

MINUTES  
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay University Committee

Present: 23 September 2009  
3:00 pm, CL 825

Dave Dolan  
Illene Noppe  
Laura Riddle  
Brian Sutton (Chair)

Previous Meeting:  
9 September 2009

Guests: Katrina Hrivnak, Academic Staff Representative; Tom Maki, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance; Julia Wallace, Provost; Steven Meyer (*in loco professor Draney*); Megan Loritz, Student Government Representative

Excused: Tim Kaufman

1. The minutes of the meeting of 9 September 2009 were approved with minor changes.
2. Steve Meyer announced that he now is a Faculty Senator, replacing Vladimir Kurenok who is on leave.

3. Continuing Business

- Ombudsperson position: Professor Riddle conducted research to clarify the nature of this position. Suggested models gleaned from UW-Green Bay records and web sites from other universities ranged the gamut from “advocacy committees” to a specific person who would determine the viability of complaints, serve as a mediator and direct faculty to appropriate resources. Professor Riddle generously agreed to revise the ombudsperson proposal with specification of the responsibilities of this position. Additional comments referred to the need to clearly delineate the duties of this position from those of the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities, and whether or not Academic Staff would object to this position being linked to SOFAS. Professor Meyer informed committee members of a website that may be of help: <http://www.ombudsassociation.org>
- Course repeat policy: The UC engaged in an extensive discussion of the impact of changing the practice of allowing students to retake courses in order to have a higher grade counted on their transcripts. Of concern is that such students would occupy the seats of students who have not yet taken the course and need it for their major. Assistant Registrar Hrivnak clarified how the SIS system works, and what its limitations are in regard to allowing students to take courses when the repeated course is a prerequisite. Winding our way through this complicated maze led to the agreement that students would have to personally visit the instructor of the course in order to be allowed to a repeat. Professor Sutton will rewrite the proposal. The UC will consider this revised document and consider the impact of course repeats on GPA next week.
- Honors College: Professor I. Noppe has volunteered to work on this project and thus will attend the National Collegiate Honors Council conference. She requested that she be released from her commitment to the UW System Faculty Representatives meetings. The UC agreed to open the position to Faculty Senators. Professor Noppe will attend the first Faculty Representatives meeting on Friday, September 25, 2009.

4. Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Maki presented details of the UW-Green Bay 2009-2010 budget. Gently guiding us through his colorful budget handout, Vice Chancellor Maki informed us that the \$84 million budget entails an almost 50/50 split in revenues from tuition and state funding, representing a significant decline in state support over the past two decades. We learned of the dollar amount of the state budget cuts, the current status of the budget planning process, as well as anticipated budget lapses. The presentation concluded with a discussion of the potential roles of faculty and academic staff in the budget planning process.
5. Provost Wallace informed the UC of a change in the terms of endowed chairs from calendar year to academic year. Also up for discussion were Professor Riddle's concerns about holding time-consuming merit reviews for non-tenured faculty in a year when there are no pay increases.
6. New Business:
  - The UC will consider whether there should be a limit on the number of years a completed course prerequisite may be considered applicable for successful learning in a current course.
  - In future meetings, we will discuss the relative roles of the UC and the Academic Actions Committee in determining policy.
7. Professor Sutton suggested that we adjourn, and the UC harmoniously agreed. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Dolan  
Secretary Pro Tempore