

Chamber Education Committee / Business Advisory Council Minutes
January 27, 2026

Location Host: University of Mount Union Giese Center for the Performing Arts, 67 W. Simpson St. Alliance, OH 44601

Attendance

Emil Alecusan	Rick Baxter	Barbara Bennett	Theresa Benzel	Dr. Bryan J. Boatright
Marty Bowe	Joseph Chaddock	Matt Cola	Jeff Dafler	Shaun Eller
Brent Fatzinger	Robert Gress	Dan Swisher	Lisa Talbert	Matt Whitted
Dan Lowmiller	Adam McKenzie	Marci Muckleroy	John Richard	Tiffany Rogers
Greg King	Dr. Bill Cunion	Dr. Amber Hunt	Dr. Chad Korach	Laura Kelly
Maddie May	Lucie Doubet	Caleb Miller	Aidan Schroeder	Mackenzie Rummell

1. Call to Order. Welcome and Approval of the Agenda and 11.25 Minutes

Dr. John Richard called the meeting to order at 12:01pm. John requested a motion to approve the 11.25 minutes. Rob Gress made the motion, and Matt Cola seconded, and upon being put to a vote, the motion carried.

2. University of Mount Union Welcome – Dr. Bryan Boatright, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs & Dean of Graduate, Digital and Continued Learning

Dr. Bryan Boatright thanked everyone for attending and mentioning the beauty of the snow-covered campus. Bryan also mentioned the new AI and Data Science Center and offered tours to attendees at the conclusion of the meeting.

3. Welcome – President Greg King, University President, and Dr. Bill Cunion, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Greg King thanked everyone for attending and highlighted the core mission of the university: teaching critical thinking and responsible citizenship. Dr. Bill Cunion issued a welcome and gratitude for everyone coming out. Bill explained the severe pressure in higher education and the need for external input from the community to align curriculum with industry needs along with close communication with high schools to understand student skills and qualities. Bill expressed gratitude for the Chambers’ involvement and the importance of these conversations.

4. Presentations from Schools of Business and Engineering at Mount Union – Dr. Amber Hunt, Director of the School of Business & Associate Professor of Finance, and Dr. Chad Korach, Director of the Brenton School of Engineering & Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Dr. Amber Hunt outlined the accreditation and majors/minors offered by the school of business and the collaboration between the School of Business and the School of Engineering.

Dr. Chad Korach described the MBA project process, including using AI for market research and creating marketing materials to promote the only four-year accredited degree program in Stark County that uses project work as well as internships and outreach to different companies. Chad discussed the client onboarding process and the real-world application of classroom projects.

Dr. Amber Hunt introduced Professor Laura Kelly, Inaugural Director of Center for Applied Learning and Industry, who explained the CALI application being utilized to move beyond the classroom to help business partners to get the results they need. Professor Laura Kelly introduced Maddie May, a Mt. Union junior studying Marketing and Management and minoring in Entrepreneurship and leadership, who talked about how the experience from the classroom to the CALI project introduced her to use AI in creating executive summaries, recommendations, interpreting, analyzing data, and applying metrics to market prospective audiences.

Dr. Chad Korach introduced Lucy Doubet, Caleb Miller and Aidan Schroeder who are all Senior mechanical engineering students who have been working on experiential learning projects with Metallus in Canton. The students described their engagement with Metallus.

5. Update: Career Connected Learning Opportunities and Bootcamp Planning – John Richard

John Richard provided an update on the educator boot camp, including the focus areas and the importance of life skills. John announced February 27 as the new date and time of the next Education Committee meeting at Stark State and stated that three to four legislators will be attending.

6. Adjourn & Tour of Mount Union

John Richard requested a motion to adjourn at 12:40pm. Marty Bowe made a motion to adjourn.