

MINUTES
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay University Committee

Present:	26 August 2009
Mike Draney	3:00 pm, CL 825
Dave Dolan	
Tim Kaufman	
Illene Noppe	
Laura Riddle	Previous Meeting:
Brian Sutton (Chair)	13 May 2009

Guest: Tom Harden, Chancellor

1. Chancellor Harden met with the University Committee to discuss the recent gift to UWGB from Dr. David Cofrin. In late July of this year, Dr. Cofrin's representatives had informed UWGB administrators that Dr. Cofrin wished to make a substantial donation to UWGB. With both sides working rapidly because of Dr. Cofrin's failing health, it was eventually decided that Dr. Cofrin would donate 5.5 million dollars to UWGB: 1.5 million to convert the Austin E. Cofrin Professorship of Business into a Chair of Business, and 4 million for naming rights in creating an Austin E. Cofrin School of Business. Chancellor Harden noted that the School of Business would operate within College of Professional Studies, with the Director of Business reporting to the Dean of Professional Studies. He also stated that while the 4 million dollars was for naming rights to the School of Business, UWGB had complete discretion as to how the dividends on the 4 million dollars would be used; the money did not have to be spent exclusively on the School of Business. The Chancellor added that he had not yet contacted Dr. Cofrin's surviving family to formally accept the gift; he hoped to receive the University Committee's endorsement before doing so.

As UC members discussed the issue with the Chancellor, it was noted that although the opportunity for the gift had presented itself over the summer, while faculty were not under contract, the Chancellor had attempted to consult with faculty representatives, meeting individually with four members of the UC at one time or another in late July or early August. Professor Sutton added that the Secretary of the Faculty, who had also been consulted, had concluded that neither UWGB code nor precedent from reasonably similar situations in the past indicated that the Chancellor was obligated to get Faculty Senate approval before taking action.

Professor Noppe moved, and Professor Kaufman seconded, that the UC go on record as supporting the Chancellor's acceptance of the gift from Dr. Cofrin and the purposes for which the gift was earmarked. The motion passed 6-0-0.

2. Professor Sutton distributed the 2009-10 schedule for UWGB Faculty Senate meetings and UW-System Faculty Representatives' meetings. He also distributed the UWGB Handbook's descriptions of the functions of the University Committee and the jurisdiction of the Faculty Senate.

3. UC members then considered the situation of Professor Draney, who was beginning a three-year term on the UC but who had teaching obligations on Wednesday afternoons, when both the UC and the Faculty Senate meet. Professor Draney asked that the UC meet at a different time, when he would be able to attend, but the times when Professor Draney could attend were all times when at least one other UC member could not. And in any case, Professor Draney would not be able to attend Faculty Senate meetings this semester.

It was eventually suggested that the UC should seek someone to serve in Professor Draney's place for the Fall 2009 semester, after which Professor Draney could return to his UC duties beginning in January 2010. However, for purposes of continuity, UC members suggested that a replacement with recent UC experience should be found, rather than bringing in someone new to the UC for one semester only. There was general consensus that Steve Meyer would be an ideal candidate, both because he was the immediate past Chair of the UC and because he was from the same voting area as Professor Draney, Natural and Applied Sciences. It was agreed that Professor Meyer should be asked to sit in for Professor Draney for the Fall 2009 semester, although not having been formally elected, Professor Meyer would have to do so as an *ex officio* member.

4. Professor Sutton asked UC members to consider the nine items listed in the 2008-09 UC Annual Report as "Presented to Senate, action to be taken in 2009-2010." He encouraged UC members to decide which of these items, if any, should be on the agenda for the September 16 Faculty Senate meeting. The following conclusions were reached:

- Given that the issue of faculty workload had dominated Faculty Senate discussions of concerns from the Higher Learning Commission report during the final 2008-09 meetings, that issue should be brought back to the Senate. Professor Sutton agreed to research the minutes of Spring 2009 Faculty Senate meetings for a summary of what had been said about faculty workload, and Professor Riddle agreed to draft a proposal on the subject.
- Given that in 2008-09 the UC had found considerable support for the idea of a university-wide honors program at UWGB, Professor Noppe would draft a proposal for a task force to consider creating such a program.
- Given that some at UWGB had expressed concern at the current lack of an ombudsperson at UWGB and the fact that the previous ombudsperson had also been the university's legal counsel, Professor Riddle agreed to draft a proposal to create an ombudsperson and to assure that this ombudsperson had no institutional conflict of interests.
- Given that the Task Force on Interdisciplinarity seems to be progressing satisfactorily toward making its recommendations, the UC would not at this time act on a proposal it had received regarding a change in how units are classified as disciplinary or interdisciplinary. That proposal could be taken up after the task force makes public its recommendations.

5. The UC considered a request for faculty status for Brenda Tyczkowski, lecturer in Nursing. UC members wished to see Ms. Tyczkowski's vita before deciding on the request. Professor Sutton agreed to request the vita.

6. The UC considered a proposal by Professor Sutton to eliminate the rule that when a student repeats a course, only the most recent grade for the course counts in the student's GPA. UC members made various points in favor of the current rule or in favor of Professor Sutton's proposal before agreeing to continue the discussion at the next UC meeting.

7. The UC considered a request from Brian Merkel that the Faculty Senate pass a resolution requesting that the Regents suspend the current cap on faculty earnings from UWGB over the summer. Professor Merkel's reasoning was that in a time of pay reductions related to mandated furloughs, this earnings cap needlessly limited faculty members' earning power even further. UC members concluded that before

taking action on Professor Merkel's request, they needed to know exactly what the current policy said. Professor Sutton agreed to find the wording of the current policy and bring it to the next meeting.

8. Professor Noppe asked if UC members had any concerns they wished her to bring to the UC-System Faculty Representatives meeting. They had none.

9. Professor Riddle requested that Professor Sutton check with the Student Government Association as to the status of its request that UWGB create a child care center on campus. She also requested that Professor Sutton check with Jolanda Sallmann regarding the status of proposals for a child care center.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Sutton
Secretary Pro Tempore