

University Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Present: Jim Loebl (Chair), Mark Klemp, Jon Shelton, Heidi Sherman, Chris Smith, Gail Trimberger,

Julie Wondergem

Guests: Michael Alexander, Caroline Boswell, David Coury, Kate Farley, Clif Ganyard, Patricia Hicks, Holly Keener, Steve Meyer, Kim Mezger, Lynn Niemi, Mary Kate Ontaneda,

Alison Staudinger, Jessica Van Slooten

Meeting brought to order at 3:06 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the 3/25/2020 meeting were approved.

- 2. Consideration of proposed Center for Civic Engagement: C. Ganyard, A. Staudinger, and D. Coury presented on the Center for Civic Engagement. C. Ganyard commented that the cocoordinators, Staudinger and Coury, did most of the work to create the Center. UC asked about support, and C. Ganyard said they were trying to provide financial support along with release time and administrative support. There was a question on physical space for the Center. C. Ganyard commented that they have not talked much about that yet, but it will be considered moving forward. D. Coury commented that the Mayor is supportive of the Center and may consider providing off-campus space. H. Sherman motioned to approve the Center for Civic Engagement. Seconded by G. Trimberger. Motion unanimously passed.
- **3.** Update on teaching evaluations to be conducted in Spring 2020: C. Boswell and J. Van Slooten presented work on course evaluation practices for the Spring 2020 semester. A draft of the simplified student feedback form was presented, along with the plans to include an instructor self-reflection in the 2019-2020 PAR. The mindset for this semester's change focuses on "gathering feedback" from the traditional "evaluation of teaching". Comments from the committee were to make the self-reflections optional, and not including the student feedback in the PARs.
- **4. Discussion of alternatives to Pass/Fail grading to encourage student retention and assist students during the COVID-19 crisis:** J. Shelton presented ideas for grading guidelines to be considered for this semester. The committee generally agreed that a Pass/Fail grading system would take away from the hard work our students are doing. These guidelines would not be binding, but they would recognize the numerous struggles and challenges students are experiencing with alternative delivery of course material. The committee discussed best ways to



disseminate any guidelines to instructors and students. M. Alexander commented that they are trying to eliminate the WF grade and only have W for withdraws.

- **5. Discussion of preparation for Fall 2020:** M. Alexander stated that projections for Fall are still positive, but there is still uncertainty with regards to the COVID-19 impact. Concerns of future state cuts to GPR also influence planning. While there is much uncertainty, many other institutions, both in the UW System and around the country, are facing much more difficult prospects. Contingency plans for Fall are being considered as there is much uncertainty with the spread and control of the virus. J. Shelton requested that faculty be involved with the administrative task force working on contingency plans.
- **6. Faculty Senate Agenda for 4/8/2020:** S. Meyer visited the UC to put together the April Senate meeting agenda. The meeting is planned to be conducted with Blackboard Collaborate, and instructions/guidelines for this medium will be sent out prior to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Klemp

APPROVED 4/15/20