

University Committee Annual Report 2007-2008

The University Committee (UC) of the 2007-2008 academic year was comprised of Professors Dean VonDras (Chair), Steven Meyer, Illene Noppe, Terry O’Grady, Laura Riddle, and Kevin Roeder. We met weekly for approximately two hours and discussed a wide variety of issues and concerns. Dan McIver, the Academic Staff Committee representative, and Ricky Staley, the Student Government representative, regularly joined the UC at these meetings. Throughout the year, Provost Hammersmith also met regularly with the UC for discussion and exchange of information. In his position as Secretary of the Faculty and Academic Staff, Professor Cliff Abbott also met with the committee to discuss topics of concern. In addition, throughout the year the UC met with various guests to discuss matters of importance. The specific topics and issues discussed by the UC, as well as topics and items taken up by the Senate and their outcomes, can be found in the minutes of the UC weekly meetings, and in the minutes of the Faculty Senate meetings at <http://www.uwgb.edu/sofas/>. Highlights of the activities of the Faculty Senate and the UC are noted below:

The Faculty Senate Passed the following:

Curricular Issues:

- New Major in Arts Management
- New Major in Design Arts

Resolutions:

- Faculty Resolution on the Granting of Fall and Spring Degrees
- Faculty Resolution on the Revised Policy on Student Feedback on Instruction
- Faculty Resolution in support of the 2009-2022 budget initiative “Advantage Wisconsin”
- Faculty Resolution in Support of Student Government Association U-Pass Program
- Memorial Resolution for Professor Emeriti Alice Goldsby
- Memorial Resolution for Professor Anne Kok

Code Changes:

- Code change effecting the recusal of members of the Committee of Six Full Professors and Personnel Council
- Code changes that, a) clarified the relationship of the Academic Affairs Council and General Education Council to the Faculty and the Faculty Senate; b) clarified that the intent of the term “recommendation” to mean “approved”; and, c) delineated an appeal process for decisions made by the Academic Affairs Council and the General Education Council.
- Code change delineating the responsibilities and duties of interdisciplinary unit chairpersons, indicating that the chairperson has leadership responsibilities to approve, schedule, and staff courses, subject to negotiation with other interdisciplinary units, relevant disciplines and programs.

Other:

- In closed session met to discuss the awarding of honorary degrees.
- Approved the slate of nominees for faculty elective committees.

Issues and Topics Presented to Senate with Action to be taken in 2008-2009:

- Issues regarding alignment and support for programs that bridge interdisciplinary units.
- Updating the Curriculum Planning and Procedures Guide.
- Revising and reforming Program Review procedures.

Senate Discussion Items – Action not required:

- Instituted a process for faculty administrator evaluations and gained the approval of the Chancellor to begin the evaluations in 2008-2009.
- Held a Faculty Forum during the Senate meeting on the topic of the validity of the CCQs as indices of teaching effectiveness.
- Held a Faculty Forum during the Senate meeting on the topic of possible alignment of disciplinary and other programs with interdisciplinary units.
- Held a Faculty Forum during the Senate meeting on the topic of academic excellence.
- Held a Faculty Forum during the Senate meeting on the topic of Program Reviews.

University Committee Discussion and Actions:

Committee and Personnel Issues:

- Discussed and revised the charges of the Faculty Senate Planning and Budgeting Committee.
- Endorsed the establishment and naming of faculty to the Executive Committee of the Global Studies Minor.
- Provided names for the interim-Chancellor and interim-Provost positions.
- Nominated faculty to serve on the new Chancellor search committee.
- Replacement nominations were provided for the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities and the Senate Appointed committees.
- Asked that the Unit Chairs and Deans meet with UC representatives in discussion of unit alignment and budget matters.
- Discussed code changes effecting, a) the Committee of Six Full Professors and Personnel Council; b) Academic Affairs Council and General Education Council; and, C) responsibilities and duties of interdisciplinary unit chairs.
- Discussed the use of Emeritus Faculty on Executive Committees.
- Created an Administrator Evaluation Committee to serve for one-year at the discretion of the UC to assist in implementing evaluation of administrators.

Salary, Workload, Campus Climate Issues:

- Discussed and provided response to System's inquiry concerning sick leave coverage.
- Continued to discuss with the Provost issues regarding internal (local campus) inequities in faculty salaries, and concerns for salary compression and inversion.
- Provided a recommendation to the Chancellor regarding the distribution of the Chancellor's 10% discretionary fund.
- Discussed payment for courses taught in the summer session and asked the Deans to address this issue.
- Discussed campus traffic safety and a report provided by Public Safety.
- Discussed and requested for a weekly common hour in the 14-week calendar.
- Discussed and suggested refinements in the employee tuition assistance policy.

Governance and Curricular Issues:

- Discussed and requested of the Provost the creation of an informational web site that makes the campus planning and budgeting more transparent.
- Discussed the advisability of providing a contextualized GPA on transcripts.
- Discussed alignment of major and minor programs with interdisciplinary units.
- Discussed possible ways to reform and revise Program Reviews.
- Discussed and suggested updating and revising the Curriculum Planning and Procedure Guide.
- Discussed the establishment of an Executive Committee for the Global Studies Minor.
- Discussed procedures and implementation of the timeline for administrator evaluations.
- Discussed and requested a reporting of students with low standing to program chairs.
- Discussed the use of clickers as a method of voting in the Senate.

Campus Wide Issues:

- Discussed procedures for faculty evaluation of administrators.
- Discussed student feedback of teaching and the CCQ instrument.
- Discussed and suggested a multifaceted approach to assessing teaching effectiveness.
- Most of the UC met with the Higher Education Commission during accreditation.
- Discussed the new MLLO initiative that focuses on mission level student learning.
- Discussed and commented on campus planning and budget issues.
- Discussed and suggested opportunities for professional training programs addressing sexual harassment, ethical behavior, cultural competency and diversity, etc.
- Discussed System efforts to formalize the role of Faculty and Staff Representatives.
- Discussed and endorsed the U-Pass initiative of the Student Government.
- Discussed and endorsed the initiatives of the library to provide greater access to e-journals.

Conclusion:

In closing, I would like to express my sincerest thanks to Steven Meyer, Illene Noppe, Terry O'Grady, Laura Riddle, and Kevin Roeder for their kind support and collegial discussion throughout the year. Our committee worked with a great spirit of cooperation, hoping to understand and address the important issues and challenges faced by our whole University community. I would also like to express my thanks to Professor Cliff Abbot for his guidance in all matters concerning code and senate rules, and to Pat Przybelski for her administrative assistance. It is important to note also, that throughout the year the Faculty Senate worked very conscientiously and ably to debate and find direction that led to resolution of the items and matters presented to them, and thus I would like to convey my thanks and great appreciation to each of them for their very judicious service.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean D. VonDras, Chair