

University Affairs Committee

Annual Report

August 2024 - May 2025

Members:

Chair: Alexander Orlov, Materials Science and Chemical Engineering.

Kimberly Towers-Kubik, Writing and Rhetoric.

Katherine Sawyer, Political Science.

John True, Ecology & Evolution

Thomas Rico, Mathematics

Annette Mims, Library

Stacey Finkelstein, College of Business

Shipra Agrawal, Medicine

Jessica Seeliger, Cancer Center

David Ecker, TLT

Hedieh Yazdanseta, Student Life

Anood Cheema, Student

Ece Naz Durali, Student

Cognate Administrator: Braden Hosch

Executive Committee Liaison: Richard Stein

Executive Summary:

Our committee has been resurrected from several years of inactivity and is now fully functional. With help from the Senate Executive Committee, our committee membership almost doubled. The topics explored during this academic year included Staller Center, Athletics, Marketing and Communications, as well as Governance. The selection of topics was based on Committee polls as well as suggestions from the Senate Executive Committee.

1. Meeting with Braden Hosch, Interim Chief Deputy to the President/Vice President for Educational and Institutional Effectiveness

The meeting explored current environment that we're in as "very dynamic" as it relates to the freezing of 3 trillion dollars of federal funding, restraining orders, and lawsuits. Braden reassured us that administration is working to ensure the welfare of our faculty and staff and right now due to the restraining order, there is not an immediate need to create detailed contingency plans.

2. Meeting with Susan Foley, Interim Vice-President for Marketing and Communications.

The meeting focused on MarComm activities in: (1) Driving marketing and communications for both the east and west campus; (2) Upholding the reputation of the university; (3) Staying creative and proactive with the university to ensure a strategic position for its advancement. The discussion focused on recently launched a “Dare to Be” campaign which embodies the energy and ambition of our faculty, students, and staff. The campaign is being launched internally on campus as well out externally via commercials and other advertising. There was also discussion about time management strategies that MARCOM uses.

3. Meeting with Alan Inkles, Director of the Staller Center

The committee asked the following questions about: (1) the state of fundraising for Staller now; (2) the attendance/event booking going for the Staller now and whether it was bounced back since Covid; (3) Connections of faculty-students to Staller, and how to strengthen that; (4) Issues of parking for the patrons and accessibility. The discussion identified several financial challenges as well as outstanding achievements of the Center and its leadership.

4. Meeting with Shawn Helibron, Athletic Director

The committee discussed new trends in Athletics given the House v. NCAA settlement, a \$2.8 billion agreement, aiming to reshape college athletics by allowing direct payments to athletes, including NIL compensation, and requiring schools to share revenue. Several specific examples related to specific SBU teams and sports were given.

Future topics

The potential future topics for our committee include Advancement and Enterprise Risk Management.