

University Committee Annual Report 2008-09

The University Committee (UC) members, Steve Meyer (chair), Illene Noppe, Laura Riddle, Meir Russ, Brian Sutton, and Dean Von Dras met weekly. Lisa DeLeeuw was the Academic Staff Committee representative. Jamie Froh and Joel Diny represented the Student Government Association during the Fall and Spring semesters, respectively. Almost every week the UC had the pleasure of meeting with Interim Provost William Laatsch for an information exchange. Professor Cliff Abbott, in his position as Secretary of the Faculty and Academic Staff, regularly met with the committee.

The activities of the Faculty Senate and the University Committee are listed below and are sorted by category and topic.

Faculty Senate Passed the following:

Resolutions:

- Resolution to Develop Faculty Senate Caucuses
- Resolutions for the Granting of Degrees (December and May graduates)
- Resolution to Support UW – Oshkosh’s Request of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau
- Resolution to Create an Interdisciplinary Task Force
- Resolution to Endorse the SGA’s New Campus Smoking Policy
- Reaffirmation of a Resolution in Support of Domestic Partner Benefits
- Amended Resolution in Support of an On-Campus Child Care Facility
- Resolution Regarding the Right to Collectively Bargain
- Resolution of Thanks to Interim Chancellor David Ward, Interim Provost William Laatsch, and University Services Program Associate Patricia Przybelski
- Memorial Resolution for Bruce LaPlante
- Memorial Resolution for Edward W. Weidner
- Memorial Resolution for Susan Kline-Keim
- Memorial Resolution for Lorraine M. Noll

Code Changes:

- Code change to “Section UWGB Chapter 3 – Faculty Appointments.” There was significant overlap between Chapters 3 and 51. This code change essentially combines Chapter 3 and Chapter 51 by adding the non-redundant parts of Chapter 51 to Chapter 3. Chapter 51 is now eliminated.

Other:

- Approved slate of nominees for faculty elective committees

Presented to Senate, action to be taken in 2009-2010

- Furlough leave resulting from budget cuts
- Surcharges on course repeats
- Residency requirements for All-University Honors
- Decoupling the UW – Green Bay Faculty Representative and UC Chair positions
- The lack of an Ombudsperson
- Workload issues as addressed in the HLC Report
- Textbook affordability

- Continued work of the Interdisciplinary Task Force
- Creation of a University Honors Program

Senate Discussion Items – action not required

- Open Forum on methods of empowering the Senate
- Open Forum on developing caucuses at Faculty Senate meetings
- Open Form on eliminating the graduation requirement of an interdisciplinary major or minor
- Discussion of the work presented by the Branding Committee to create an institutional identity (“Innovation – Engagement – Sustainability”)
- Open Form on the Higher Learning Commission Report
- Caucus on the Higher Learning Commission Report
- Discussion of the hazards posed at a near-campus intersection (East Shore Dr. and Nicolet Dr.)
- Open Forum dialogue with the SGA – discussion included general education, textbook affordability, and the budget

University Committee Discussion and Actions

Committee and Personnel Issues

- Provided names of faculty to serve on the Provost Search and Screen Committee
- A replacement for Prof. Teri Johnson was found for the Senate Legislative Affairs Committee
- Replacements for Dean Rodeheaver and Prof. John Katers were found for the Campus Sustainability Council
- Provided nominations for the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities and the Senate Appointed committees
- Most UC members participated in the Chancellor interview process
- Most UC members participated in the Provost interview process
- The UC recommended faculty status be granted to Karen Jick, Joan Groessler, Danielle Bina, and Nicole Schneider
- Discussed the possibly decoupling the faculty representative and UC Chair responsibilities

Salary, Workload, Campus Climate Issues

- Discussed summer salary inequities due to certain non-paying students; the Deans decided to spread those across the summer enrollment so as not to disadvantage any one faculty member
- Administrator Evaluation Committee was absolved of its charge after it was learned that Chancellor Shepard, Provost Hammersmith, and Dean Erickson were leaving UWGB for positions at other universities
- Discussed faculty input to the Growth Agenda, until learning of the suspension of the Growth Agenda due to budget shortfalls
- Discussed the charge of the Faculty Senate Planning and Budget Committee
- Discussed the issue of faculty teaching loads (and workloads in general) at UW-Green Bay as a result of comments made in the Higher Learning Commission Report; to this end, we invited Debbie Furlong in to discuss the National Faculty Survey conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute

- Discussed the legislative bill that would provide UW faculty the right to vote for collective bargaining
- Discussed combining the Faculty Senate and Academic Staff Committee for a joint meeting; it was proposed that the January Faculty Senate meeting would be a good time for such a joint meeting
- Discussed the lack of an Ombudsperson and the possible legal ramifications this might have

Governance and Curricular Issues

- Discussed the number of in-residence credits required to be eligible for degree honors (brought forth by an academic program); discussion will continue in the Fall
- Discussed a proposal to eliminate the graduation requirement of either an interdisciplinary major or minor
- Discussed, and subsequently endorsed, the revisions made to the Academic Program Review Guidelines
- Discussed the development of a pilot program for a 3-year baccalaureate degree that will be tried at four UW System institutions (UW – Eau Claire, UW – La Crosse, UW – Stout, and UW – Stevens Point)
- Discussed the UW System Program Realignment Effort (a data collection effort that will analyze the programs offered by the institution, enrollments in those programs, number of students matriculating from those programs, etc.), the timeline of this effort, and the need for faculty representation on this committee
- Discussed the possibility of establishing an Honors Program at UWGB – some UC members looked at Honors Program models at other institutions
- Discussed a policy on class absence due to military service
- Discussed the possibility of assessing a surcharge on students who repeat courses
- Discussed the University System of Maryland’s policy on textbook affordability

Campus-Wide Issues

- Discussed the resignation and/or retirement procedures for faculty, academic staff, and limited appointees that was drafted by Assoc. Provost Sewall
- Discussed the establishment of a new award through the FOCUS Program entitled the “Certificate of Recognition for Contribution to Students;” the award looks to recognize those faculty and staff who made a significant contribution to a student’s experience during their first year at UWGB

I gratefully acknowledge the work of my fellow UC Committee members this year and the collegial nature in which our meetings were conducted. While differences in opinion are expected, everyone respected the right of each individual to have and to voice their opinion. It is encouraging to see the level of commitment that our colleagues have for our institution. I would like to thank SOFAS Cliff Abbott for his wealth of knowledge on all things UWGB, on more than one occasion we turned to Cliff for guidance and he always had the answer. Without the support of Pat Przybelski I’m convinced little would get done. Her knowledge of the “ins and outs” of the SOFAS Office is overwhelming and her gentle reminders kept us on task. Cliff’s and Pat’s support was extremely important for us as a committee. Lastly, I thank the members of the Faculty Senate for their diligent efforts throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted by Steven J. Meyer, Chair