

University Life Committee (ULC)

Minutes – October 17, 2024, Meeting

Meeting called to order at 2:00pm

Approval of Minutes – Statement read

Members in Attendance

Anne Gessler, Yolanda Edmond, Benjam, Michelle Giles, Stephanie Holleran, Russell Miller, Natalie Pecknold, Matthew Perry, Stephen Sabu, Gene Shan, Lisa Sublett, Sheeba Thomas, Reece Tuscano.
L. Jean Walker, Yolanda Nimmer-Williams

Alternate Members/Guests in Attendance

Miguel Venegas, Queinnise Miller, Bernie Streeter, Jennifer Willis-Opalenik, Stacy Zellner, David Brittain

Members & Alternate Absent

Louisa Beck, Erika De Leon, Benjamin Franz, Preeti Jain, Yi Su, Tina Powellson, Alexandria Kennedy, Johna McClendon, Andrew Wiemer

Minutes

1. Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by chair Dr. Anne Gessler.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Dr. Gessler motion to approve September 5, 2024, minutes. Minutes were approved by Yolanda Edmond and Miguel Venegas

3. Old Business

- a. Should student center fee annual budget review and recommendation be added to the bylaws?

The previous ULC chairperson will be consulted to determine if this topic was discussed in last year's meetings, as several members do not recall whether it was addressed.

4. New Business/Announcements

- a. Anne Gessler: Retirement of student organization UHCL emails at the end of Fall 2024.

Dr. Gessler mentioned a concern was raised by one of the student associations about retiring student organization emails at the end of the year. They noted that having an official UHCL email adds credibility, especially when communicating with outside community members. Additionally, it allows for continuity when students leave the university, as emails don't have to be tied to an individual's personal account.

She spoke with the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership who clarified that there is no explicit policy granting student organizations UHCL emails. This has simply been a tradition and is listed as a "benefit" in the Student Handbook—not a policy. However, this benefit does clash with the requirement that student organizations should not represent themselves as official UHCL entities, like academic departments. Issues have arisen in the past with

organizations appearing to represent the university formally. The change is set to take effect in the spring semester, and organizations are encouraged to transition to a Gmail account or use the officers' email addresses instead.

b. Yolanda Edmond: Retiring HR policy.

Yolanda Edmond reported The Faculty Summer Pay Policy was originally an HR policy but has now been moved under Academic Affairs. This policy is being combined with the Faculty Workload Policy to create a single, comprehensive policy managed by Academic Affairs. The combined policy has already been reviewed by the shared governance committees and is awaiting publication on the university website.

Currently, the Summer Workload Policy has been removed from the HR section. The policy itself isn't being retired; instead, it's being consolidated under Academic Affairs.

c. Anne Gessler: Faculty request clarification about UHCL initiatives to reduce sexual assault rate (regarding 2024 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report).

Guest: David Brittain, Title IX Coordinator and Equal Opportunity Office, Office of Title IX and Equal Opportunity Services.

David Brittain reported there are different reports required by the state and federal government, each gathering different metrics. Instances of sexual assault are included in the Clery Geography Report.

This report is initiated when the UHCL Police Department is notified, and it can be filed by the police or through the Office of Title IX by David Brittain, who is a CSA (Campus Security Authority) mandatory reporter. Mr. Brittain would submit the report if he receives relevant information and reaches out to the individual who experienced the assault. Counseling services might also send de-identified reports to the PD.

Title IX deals with university policies, while UHCL PD handles local, state, and federal laws. They often coordinate, particularly if an individual wants to press charges.

All this is documented in the Annual Security Report (ASR), with detailed information on campus programs, resources, and policies between pages 18 and 32

If there's a question about what happened in certain cases, you can submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for closed investigations through the General Counsel's office.

d. Chief Russell Miller: Completed review on two policies

1. Violence on Campus

This policy formalizes the police's approach, clarifies roles (such as those of counseling services), and outlines our responses.

2. Interim Essential Personnel

This is an interim policy, which was initially developed earlier this year but has since been updated to reflect title and group name changes. The edits align with continuity of operations and emergency planning processes led by Emergency Management. These updates are minor but necessary to standardize terms.

- e. Anne Gessler: Request from Faculty Senate to amend shared governance policy so Faculty Senate is its own body and not a subcommittee of Academic Council.

The Faculty Senate has requested an amendment to the shared governance policies to recognize it as an independent body rather than a subcommittee of the Academic Council. It will be advised that the request for a status change is regulated through the guidelines of the University Council Committee.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Williams