The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Robert Baxter, President.

Roll Call: Roll was taken via sign-in. 48 members were present for General Assembly meeting.

Minutes Approved from April 2017: The April minutes were unanimously approved as written by the assembly.

Vice President & Provost Dr. Kevin Whitaker spoke to the Assembly about the things happening across campus. He advised that the Strategic Plan continues to unroll with the 4 main pillars being:
- Education
- Discovery/Research/Scholarship
- Diversity/Inclusion
- Work/Life Balance

The University is planning to hire 300-400 new faculty members which will impact every area on campus from research, transportation, to cyber security. We are also beginning to work with the City and the Chamber of Commerce on spousal accommodations and hiring. At present UA has approximately 850 tenure, tenure to track faculty and by increasing this number, there will be a better faculty-student ratio.

We will continue to recruit top undergraduate students; however, we are starting to build the graduate program and will begin to recruit graduate students from all over the world. Graduate students make up about 12% of total enrollment at UA and about 20-25% in the SEC. At the present time, graduate student enrollment is down around the country. This is a challenge that UA must overcome and so we are working with agents around the world to recruit graduate students. UA is trying to be proactive by going global with our recruitment.

As The University grows, we must have infrastructure to support our growth and with the addition of the Bryce Property we are moving forward. UA will be going into a Capital Campaign possibly next year and we have revenue producing programs as well. Right now undergraduate tuition is the main form of revenue, but UA wants to diversify the revenue portfolio.

With regard to employment on campus, Dr. Gilbert and the leadership are looking at work/life balance, and making sure our benefits package is what it needs to be.

The University is also taking steps forward to setup a more formal structure so that we have more institute directors on campus in the area of transportation, research, and
cyber security. We have some centers such as the Center for Advanced Public Safety and we will create other new centers.

UA has made an historic move by hiring Dr. G. Christine Taylor as our new vice president and associate provost for diversity, equity and inclusion. This is her 4th day at UA and we are very happy she is here and look forward to the impact she will have on campus.

Dr. Taylor addressed the group and expressed her excitement to be at UA. She challenged us to ask ourselves how well we are preparing our students to live, work, and participate in a diverse global environment. She is looking forward to working with everyone across campus to make sure we prepare our students well. Her office is located on the 3rd floor of Rose Administration.

PSA president, Robert Baxter concluded this part of the meeting by reading the opening statements of the resolution on diversity and inclusion that PSA adopted last January. He stated that the PSA would like to move forward this year by engaging in more diversity training.

**Officer Reports:**

**President:** Robert Baxter – Met with Nancy Whitaker regarding the new non-exempt professional staff classification. They are still reviewing and waiting for feedback. The PSA will need to make changes to the bylaws so that these members will still be eligible for the Assembly.

Strategic Communications will speak to us next month.

**Past-President:** Darrell Hargreaves – reported that dates for the Habitat Build will be September 26th and 27th. The 26th will be a full day and the 27th will be a half day commitment. People can sign up today and he will send out email with this information and the waiver that must be signed. There are other dates available if you would like to commit to another time.

**President-elect:** Camisha Adams – reported that the meeting room in North Lawn Hall has been reserved for the fall semester.

**Secretary:** Dee Cook – no report

**Treasurer:** Alyson Baxter – no report

**Historian:** Julie Elmore – Absent – no report

**Parliamentarian:** Helen Smith – absent – no report

**Committee Reports:**
Ad hoc Scholarship: no report

Assembly Operations: Lynn Heard – new chair - no report

Communications and Public Relations: Jessica Aguilar – absent – sent report – Committee met August 2nd and set goals for upcoming year. They are looking for ways to increase attendance at monthly meetings, possibly through drawings and prizes. An email was sent out regarding volunteer opportunities for Move in, announcement for the Mark G. Foster Scholarship information, and sent calendar announcements to UA News. Robert asked that anyone that volunteered for Move in to email him or Service/Outreach for hours volunteered.

Nominations and Elections: Holly Grof- No report

Professional Development: Lynn Tobola – Committee met in June, July, and August. Committee is reviewing applications and recommendations for the Mark G. Foster Scholarship award. At the present time, there are only 5 letters of recommendation and the deadline is September 1st. Winner will be announced at the September meeting.

Service and Outreach: Daphne Wright – Committee would like to start the year with a gift card drive for Brewer Porch as we provide Christmas for them each year. They will collect $20 gift cards but must complete this project before the United Way campaign begins. They have set a goal of 100 gift cards. Daphne also announced that the coat drive is coming up soon.

Staff Life: Jackie Northrup – Committee met in June, July, and August and established some priorities for the coming year.
- Have requested an increase in educational tuition benefit from 3 to 4 semester hours/semester. If HR will not approve this they may consider a proposal that states UA will pay for 12 hours each year.
- Worked on the summer flex proposal discussing guidelines for HR to consider. Proposal allows for staff to work 4 ten-hour days with the possibility of either a Monday or Friday off through the summer. UAH already has this policy on their campus and it works well. However, some report that this may not work well in all departments on our campus. It is reported that some departments at UA already work this schedule during the summer. Jackie requests members to send your feedback to the committee via email.
- The Paid Parental Leave proposal has been submitted to Dr. Gilbert by the Faculty/Staff Benefits Committee and they are waiting for a response.

Technology and Web: Jason Miller – new chair – no report

Standing Committee Reports

Campus Master Plan – no report
Committee on University Committees – no report

Equal Opportunity – no report

Faculty Senate – no report

Information Technology – no report

Intercollegiate Athletics – no report

International Education – no report

Libraries – no report

OCTA – no report

Parking and Traffic – no report

Safety and Security – no report

Student and Campus Life – no report

Student Health – no report

Undergraduate Programs – no report

University Recreation – no report

Old Business – Robert nominated Julie Elmore for Historian and Helen Smith for Parliamentarian. Assembly voted and unanimously approved these appointments.

New Business – Robert proposed a change to Article III of the PSA bylaws:
  ● EEO code needs to be updated to either 3 or 5 so that current PSA members whose employee class changed due to the new professional non-exempt status can remain eligible for PSA.
  ● He will appoint an Ad hoc committee to re-write bylaws
  ● Send him your feedback and the Assembly will vote next month on this proposal.

Announcements:
  ● Darrell asked for anyone wanting to sign up for Game Day Partners to see him. Game Day Partners work as a presence in the stadium during football games and monitor the student sections. It is a paid position and allows one into the stadium for the game, and GDP decides which games they will work. Also GDP will receive a shirt and credentials. It is an opportunity to connect with students.
  ● Robert announced that we still have two openings for Standing Committees - International Education and Undergraduate Programs. Anyone interested in being a representative for these committees, please let him know.
• PSA General Meeting: September 21, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. 1013 North Lawn Hall – Strategic Communications will be our guests.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:31 pm.