

**Minutes**  
**The University of Toledo Board of Trustees**  
**Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting**  
**September 20, 2023**

The meeting was conducted via WebEx. Committee members Mr. Zac Issac, Ms. Eleanore Awadalla, Mr. Alfred Baker, and Mr. Steve Ciucci were present. Other trustees who attended were Mr. Will Lucas. Student Trustees Ms. Madeline Vining and Mr. Kevin Bishop were present. National Trustee Mr. Thomas Wakefield was present. Others in attendance were Dr. Frank Calzonetti, Ms. Meghan Cunningham, Mr. Dave Cutri, Ms. Katie DeBenedictis, Ms. Brenda Grant, Mr. Troy Holmes, Mr. Doug Huffner, Dr. Patrick Lawrence, Dr. Bill McCreary, Mr. Dave Meredith, Dr. Mark Merrick, Ms. Diane Miller, Mr. Scott Molitor, Ms. Angela Paprocki, Dr. Gregory Postel, Mr. Terence Romer, Dr. Linda Rouillard, Dr. Connie Schall, Mr. Matthew Schroeder, Dr. Sammy Spann, Ms. Sabrina Taylor, Ms. Valerie Walston, Mr. Lucas Will, Ms. Sara Wisniewski, and Ms. Maha Zeidan.

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Committee Chair Isaac. Ms. Katie DeBenedictis, Secretary to the Board, recorded the minutes. Trustee Isaac thanked everyone for accommodating the meeting date and time as a new board format has started which separates the committee meetings from the full board meeting. He tasked the academic and student affairs committee with efficiently and effectively reviewing the materials and forwarding items for approval to the consent agenda at the board meeting on September 27. As chair, he will summarize today's actions at the board meeting.

Trustee Isaac mentioned that all stakeholder reports were shared in the board packet and reviewed by trustees prior to this committee meeting. He invited representatives from each group to present highlights from their reports.

Mr. Lucas Will, Student Government President, presented the Student Government report – Attachment 1.

Ms. Maha Zeidan, Graduate Student Association President, presented the Graduate Student Association report. - Attachment 2.

Dr. Linda Rouillard, Faculty Senate President, presented the Faculty Senate report - Attachment 3.

Dr. Patrick Lawrence, Graduate Council President, presented the Graduate Council report - Attachment 4.

**ATTENDANCE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**STAKEHOLDER  
REPORTS**

**STUDENT  
GOVERNMENT**

**GRADUATE  
STUDENT  
ASSOCIATION**

**FACULTY SENATE**

**GRADUATE  
COUNCIL**

Trustee Isaac said there was one item of discussion for today's meeting. He asked Dr. Scott Molitor to introduce himself as the new Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Dr. Molitor thanked Trustee Isaac and spoke about his education and employment history at UToledo.

Trustee Isaac requested a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the June 22, 2023 committee meeting and approve them as written. A motion for approval was provided by Trustee Ciucci, seconded by Trustee Baker, and approved by the committee.

Dr. Molitor presented Resolution No. 23-09-33: Approval of Candidates for Degrees. He reminded the board that this is an annual practice to confer the degrees and listed the dates of fall and spring commencement. Trustee Isaac requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 23-09-33 and forward it to the consent agenda of the next board meeting. A motion for approval was provided by Trustee Awadalla, seconded by Trustee Ciucci, and approved by the committee.

There was no need for an executive session. Trustee Isaac asked the trustees to provide feedback on the new format. With no further topics to discuss and no informational items to mention, the meeting was adjourned at 4:31pm.

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

**MEETING  
MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION NO.  
23-09-33**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Lucas AK Will

President of the Student Body

Stakeholder Report

September 20, 2023

### **Fall 2023 Report**

- The fall semester started off strong for the students. Student government has had the opportunity to meet twice, and while we have mostly focused on internal matters for the beginning, we have set ourselves up nicely for the semester. Our parking town hall has been rebranded as a Q&A and will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm in SU2592. Our first Whatchu Want Day is scheduled for Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Student Government has made great strides in reaching across campus and has connected with Fraternity and Sorority Life, identity-based organizations, and administration like never before because of new positions in our cabinet. We have set ourselves up very nicely for the school year!

### **Student Concerns**

- Enrollment may be down, but campus is more active than I have ever seen during my time at UT. The freshman class is incredibly eager to get involved and invest in our university. Student government had ~30 new members in the first two meetings, when we have never had more than six students join at one time. I plan to keep an eye on enrollment, but I am not concerned with the state of it at the moment. The launchpad tailgate was a HUGE success.
- Many students are struggling to find time to eat at the dining halls since dining has cut 44 hours per week. Student athletes are worried about being able to grab breakfast at the Eatery when it is cold and dark in the winter. HAV residents are already struggled to find the time to dedicate to walking across campus to Ottawa East. Pictures of undercooked meat, moldy bread, and some rotten vegetables have been going around social media. Dining has responded to me raising the concerns of the students by saying that the students are lying or that the moldy food is just bruised. Student government is working to gather student feedback, and we are hoping to compile this data to bring forward to dining. We have also established an official dining committee to speak on behalf of the students on dining concerns.

- Parking continues to be a rough issue for students. Fortunately, Park UToledo has been very communicative with student government. As mentioned before, our parking town hall is being overhauled to a Q&A format during the day to allow commuter students to attend. We are planning to aggressively market this across campus to increase student turnout for this time.

### **Student Government Initiatives**

- We are rebranding the External Committee, chaired by Ashna Tipirneni, to shift their tabling events for gathering student feedback instead of focusing on recruitment. This will help directly connect the words of the students to the administrators and staff members that we are trying to communicate with. We understand that we cannot speak on behalf of the students at all times, so we believe this method will help us gather feedback from all sides of campus.
- Our Internal Committee, chaired by Jordan Slutsky, is focusing its efforts on welcoming and educating our new members. It is our hope that new members of student government will be able to write legislation and start advocating on behalf of the student body as quickly as possible.
- Our Campus Culture Committee, chaired by Ashley Westgate, has already started reaching out to many other organizations on campus to increase collaboration and communication. The committee is also looking to gather student feedback through its previously mentioned “Whatchu Want Days.”

### **Thank you!**

- As always, student government appreciates your support and making time for me to come speak with you all today. I look forward to bringing you a report full of progress the next time that I see you.

**Graduate Student Association Report to Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs  
Committee September 17, 2023**

- This report includes the activities of The Graduate Student Association (GSA) at the beginning of our 2023 term.
  
- GSA Executive Board 2023/2024
  - President - Maha Zeidan (College of Law)
  - Vice President – Addison Kittel (College of Health and Human Services)
  - Treasurer – Niraj Manandhar (College of Engineering)
  - Secretary – Vacant
  - Communication Specialist – Lynn Xie (College of Business and Innovation)



**GRADUATE STUDENT  
ASSOCIATION**

Dear members of the board of Trustees,

I am writing this letter on behalf of all graduate and professional students at the University of Toledo. With the decrease of the GSA budget this year we have adjusted as necessary to continue to provide the same resources we always have. We have decreased the total amount that will be spent on research awards and travel reimbursements. Despite, budget cuts this year we hope to bring back some in person events. Such as the sports tournament hosted last year and more social events. We hope to focus on connecting graduate students and providing them as much support as we can. I welcome you all to this effort in any way you see fit.

Moreover, last year there were many discussions regarding transparency, it is another focus of this E-board. We will focus on this in many aspects, such as financial transparency. With a line of communication and trust extended to the graduate students I believe these goals will be easily attainable.

I welcome any insight and appreciate all your contribution.

Thank you,

Maha Zeidan, GSA President.

**Graduate Council Report to Board of Trustees Academic and Student Affairs Committee, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023** prepared by Dr. Patrick L. Lawrence, University of Toledo Graduate Council Chair

This report includes the activities of Graduate Council (GC) since our last report on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. Over the summer, the newly elected Graduate Council Executive Committee (GCEC) met regularly to prepare for AY 23-24, including discussing issues of interest to the graduate faculty that we anticipated would be the focus of our work in the upcoming academic year, appointment of chairs and members of our standing committees, consideration of ad hoc committees to examine UT Parking Permits and Enforcement and other issues, and discussion of new or improved academic policies that impact our graduate students, and other pending business for GC. We also extended invitations to the Interim Provost and President to attend a GC meeting in fall 2023 (they have both accepted).

Since the start of the 2023 fall term, GC, has held two regularly scheduled meetings as we begin to focus on issues of interest to graduate faculty, graduate programs and students. GC has been working closely with Acting Dean of COGs Dr. Scott Molitor, who has attended GCEC and GC meetings to give reports and updates on a variety of activities and initiatives. With his recent appointment as Interim Provost, we look forward to continuing productive exchanges with Dr. Molitor, and also wish to extend our congratulations to him for his new position. GC and GCEC also welcome the opportunity to build a close working relationship with his replacement who will fill the critical role for graduate education and programs here at UT – the new Associate Provost-Graduate Affairs. In the spirit and practice of shared governance, the Graduate Council remains committed to a strong productive partnership with Academic Affairs to provide the best graduate programs possible and in support of our many outstanding graduate students.

Current issues that are a focus of effort and concern by GC include the need to consider updating - current policies related to graduate student academic dishonesty, and several other policies currently under regular review. Many of these policies have not been subject to extensive review - for many years, and given their importance to the function of our graduate programs and to the success of our graduate students, our role in providing comments on these policies is an important role of GC. Graduate faculty also remain very concerned about the future prospects for graduate education and continuation of graduate degree programs here at UT given the recent impacts from college budget reduction for FY24, and ongoing discussions regarding potential graduate program prioritization.

Finally, GC and GCEC look forward to a productive academic year in 2023-2024 as we continue our activities and efforts in addressing any challenges and concerns raised by graduate faculty and graduate students, in cooperation and coordination with Academic Affairs, the President and Board of Trustees with our collective efforts to further the mission and strategic plan of the University of Toledo in the area of graduate education.

*Dr. Patrick L. Lawrence*

Faculty Senate Stakeholder Report to BOT 9/20/23

Good afternoon, Trustees.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

The fall semester is well underway and we note the good news of a larger incoming first-time students along with more transfer, international, and adult students. It is gratifying to see how happy students are to be back in class.

One of the things I have appreciated about teaching here at UT is the quality of students who enroll here, and a quality not necessarily related to high test scores. I mean students who crave learning, not simply for a grade, but because they want to challenge themselves. They want to create a life for themselves along with training for a profession. Last week, I had a 45-minute discussion in French with one of my 3<sup>rd</sup> semester French students, an impressive feat to say the least. While he showed a high level of communication skills, the student was willing to make mistakes in the language because he has learned how to learn from errors. Then, I learned that he speaks or studies 5 languages: he is a native speaker of English, speaks some Arabic at home, is majoring in French and Spanish and minoring in Japanese. He plans to be a language teacher when he graduates and possibly go on to graduate studies. He graduated from Clay High School, where his language teacher was one of our Masters' students. While it was wonderful to see a student so engaged with his studies, it was also gratifying to see proof that our language and education programs are producing graduates who go out and produce highly prepared students who then enroll at UT.

I also heard that one of our Middle East Studies students was accepted by a high-profile school in Washington, DC. She recently related to one of her past teachers here at UT that she had to work harder as an undergrad here than she currently has to at this graduate school. Clearly our students recognize and appreciate the quality of our academic programs.

Faculty also appreciate the new enrollment initiatives, such as Dave Meredith's high school experience days for juniors as well as senior students. This holds promise for continuing that enrollment increase. We also note the increase in grad students and look forward to the time when we can return funding to new grad students.

We do remain concerned, however, by the 12% enrollment drop in summer session and hope that more aggressive marketing can turn that around next year.

News of the provost search has also encouraged faculty; we hope that new leadership will lead to more consistent communication and collaboration between units.

We do remain concerned about finance and budgets for academic affairs. Finance continues to fund budget shortfalls in auxiliaries, mainly to athletics, with funds from Academic Affairs, even as it continues to cut the academic budget. UT cannot continue to compromise academics in order to subsidize auxiliaries on top of significant cuts to academic affairs.

Academic affairs cannot continue to be cut at both ends, so to speak: cuts to college budgets even as academics transfers \$15 million to auxiliaries.

Faculty Senate is completing the work of populating our committees. We hope to forward a policy on academic misconduct this year. Our Faculty Affairs committee will continue to follow the



issue of maternity leaves for non-cba faculty. Our Student Affairs committee has already begun its work, and our curricular committees will begin their work shortly.

We are encouraged by interim provost Molitor's invitation to the FSEC to attend ALT meetings, something that was not done last year.

We continue to watch SB 83 as well as the circumstances of other universities such as West Virginia University where administrative mismanagement has compromised academics. We are also watching other states sacrifice their institutions of higher education to outside interests and organizations such as the National Association of Scholars and Civic Alliances who have penned template legislation that inform SB 83. We hope Ohio does not sacrifice quality to ideology. And we hope that UT recognizes the value of the broad array of programs that we offer: students can get job training and can shape a lifetime of interests that will sustain them through several career changes.