

MINUTES  
UW Green Bay University Committee

Present:	25 March 2009
Steven Meyer (Chair)	3:00 pm, CL 825
Illene Noppe	
Laura Riddle	
Meir Russ	Previous Meeting:
Brian Sutton	4 March 2009
Dean VonDras	
Jamie Froh, Student Government Representative	

Guests: Interim Chancellor David Ward; Interim Provost Bill Laatsch; Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Tim Sewall

- 1) The minutes of the 4 March 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved with minor corrections.
- 2) Interim Chancellor Ward discussed a variety of subjects with the UC:
  - a) He summarized the difficulties UWGB faces during the current budget crisis.
  - b) He advised the UC to meet with incoming Chancellor Harden relatively early in the latter's first year as chancellor, focusing that initial meeting on building a relationship and on a general discussion of the state of the university rather than on trying to fix any immediate crisis.
  - c) He stated that UWGB should develop an overall strategic plan and that he hoped that once such a plan was in place, the UC would help guide the university in directions specified by the plan. Interim Provost Laatsch added that the UC might productively work with the incoming provost in developing a new academic plan (a component of the overall strategic plan).
- 3) Continuing Business:
  - a) Associate Provost Sewall discussed the recently circulated procedures for retiring or resigning from UWGB. He emphasized that the procedures were created to assure (1) that the appropriate persons were informed in a timely manner of positions that would need to be filled and (2) that Human Resources received information so that the retiree could promptly receive retirement benefits in a timely manner.
  - b) Chair Meyer summarized information he received on the three-year degree proposal at the most recent meeting of UW-System faculty representatives. The three-year degree would not involve waiving requirements or reducing the number of credits required for a baccalaureate degree; it simply requires accelerated progress toward degrees from students. Theoretically, any student at any UW-System school could graduate in three years. The only difference at certain campuses is that they will emphasize this option in their marketing.

- c) Chair Meyer also summarized information he received, also at the faculty representatives' meeting, regarding the UW-System Committee on Program Array. Although that committee is taking inventory of the majors offered and number of annual graduates in each major for each UW-System university, System will not order campuses to eliminate majors. Decisions regarding program will be made by individual campuses at the Provost level, where information from the inventory may (or may not) prove useful. Although initially there were no faculty on the committee, the committee now consists of two faculty members and six administrators (but nobody from UWGB).
- d) Chair Meyer was asked to inquire, at the next faculty representatives' meeting, into the existence and nature of honors programs at other UW-System schools, and into the status in the legislature of a motion allowing faculty unionization.
- e) Chair Meyer noted that Student Government Association representatives would join the Senators at the next April 8 Faculty Senate meeting to discuss issues of concern to the students.
- f) UC members discussed at some length possible actions in response to the HLC report:
- Some, but not all, UC members believed that a task force should be created to deal with faculty workload issues.
  - The allocation of reassignments from teaching was discussed. It was generally agreed that it is extremely difficult to assure that reassignments are distributed equitably.
  - UC members noted that recent UWGB documents might shed light on the workload issue, including an "audit" of faculty reassignments initiated by then-Provost Hammersmith and a "Quality of Life" survey conducted by the Campus Climate Committee, and that the UC should seek copies of these documents.
  - It was suggested that we invite Deborah Furlong, Director of Institutional Research, to an upcoming meeting to discuss workload-related data.
  - Ultimately, UC members seemed to agree that the workload issue might make a good first use of something adopted earlier this school year: the idea of caucuses prior to regular Faculty Senate meetings. Because the meeting with Student Government Association members might take up much of the April meeting, it was suggested that the UC schedule caucuses prior to the *May* Faculty Senate meeting to discuss the workload issue. UC members also seemed to favor inviting unit chairs to join the Faculty Senators at these caucuses.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Sutton, secretary pro tempore