

## MEETING AGENDA

**Attendees:** Oana Armeanu, Bartell Berg, Andrew Buck, Amy Chan Hilton, Charlotte Connerton, Brian Crose, Cindy Deloney-Marino, Erin Dennis, Jay Dickerson, Wes Durham, Katie Ehlman, Trent Engbers, David Henriques, David Hitchcock, Emily Holt, Jenn Horn, Marna Hostetler, Rick Hudson, Paul Kuban, Denise Lynn, Tony Maria, Amie McKibban, Chad Milewicz, Simone Nance, Oana Popescu-Sandu, Kenny Purcell, Bailey Rankin, Erin Reynolds, Todd Schroer, Jack Smothers, Melissa Stacer, Ken Walsh, Paul Weimer, Stephanie Young, Jason Hardgrave, Clara Boarman, Yaw Bredwa-Mensah, Ryan Ross, Andrea Gentry, Sarah Cason.

### I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

The meeting minutes from September 25, 2024 were approved.

### II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brian Crose announced National Distance Learning week is November 4-8<sup>th</sup> and there will be events including pre-recorded, virtual and on campus. See <https://www.usi.edu/online-and-adult-learning/national-distance-learning-week> for more information.

### III. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) *Opportunities for Collaboration with the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP)*-Dr. Katie Ehlman. GWEP is a \$5 million HRSA funded grant with opportunities for partnerships across the university. Please see the GWEP website <https://www.usi.edu/health/bronstein-center-for-healthy-aging-and-wellness/geriatrics-workforce-enhancement-program> for more information on what the team can offer you and your students.
- b) *Identification of Alums*-Dr. Leigh Anne Howard. Dr. Howard would like faculty to suggest former students who may be interested in participating in oral histories conducted over the next two years. Students of all types, ideally students who experienced an important academic or engagement impact. Please send names to Dr. Howard.
- c) *Foundation Scholarships Update*-Andrea Gentry. USI has given out 2000 scholarships totaling \$3 million. Foundation assets are now \$205 million. USI Foundation has modernized their scholarship policies after many years of audit problems. Gift and endowment agreements are now required and all scholarships have been updated to meet the agreement requirements. Students now fill out a unified application with many questions in the 'About Me' section that may make them eligible for specific scholarships. This allows better matching of students to scholarships and improved ability to help more students. Faculty may no longer be involved in selection of students due to policy changes.

**III. INFORMATION AND  
DISCUSSION ITEMS  
CONTINUED**

d) *Blackboard Ultra*-Shannon Hoehn and Kyle Tharp. New Blackboard Ultra is coming. Fall 2024 10 faculty are teaching in Ultra. Spring 2025 15 OCDP courses and ~37 faculty will be using Ultra. All Faculty will move to Ultra starting in Fall 2025. Each faculty has a Blackboard Development Shell that they can use to trial Ultra. If you want to move to Ultra this Spring, email Shannan. There are many new/improved features in Ultra. The recommendation is to build courses from scratch rather than try and copy over from old Blackboard. Faculty need to be aware that the Fall Blackboard prep may need more time. Please see the Blackboard Ultra webpage for information on the new Ultra and tips for using. <https://www.usi.edu/it/blackboard-learn-ultra-upgrade>

**IV. OPEN ITEMS**

a) None

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Walsh adjourned the meeting at ~9:50 am.