, but it is a great way we can give back to our country and our military personnel and be very supportive in that way.

The last thing I would say. This is the QR code we extend to students to have it. Right now, we have been sitting at the study abroad fares and just reaching out students. We have over 300 interest forms already, and that is a huge increase. I think that would help us get to that 200. Once we get to that number, then the

next challenge is going to be opening up for other branches. So, we are very excited about it. I will answer any questions. I can also pivot to Student Affairs, what we're doing in Student Affairs. I know we've talked a little bit about budget cuts. You all may not know this, but when I took this position as Vice President and Dean of Students, I cut out 12 [administrative] positions. Previously, there was the vice president, associate vice president of dean of students, and two other associate vice presidents. That doesn't exist. I have myself, and I have three directors, and 12 associate directors. So, I got rid of a lot of director positions. We did that strategically coming in this year because we wanted to minimize our footprint. We did that by 12 people, but I still believe in a growth mindset. We can grow in the midst of shrinking, and that is what we're going to do. We are working closely with the Counseling Center, creating more opportunities for students to have mental help. I will tell you something about this new generation. I know you mentioned it earlier about some research that they were doing about COVID. What I am finding right now [and is coming to my desk], these freshmen that are coming in right now, they're different than the previous ones who missed their prom and things you mentioned. They came through COVID when they were in middle school. That was still 'I love you' and 'give me a hug' stage. They missed that. The students who missed prom and came to UT, they were all about online. They were all about 'just send me this.' I was worried that was where the culture was going to shift, but this new generation is like, I came to your office, and I want 'x, y, and z.' They want that content. And for me, because my role is student engagement and student involvement, I like that. But that is what this new generation is coming in. So, when that study comes out, I would love to read it because we do have the pivot on how we teach and how we care for these students. They're wonderful students as we have wonderful faculty. We got to make sure they are getting these experiences. The number one person that mentor them the most -- you. You might not talk about, but you are, so thank you so much for doing that. Are there any questions that I can entertain? Yes?

Senator Avidor-Reiss: Thank you so much for the presentation, it was very encouraging. I have a question. How is your office surveying the feelings of what the students and their parents think about the University of Toledo? Is there any way you can learn about what the current student feels and their parents about the experience here at UT?

Dr. Spann: I would say anecdotal, but we do have a new program called College ESP. Right now, we have about 4,500 parents who are signed up to it. I'm a parent, so I get messages from that. It makes me feel better because it tells me, not just when a game is coming, but it gives me updates and tells me about a faculty member who is doing research in the area that my child is interested in. It has those algorithms in there to help do that. We just got that this year. We are taking about 250 students to Kalahari next month. We do it every year. We take the president of the student organization, vice president and an uprising...So we take them to Kalahari and spend the whole day there. We spend the night, and we do a word cloud board where they all come up and talk about their experience. The number one question we ask them, what does it mean to be a Rocket? And that is something that we struggle with. Right? Because we go through so many changes administratively, financially and everything else that we get lost in the mix. But the goal is to get us to our students can see what it means to be a Rocket and say it means 'this.' Or it needs to be 'a university with strong faculty and we can do research', or 'I have this experience.' That is what I want to get them to. But those are the questions that we're asking.

Senator Avidor-Reiss: What is the main concern they are expressing, and what do you do about the concern?

Dr. Spann: Well, right now we have the Case Center that they come to. But any immediate concern that we're kind of getting most now, mental health is still there. It is still an important factor in this equation. Parents concerns are, will my child be able to get a job. It's a little bit more emotional because parents are

a little bit more, you know, the old saying, ‘helicopter parents?’ They are now the ‘lawnmower’ parents. It is not a ‘bad’ thing. I want that, right? But they are getting more engaged, more concerned because they want to know about their children’s future. So those are the concerns that are coming to me the most/coming to us the most. Yes, they are going to complain about parking, and yes, they are going to complain about food. We are working on those as well. But the ones that are more holistically is them trying to figure out who we are. That’s the hard part, and also giving them the opportunity to learn that. So, we do have a plan to help build out more interaction students and also with the parents.

President Rouillard: Questions?

Dr. Spann: Thank you all so much.

President Rouillard: Thanks, Dr. Spann. We’re watching for Senator Ingram to hop on to the video conference. We don’t see her yet. I am hoping that she’s not having trouble connecting. I did give her my cell phone to text or call if there are any issues, so fingers crossed. Senator Coulter-Harris, don’t go too far because since the Senator [Senator Ingram] isn’t on yet, do you want to give your report?

Senator Coulter-Harris: Yes, sure. It will take me 10 minutes.

President Rouillard: Okay.

Senator Coulter-Harris: All right. Good evening, senators. Thank you so much. You would have received the very detailed memorandum for record with all the facts that are going to be at your fingertips. So, I’m going to go through this very, very carefully and very quickly. So this is my committee. You can see it’s full. Wonderful, wonderful people. They’ve been with me for three years, except for two. We had to replace two because two people left: one left the university and the other now holds an admin position. The introductory slides, Student Government President Lucas Will, Vice President Tanner Schutz, and Student Government members sent their final four issues to our committee on 8 September. This is going to be useful to us in providing guidance and strategic resolution of problems.

Our first committee meeting was on Thursday, 14 September. The committee determined by consensus that issues directly tie into Recruitment, Enrollment, and Retention problems. We brainstormed initial strategies for resolution of these problems. As we research and make appropriate contacts, more strategies and solutions will become evident. So, the first issue was with the dining halls, Ottawa East and Student Union. The subcommittee will be dealing with that issue, Sally Harnych, Sarah Aldrich Renner, Barry Scheuermann, Paulette Kilmer. They will be giving their report around 24 October or in early November. Some of the issues that we’ll be dealing with: dining halls need extended hours of operation. I’ve given you the link also to the hours of operation. Also, the quality of food should be consistent. There’s been a lot of complaints by students about the quality. Food labeling should be consistent. And, of course, it was brought up that financial cuts to operational hours hinders the purchase of meal plans. The Student Government also wants a faculty member on its dining committee – someone who does go to the dining hall regularly. This year they received zero positive student reviews for dining halls. Now, our suggestions – these are just initial suggestions – set an hour for students with food allergies because this hour might vanish because of lack of student utilization; students actually don’t know about this particular hour. So, that needs to be advertised. We’re asking why not a dining hall in Parks Towers where all the students live, right? This is a big one, to enable the meal card to dine at designated outside restaurants. So our initial contacts for those will be dining services, Reslife, and our city Health Department.

The second issue is parking. This isn't about the lack of spaces. Our subcommittee is Lucy Duhon, Karen Green and myself. We're going to talk about the price of the student parking [permit] pass, which is now at \$280 dollars. Ticket prices range between \$35 and \$100 dollars, which the Student Government considers to be a detriment to student success. There's also no mercy or 'forgiveness' violations. The Student Government has spoken to ParkUToledo about forgiveness. ParkUToledo want students to complete a parking literacy test first before ticket forgiveness. Sure! So, our suggestions: Student Government suggested a fund to help financially insecure students, so they can pay some of these tickets. I'd like also to review the ParkUToledo contract with the administration because University of Toledo does have asset control. As a matter of fact, UT retains control of parking policy, eligibility, rates and fines. When they made this contract there was no transfer of ownership at all. So, it is the administration who is in charge of setting these fees. So we got our work cut out for us.

Issue Three is Reslife. The makeup of the subcommittee is Samir Hefzy, Berhane Teclhaimanot, Barry Scheuermann, and myself. The Student Government wants UT to stop pouring money to add new features like pool tables or games and things like that. What they want in residence halls is to have a consistent standard of living regarding hot water, proper seasonal heating and cooling of rooms, and operational laundry machines. Now, this was an issue we dealt with last year, if you all remember. And Karen Green, you'll back me up in this when I say we met with American Campus Communities over at Parks Tower about the many issues that they had. Our suggestions, meet with American Campus Community again, and investigate the current state of investment in these issues. Our contacts will be American Campus Community, Jason Toth and Reslife.

Finally, the fourth issue is student involvement. All of our committee members are going to work on this issue. The Student Government says that the last two years that student involvement has been very low. There were many, many campus events, but the attendance was lacking. The Student Government President said, "Well, students don't want to leave their comfortable rooms." Now, I don't know how true that is. He said there was an increase in involvement right at the beginning of the semester. There was a high turnout in campus organizations in Fall 2023; however, we need to monitor involvement over the academic year. Now, this is what we plan. Create a survey that will ask students what kind of activities, events would interest them in the following areas. So, not just sports and entertainment. We're talking about academic activities, cultural activities, entertainment, sports, arts, and socials. So, this survey hopefully would be out by the end of October. We also realize that many students do not attend because they are working. So, we also need to establish best days and times. And also consider that we have a very large number of students who are commuters. As we research and make appropriate contacts, more strategies and solutions will become evident. So, that is our full report. Thank you.

President Rouillard: Thank you, Senator Coulter-Harris. I would like to come back to your presentation after the Senator speaks to us.

Senator Coulter-Harris: Sure.

President Rouillard: So, we can come back for questions.

Senator Coulter-Harris: Absolutely, I'd be happy to answer them. Thank you all very much.

President Rouillard: So, now it's my honor and pleasure to introduce Senator Catherine Ingram to you this afternoon. She comes to us from the Committee of Workforce and Higher Education in the Ohio

Senate. I saw her response to Senator Cirino's proponent testimony to SB 83, and was very impressed with the issues that she brought to that discussion. I am very appreciative, as I know you are as well of the time that she has offered to spend with us here today. So, without further ado, please join me in welcoming Senator Ingram.

State Senator Ingram: Thank you, thank you very much. I'm not sure if you can hear me because I have no clue---

President Rouillard: Yes, we can hear you.

State Senator Ingram: Okay. I've done something, who knows.

President Rouillard: Now we can see you.

State Senator Ingram: Thank you so much for wanting to speak to me. I'm here for you. I'm from the Cincinnati area, and of course, a member on workforce and higher ed. I'm just here simply to do my job. I'm glad that you were impressed, but the work I do is not to make sure people are impressed, but to make sure people know that I am there to take care of the work that needs to be done here at the State House. And so, any pushback I give is because it was necessary. And any conversations we have are trying to get me to understand and get me further in making sure that I'm in the right direction for what I see happening here that is being pushed down to our institutions, whether they want it or not. So, I'm here to hear what you're saying. I heard all [about] the cafeteria food and the parking, so I get it.

President Rouillard: So, you are privy to our daily issues and challenges but, personally, one of the challenges that I'm finding difficult to understand and resolve is this incredible antagonism that I hear coming from certain legislators towards education in general and towards higher ed. in particular. SB 83 and the accompanying House bill is a little less aggressive and hostile. I'm still trying to figure out where this comes from, where this antagonism comes from, and what we can do as faculty to mitigate some of this.

State Senator Ingram: Well, I think that part of what you need to be saying is, if you listen to even the testimony, which was on the bill that finally got in the budget in regard to creating those centers, it's a way of making sure that our kids aren't indoctrinated. You guys are just becoming 'too liberal' and so they need to 'save our kids.' So, part of what they want to continue to do is dictate how you do your educated. Excuse me, I'm getting choked. Okay. So, my mother would say, 'That's the devil not wanting you to talk.' But I think as long as you speak up as faculty and make sure that your voices are being heard, and the students. The students were eloquent. I mean, when they came and testified, I said, do you believe that these kids are idiots? I mean, they think for themselves. I don't think there is an instructor or professor that would allow their students not to talk back to them, not allow them to say, okay, I don't agree with you. I have seen notices, or I've seen things that people have said have happened in regard to 'I got a zero on a score' or something like that. And I think that's something that is outrageous, but it is not hard for the course. It is not what happens all the time. Unfortunately, in the haste to clear the 'streets' of our students who are thinking for themselves, we want to make sure that we do indoctrinate them. So, your job to me is to be able to say [something] back to those other faculty members who in your case, the law school said that they were on board with everything that was going on as far as creating those free speech centers and the fact that some of our Board of Trustees are allowing for this whole CRT thinking. It is just shameful that a few voices get to say that out loud. Then our legislature, who are the epitome of a

bully would have the audacity to turn around and say, yeah, we don't want them talking about that, or when we tell you what to teach, you teach American history again. Well, wait a minute. I've got high schools that teach advanced placement American history and government, and those kinds of things. So, how dare you insinuate that you want the Martin Luther King's Birmingham jail letter read? It is five federalist papers, just five of them. Now, we all know how many there were. But that is, of course, that whole, 'I want to be in charge' and 'I'm that person.' It's very sad. Can you help me understand what your thinking is about what you see and hear?

President Rouillard: Are there any questions, either from the senators here in person or the senators online, that you would like to ask Senator Ingram?

Senator Avidor-Reiss: I have a question. I wonder if the concern of the condition is that we as a university, the faculty here, do not represent the complete spectrum of political opinion? Do you think that we are being perceived (most faculty) as the other party creating this problem? My question is, is it the question of representation? Do we represent the full spectrum of the political idea of the other side?

State Senator Ingram: And I thank you. You are absolutely right. If you go back and listen to the sponsor testimony when Senator Cirino introduced the bill regarding the centers, (and he also introduced Senate Bill 83) at both points, his point was that the faculty in our public institutions has become more leftist over the years. The students aren't more leftist. It's the professors, and the teachers, and everybody else that are becoming more leftist. And therefore, we're 'indoctrinating' our students instead of listening to them, and talking to them, and allowing for freedom of speech. I would resent that too if I were there with you as a professor. I would resent that.

President Rouillard: Any other questions or comments? Anybody online? Yes, Senator Heberle?

Senator Heberle: Thank you, Senator Ingram for being with us this afternoon. I can appreciate the difficulty of sitting in that committee hearing and listening to some of this language, and discourse, and argument or lack thereof. I think that one thing I really want to emphasize is this is not unique to our state. It is a national initiative

State Senator Ingram: Right.

Senator Heberle cont'd: It is also coming from places that are not organic to Ohio. When Representative Hicks-Hudson was here a couple of weeks ago, she was talking about how this is not about Ohio. This is about a national campaign to undermine the terms of autonomy of the university system, and to micromanage the legislative place. So, I feel like the ideological battle is obviously there, but I think another way of approaching it is to really address and demand that universities be allowed to do their job in an independent way, independent of politics. Because if it is not Senator Cirino, it could be some other senator from some other position saying, no, I want this taught at the university, or no, I think the Board of Trustees should have this type of training. And so, it is this effort to manage from the legislature that is for me, the real crux of the issue. Ideology, I mean, they're taking up this opportunity now, it's a national movement, National Association of Scholars. All those folks are busy doing all of this through the legislature.

State Senator Ingram: Right.

Senator Heberle cont'd: But my comment was more like, if it is not you, it'll be somebody else. Universities need autonomy to do their work from the legislature. I don't know if it's in the Constitution. I don't know if it's the Ohio Revised Code, but there's got to be some kind of argument that makes that this clear.

State Senator Ingram: Well, but therein lies the difficulty. It's a public institution. [Indecipherable]... not the language for the Senate bill for the thought centers. But Senate Bill 83 originally included all the institutions had to come up with, if you were a private institution, even you had to change your mission statement to indicate that you would be free of the DEI and that you were only there talking about the diversity of thought. They got pushed back from the private schools. So, as you see, they were taken out. So, the difficulty is, is that you're absolutely right. Most of the proponent testimony we got were from people from Arizona, folks from other institutions. As a matter of fact, the one gentleman that testified about the thought centers was a gentleman that worked with the Cope brothers and who was funding some of the organizations he belonged to. So, you are absolutely right. It's a national push to make sure that we have control of the thinking and the thought, and what is being taught in our public institutions. The Chicago papers, if you recall, if you heard any of that, the Chicago papers talked about that quite often. As a matter of fact, when it was voted on on the floor, Senator Cirino talked about the Chicago papers. The difficulty I have with that is, is I think it was a marketing ploy. It was something to get them more students to come and more of certain kinds of students to come to their institution.

President Rouillard: Senator Barnes.

Senator Barnes: Thank you, Senator Ingram. I am wondering if you can tell us anything about how business leaders are responding to the anti-DEI initiatives, given that I think research has been pretty clear about how good it is for business to have diverse employees and diverse customers.

State Senator Ingram: And not only that, there are certain requirements. Let's say at some of these institutions and some of their certification, as you well know, there's a requirement with the accreditation that there be that very thing. And you can call it what you want to, but there has to be inclusion and not only diversity of thought, but diversity of culture and everything else that goes along with that so that you don't get group-think. So, the very institutions that they talked about, I looked at some of their websites and these businesses are gung-ho. And as you've said, are appreciative of the fact that there is diversity and inclusion. Now, do they have too many employees? I don't know. They really hammer the Ohio state. They said that they have all of those employees, and they don't know what they do, they're spending all that money and it's a waste of money because all they need to have is diversity of thought. Well, I've had students all over this state say to me that if it wasn't for that department-- a young lady came in, she was from Nigeria or one of the African countries. She said to me that if it hadn't been for that opportunity for someone there to help her, then she would have not been able to do what she needed to do to survive. So, these are things that get overlooked. I think they see them, but they don't care.

President Rouillard: To follow-up on Senator Barnes' question. I've also wondered about the prohibition of discussing [the] so-called controversial subjects, including climate change. Do the state legislators realize that that might, in fact discourage green industries from relocating in our state if there's that level of antagonism towards the concept of climate change?

State Senator Ingram: Well, here again, I think that the point was well made when it was said that this is a national movement. These guys aren't thinking on their own. They're getting it from some conference

they attended, or it was one of the workshops, or something. They just want to be able to say that climate change doesn't exist and so therefore, our best way to get around it is not to discuss it. I just got invited to go to a solar farm. So, when you look at these kinds of things and then we're talking about solar, you have to remember some folks don't necessarily want some of those new wind farms and solar farms. They don't want them, because the fossil fuels are still padding in the pockets. I worked for the gas and electric company for 20 something years. So, I've heard it all over the years. But over the years, it comes with lifelong learning. You start to understand, well, we've got to do something different because look at where we are and look at what's happening to our oceans that are warm. Who goes to the warm ocean? When you put your toes in, it's supposed to be chilly. It shouldn't be cooking the fish.

President Rouillard: Any other questions or comments? I don't want to ignore the people online. If somebody has something to say, I hope that you will speak up.

State Senator Ingram: Or somebody can tell me that I'm wrong if you want to.

President Rouillard: Well, if there are no other questions, I want to thank you, Senator Ingram for joining us today. We appreciate your time. We appreciate your work in the Senate, and we will do what we can on the ground here as well. So, thank you very much.

State Senator Ingram: Thank you. I do want to say that I think it is so important that voices should be heard from everyone. I was one of those people, I got a lot of push-back. I taught a class, which was about racism and sexism and educational institutions, and I got a lot of push-back from people who didn't want to take the class. I was teaching at Northern Kentucky University, and it was a requirement that you take a class like that, not specifically my class. So, you wouldn't believe how many of my students were just -- I mean, I've probably got the lowest ratings. I had a student tell me that I should give back my salary. So those are the kinds of things that you get, but you have to be honest about what your thinking is, about where we are, and where we're headed. This government is about the people. And unfortunately, despite the fact that our... are gerrymandered, everybody should take the opportunity to say what they need to say about what they don't appreciate about how they are being treated. So, thank you.

President Rouillard: Thank you very much.

State Senator Ingram: I'm going to leave. Bye.

President Rouillard: Bye-bye. Sometimes it could be as hard to get out as it is to get in.

Senator Brakel: Yes.

President Rouillard: Thank you. Yes?

Senator Brakel: You should also point out that you have invited several others from both sides of the aisle.

President Rouillard: Yes, I have issued an invitation to Senator Cirino. So far I got an automatic generated message that said something to the effect of, "...due to the high number of emails I get, please understand if I can't answer each individual email." But he got an invitation. I think it may be also time to issue an invitation to perhaps the Speaker of the House. I believe that's Huffman, if I'm not mistaken.

Senator Heberle: Matt Huffman I think is the leader of the Senate.

President Rouillard: Okay, but I'll need to look at the roster. But I would like to bring in someone from the House now to maybe tell us what the temperature is there.

Senator McInnis: It is Jason Stephens.

President Rouillard: Okay, thank you. So I have issued an invitation to Lee Strang to come and talk to us about the Institute as well, but I've not yet received response. And also related to his status of eligibility to serve in the Senate at this point. So, any other comments before we move back to Senator Coulter-Harris' report and any questions that you might have for her?

Senator Coulter-Harris: I'd like to make a few comments. I want to make people aware of, if you look at the memorandum that I sent out, and if you turn to page 3, I have two very important footnotes and also some very important information in red. Because I know a lot of us aren't aware of the contractual agreement between this administration and ParkUToledo. So, let's just go over this so that everyone is apprised of this. So, the University of Toledo partnered with UParking Toledo. And that team was comprised of Diogenes Capital and SP Plus to refinance the non-core parking assets on our university campuses. So, ParkUToledo was selected following a really heavy competition. You probably already know about this. The committee that gave the contact to ParkUToledo represented treasury, auxiliaries, facilities, student disability services, academic affairs, athletics, and UTMC stakeholders. I want you to be aware that this is a 35-year contract. It provides an opportunity though to refinance the university's non-core parking assets. They would give them an upfront payment of approximately \$50 Million dollars to be managed by the University of Toledo Foundation as well as capital funding of \$50 Million dollars over the life of the 35-year contract and excess cash flow from operations. But what is really interesting about all of this, is that once again, no ownership changed hands during this contact. And so, UT retains control of parking policy, eligibility, but more importantly, rates and fines which directly affect our students – but also directly affects us. I remember back in the day when I first joined the Union, (21 years now) but the parking rate was I think \$45 a year. So it really has escalated.

The other thing I wanted you to look at, look at the two appendices. One is the hours of operation for campus dining. Now we all know that there are many food places in the Student Union that students can go to and eat, but we're talking about the student dining halls. One is Ottawa East and then one in the Student Union. The one in the Student Union closes at 2:30 in the afternoon. It is not open on Saturdays and Sundays. So that's why we're saying, you know, why not open another dining hall, especially in Parks Towers where there are hundreds and hundreds of students living? That would really make a lot of sense. But we're going to try to get these hours extended. We're going to try our best. Also, there's been a real issue with the quality of food, according to the Student Government President. I don't want to go into the gory details, but I was sent photos of some of these, and they were pretty shocking. The other thing was Appendix 2., parking violations, fees and non-ticket holidays. You can look through that also. I think that's very important. So, the four main issues again we'll be dealing with are the dining halls, parking, Reslife, and then student involvement.

Senator Avidor-Reiss: ...Parking...[Indecipherable]... What would prevent the university's administration to make student-centered policies rather than this?

Senator Coulter-Harris: That is exactly what we're going to work on this year. This is going to include, you know, meetings with Matt Schroeder and probably the President and things of that nature. But I want to say, Gary Insch made a very, very good point at our last meeting. I was talking about how high the

students' fees were. But he did remind me that since ParkUToledo took over, our enrollment has gone down. Therefore, there is less money coming in from fines, and parking fees, and all kinds of things. But that to me, doesn't necessitate that a student...our students don't come from wealthy families. This is really a working-class University - mostly. Do you know what I mean? They come from working class people, good, strong working-class people. And then we have some very disadvantaged students also, and I had many, many, many in my class over the years. So, I mean, it just seems to me that there should be an effort, and we are going to make that effort to see if we can negotiate and lower the annual fees. Not just for students, but also for faculty and staff because I think that is very important.

President Rouillard: Any other questions?

Senator McLoughlin: There was a question in the Chat that asked who is speaking? Do you mind just letting them know?

Senator Coulter-Harris: This is Deborah Coulter-Harris.

Professor Reuille: Thank you.

President Rouillard: Mohamed Osman.

Senator Osman: Yes. Thank you so much, Senator Coulter-Harris. I really appreciate the work that you do and the work that you did, especially in the you ParkUToledo. At the Health Science Campus, the parking has been a big issue and concern for the faculty over here at multiple levels. Last year I was in the Executive Committee and we started the conversation at the end of my tenure in the Executive Committee [about such concerns]. We have issues pertaining to, one, access to parking near the hospital for on-call people that covers emergency calls, like trauma for all the emergency on-call physicians. The other issue, which I believe is a major issue is, if a family member drives a car that is registered for faculty and they have to come get the care at the University Medical Center, they have to get some sort of online permission to park in a patient area, otherwise they will get ticketed. And if they get ticketed, the only way to get rid of that ticket to prove to them that you are a patient. That is adding an obstacle for the families of the faculty, not to come get care at the University of Toledo Medical Center. I know that a lot of faculty member's families get their care at ProMedica and other facilities in town, and not UTMC because of this hurdle. So, the question that I have is, is there any mechanism for which the voice of the faculty and the students be heard and have a say in these policies?

Senator Coulter-Harris: Well, first of all, my committee is going to be a voice for the students. I would like to also advocate for you because we're going to be advocating for students, faculty and staff. So, if you would just, if you could and have the time, because I know you're very busy Senator Osman. If you could write me a very short email, explaining this particular problem, so that I can add it to our list of objectives for my committee.

President Rouillard: And what we might also do, is have your committee work in conjunction with Faculty Affairs as well on the faculty parking, and maybe---

Senator Coulter-Harris: Yes, I can work with Sammy.

Senator Osman: Perfect. Will do, Thank you so much.

Senator Coulter-Harris: Thank you, Senator Osman.

Senator Barnes: I've also been ticketed a couple of times.

Senator Coulter-Harris: Why?

Senator Barnes: Also for medical.

Senator Coulter-Harris: Thank you for saying that. Any other questions?

Professor Reuille: Is there any one in the room that wanted to speak? I apologize.

President Rouillard: No hand is up.

Professor Reuille: I wanted to say that Senator Osman is very correct, that you can't breathe on the Health Science Campus and be in a parking space situation. So, it is problematic for people. I have been ticketed by picking my things up at the Pharmacy. I now park in the medical loop, the loop outside because if I actually park in the lot, I'll have to do what Dr. Osman is actually talking about. And if I don't and I get a ticket, then I would have to document I was there getting prescriptions that day. It is tedious and I sometimes I forget. I mean, I have a shortcut on my on my phone for that very reason. I do want to say in defense of ParkUToledo, which does an incredible job of ticketing people and likely collecting fines, that there has been, I don't know what you would call it, I guess capital improvement or whatever to the parking lots in terms of, you know, the one outside of Collier has been resurfaced down, the one outside of...has been done, and Health Ed. has been done. I've seen several on Main Campus that's been taking care of, and the atrocious garages are no longer, although the impact that has on student parking is probably possibly problematic. I just wanted to give credit where credit is due that they are putting some of their money where their mouth is in capital improvements, which I do not believe would be any kind of a priority for the University as a whole- and these lots were a mess before they started this. So, I just wanted to say that.

Senator Coulter-Harris: Thank you so much. I just wanted to say that another big issue is the lack of forgiveness for tickets. Now, back, you know, even five or six years ago, if you did get a ticket, you could appeal the ticket and, you know, most often the ticket was forgiven. Now there's absolutely no forgiveness. Okay, thank you everyone.

President Rouillard: Thank you again for a very good report. Are there any issues from the floor that you'd like to bring up today? Future topics that you'd like to see addressed? Senator McInnis will be bringing a contingent to talk about artificial intelligence at a future meeting. I've forgotten which date we've chosen for that.

Senator McInnis: That was, hold on. That was the 24th.

President Rouillard: Of October?

Senator McInnis: Yes.

President Rouillard: Okay.

Senator Coulter-Harris: Is Matt Schroeder coming on the 10th?

President Rouillard: I believe. I'm not sure if actually he has confirmed yet; I'll have to look at that.

Senator Coulter-Harris: Okay.

President Rouillard: So, we will address that issue. Are there other issues you would like us to look into, or speakers you would like us to bring to Senate? Anybody online?

Senator Coulter-Harris: What about Jason Toth again so he can tell us what kind of capital improvements are being done with the money raised from ParkUToledo?

President Rouillard: That, and any kind of maintenance.

Senator Coulter-Harris: We would like to know how that money is being spent, right? Or he can bring American Campus Community also, I think.

President Rouillard: Yeah, that would be interesting to have---

Professor Reuille: And is there a competitive bidding process that goes into that or is it that they spend whatever money they want to on these improvements? I mean, is there a competitive bidding process when they're doing these capital improvements to these lots? Thank you.

President Rouillard: Anything else? Otherwise, is there a motion to adjourn?

Senator Hefzy: I move to adjourn.

President Rouillard: I don't think we have to take a vote. I think that passes. I'll see you in two weeks in the Collier Building. *Meeting adjourned.*

IV. Meeting adjourned at 5:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Coulter-Harris
Faculty Senate Executive Secretary

Tape summary: Quinetta Hubbard
Faculty Senate Administrative Secretary