# ECOS Meeting Minutes, October 25, 2018 3:00 p.m. UH 221

## Call to Order

Members present: A. Delaney, A. Johnstone, M. Pershouse, T. Manuel, M. Semanoff, G. Quintero

Members absent: N. Hinman   
Guests: Ross Best, Cameron Kia-Weix (Kaimin), Keila Szpaller (Missoulian)

* The minutes from the 10/18/18 meeting were approved

## Public Comment (none)

## Communication

* Chairs report   
  The Cabinet meeting started with a UM Minute that praised a successful “Teach-in.” There was a broad audience and productive collaboration among faculty members.

Chair Semanoff met with UFA leadership regarding the request from the Provost to help draft the FAQ document. After reviewing the document, they didn’t feel like they could edit it. It would have been more productive for them to draft the document. There are still issues that lack clarity. The administration’s focus is to encourage chairs and deans to work together to meet targets and minimize retrenchment. This is a departure from strategic investment. It is up to the administration to set the strategy. The Deans may shift savings from one department to another department. The Senate can provide input on the curriculum and quality of programs. It can also help to ensure the process is at least fare, transparent, and predictable.   
  
The fall Commencement will be in the UC Ball Room on December 15th. The UC Theatre will be open for the overflow.   
  
At the Pre-Cabinet meeting Wednesday Staff Senate discussed the effects of the VSO on staff. Multiple positions have been compressed. Staff Senate would like to plan a Summit to fill in training gaps. The Staff Summit will be full day of training opportunities combined with a Un-Conference focused on other ways of improving services and management skills. The idea was well received by the administration. It was suggested that the summit become an annual event on the calendar and administrators could cover for staff so they can attend to help improve morale. Faculty could also benefit from training on new software.  
  
The Business School conducted a survey of its students. Advising improvements are needed in the first two years. Research shows that having a mentoring relationship with an advisor helps. We need to work toward changing the culture and the morale.   
  
Vice Provost Nathan Lindsay was scheduled to meet with ECOS next week to report on Student Success initiatives, but ECOS asked that he provide an update in writing because the time is needed to discuss the curriculum impacts of staffing plans and we have three other guests scheduled for next week.

The model for Cabinet meetings has changed so that each week there is a progress report on the strategic initiatives. Vice President Rosi Keller reported that in there is the least progress in the area of Mission First, People Always. She is hoping to start tracking professional development opportunities and increasing the consistency of performance review. There should be a clear focus on staff setting career goals. Supervisors conducting reviews need to be trained. A lot of work is needed to be able to track progress.

VP Whittenburg talked about the strategic initiative of Partnering with Place. He spoke about the current entrepreneurship efforts such as Blackstone Launch Pad and the Broader Impact Group. The focus is to better inform the public of what we do. We need to create some sort of hub that highlights these activities and resources. There was no discussion of place based education and there was only a brief comment on service learning.   
  
The UM Foundation Director Cindy Williams, VP Cathy Cole & Director Paula Short spoke about the Story Telling strategic initiative. The Foundation raised $50,000 for marketing and enrollment materials. Advertisements on KPAX and other stations are a gift from a donor. The community has a direct stake in improving enrollment. The Call Center will be up and running soon. VP Cole is rewriting marketing materials and working hard on digital media.   
  
Student Ross Best asked whether Chair Semanoff knew of other meetings taking the place of business items that were previously decided by the Cabinet. He did not.   
  
Vice Chair Pershouse has been attending meetings regarding Online Program Management. There is a subcommittee working on an RFP to get bids from online providers. The provider would make a substantial investment and conduct market research to determine what programs will be profitable. Some units are considering transitioning courses to online to meet targets. The target audience for online programs is mostly people in the workforce needing master’s degrees. So the programs should not compete with existing face-to-face programs. It is a more cost efficient model. The concerns about who own the contents will need to be addressed. Representatives from Media Arts were at the meeting. They were advocating for a foundation of general education courses to be available in the online format. Faculty will need an incentive to transition courses.

* The Nominations for Honorary Degrees will be considered for the December Faculty Senate meeting
* Chair Semanoff spoke to the Chief of Staff regarding various concerns expressed by faculty regarding the Provost’s presentation to Colleges.
* UFA President Paul Haber and Vice President Megan Stark  
  The membership of the Retrenchment Committee and the Process was discussed. The committee cannot be formed until the plan is received to know what areas are involved. It will be necessary to choose membership quickly. The UFA and the Senate should collaborate on finding members. The Committee must have a recommendation within 45 days. If there is no reconciliation between the President and the Committee, both plans go to the Commissioner of Higher Education, who can decide on the final plan. The timeline is on the Provost’s Website. The final plan must go to the Board of Regents on March 8th.   
    
  The UFA has been reviewing the information from the1989 Retrenchment. Much of the CBA language is the same. Faculty must be given 12 month notice and any students in effective programs must be able to graduate. The UFA will monitor the reassignments and timeline.

* Received document from process that happened in 1989. Useful to look at what that committee did. Have the President’s Plan and Retrenchment committees plan. Question about relevant supporting information. References to duplication relevance and productivity. Was some flexibility. Muddy process for Missoula College – don’t have the same CBA.

## Business items:

* ECOS discussed the draft Resolution on Strategic Investment. It tabled the motion in favor of the Chair and Chair-elect discussing the concerns at the meeting with the Provost. We need better clarity on the administrations priorities moving forward. Going back over the allocations would likely not result in the information needed. The Data is available, but now how the decisions were made is not.
* ECOS approved Daniel Lee to serve on the search for the Director of Student Conduct.
* The following Center proposals were approved. Chair Semanoff has not yet had time to review the Water Institute proposal.
  + Center for Population Health Research
  + IERS Termination
  + MT Youth Sports Safety Institute
  + Rural Institute Name Change
* Chair Semanoff will communicate with Lucy France regarding the Open Meeting Law Policy. The U-Approve system had a word limit for comments and the summary was over the limit.

## Executive Session

* ECOS approved the nomination for Regents Professor.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.