

Annual Report of the University Committee 2004-2005

The University Committee (UC) members – Gregory Aldrete, Gregory Davis (chair), Sally Dresdow, Scott Furlong, Regan Gurung, and Christine Style – met on a weekly basis. Most meetings were attended by a representative from student government (Rachel Abhold) and one from the academic staff (John Landrum). Most meetings included an information exchange with the Provost. There were frequent meetings with the Secretary of the Faculty and Academic Staff (SOFAS), a meeting with the Academic Deans, a meeting with the Chief Information Officer, a meeting with the Director of Public Safety, and one with the Campus Climate Committee. During the summer the UC continued its practice of inviting incoming members (Forrest Baulieu and Terence O'Grady) to join in its deliberations.

During the 2004-2005 academic year, the UC forwarded eight action items to the Faculty Senate with the following results:

Passed:

- General Education Natural Science requirement (27 April 2005)
- Voting Status for Ex-Officio Members (23 March 2005)
- Implementing a Physical Education Executive Committee (17 November 2004)
- Resolution in Opposition to Constitutional Amendment Regarding the Definition of Marriage (17 November 2005)
- Amendment to Student-led Course Form (20 October 2004)
- Code change to UWGB 7.01 – Outside Activities and Conflict of Interest (20 October 2004)

Defeated:

- Continuation of Campus Climate Committee (27 April 2005)
- General Education Writing Emphasis Proposal (23 March 2005)

This UC continued the practice of placing Open Forum topics on the Faculty Senate Agenda. Topics discussed this year included: Summer Session, Faculty Development, General Education, Class Schedule Proposal from Campus Climate Committee, Joint discussion of mutual interests with Student Senate and the Academic Staff Committee, and Senate Reports.

Other tasks that the UC was involved in included:

- Clarification of curriculum approval procedures
- Appointment of faculty members/representatives on several University-wide committees
- Clarification of the role of the Senate Committee on Planning and Budget as well as the Senate Legislative Committee
- Evaluation of four lecturers having been recommended for faculty status

The UC began its year by selecting faculty development as a unifying topic of discussion. An attempt was made to evaluate the needs of faculty in order to function strongly in all three facets of our appointment; i.e., instruction, scholarship, and service. Deliberation on this topic dovetailed nicely with discussions related to our General Education Program and to the efforts of the Campus Climate Committee, including their class schedule proposal and the prospect of a common meeting time.

As UC discussions continued throughout the year, it became increasingly clear that additional University support for the Faculty, especially in the area of scholarship, is highly desired. It appears that time constraints may be the largest detriment to the pursuit of scholarship on our campus. Some felt that a change in class scheduling to a fourteen week semester would provide additional time for faculty development. The UC recognized that improved campus climate would also be beneficial in aid of increasing productivity on our campus. Members of the UC vowed to continue to look for ways to affect positive change on the campus climate.

I wish to thank my colleagues on the UC for energetic discussions, dedicated work, and for ably creating minutes that captured the time we spent together. I would also like to thank those in the SOFAS office who kept us on schedule, as well as all of the faculty and staff who kept the UC informed of their concerns.

Submitted by Gregory Davis, chair