

University Committee Annual Report 2009-10

I. University Committee Meetings Schedule and Membership

During the 2009-10 school year the University Committee met every Wednesday afternoon except for the third Wednesday of each month, as this was when the Faculty Senate met. The January 2010 Faculty Senate meeting was a joint meeting with the Academic Staff Committee.

University Committee members for 2009-10 consisted of Dave Dolan, Mike Draney, Tim Kaufman, Illene Noppe, Laura Riddle, and Brian Sutton (chair). Because of a scheduling conflict, Mike Draney was unable to attend the Fall 2009 meetings; he was unofficially replaced as Natural and Applied Sciences representative during that semester by Steve Meyer, as an *ex officio* member. Katrina Hrivnak was the Academic Staff Committee representative; Megan Loritz represented the Student Government Association.

During portions of almost every meeting, Provost Julia Wallace met with the committee for an information exchange. Secretary of the Faculty and Academic Staff Cliff Abbott met with the committee each month on the week before Faculty Senate meetings, to set Senate meeting's agenda, and also met with the committee during other meetings on an as-needed basis, usually to clarify various procedural matters.

II. Faculty Senate Actions

A. Faculty Senate Passed the Following:

1. Personnel and Positions

- Resolution electing Illene Noppe Deputy Speaker of the Faculty Senate for 2009-10. (Laura Riddle had already been elected Speaker for 2009-10 at the final Faculty Senate meeting of 2008-09.)
- Resolution that henceforth, the UWGB representative at UW-System Faculty Representatives' meetings should be a Faculty Senator and should serve a two-year term as Faculty Representative. (Previously, the Chair of the University Committee had generally doubled as Faculty Representative, resulting in a different person serving as Faculty Representative each year.)
- Resolution that the administration should create a position of University Ombudsperson and that this position should become part of the official duties of the Secretary of the Faculty and Academic Staff.
- Resolution authorizing creation of a new category of university committees, called joint governance committees, in cases where the committee membership contains significant overlaps among faculty, academic staff, and/or students.
- Resolution approving the slate of candidates recommended by the Committee on Committees for elections to faculty committees for 2010-11.
- Resolution approving minor changes to chapters 3 and 51 of University code, following up on changes to these chapters previously approved by the 2008-09 Faculty Senate.
- Resolution electing Mike Draney Chair of the Faculty Senate for 2010-11.

2. Academics

- Resolution creating a task force to draft a proposed model for an honors program at UWGB.
- Resolution endorsing the General Education mission statement created by the Task Force on General Education and previously approved by the General Education Council.
- Resolution reducing the residency requirement for eligibility for all-university honors from 60 credits to 48 credits.
- Resolution stating that credits for prior learning cannot be used to meet either the undergraduate or the graduate residency requirement at UWGB.
- Resolution creating an Academic Forgiveness Policy whereby students who have been absent from UWGB for a minimum for three consecutive years prior to readmission may petition that the grades they earned three or more years earlier should not count toward their GPA, although those grades will still appear on their UWGB transcript.
- Resolution that the Registrar's Office should maintain course waitlists through the eighth day (including weekend days) of any given semester, replacing the practice of maintaining these lists through the first Friday of any given semester.
- Resolution approving the granting of degrees to December 2009 and May 2010 graduates.

3. Other

- Resolution urging Wisconsin's elected officials to end their decades-long pattern of disinvestment in the UW-System of Higher Education. Copies of the resolution were sent to state legislators representing districts in Northeast Wisconsin, as well as to Governor Doyle.
- Resolution endorsing the adoption of *Ad Scientiam Renovandam* as the University's motto.
- Resolution commending the UWGB men's and women's basketball teams.
- Memorial Resolution for Jerry Dell.

B. Faculty Senate Considered but Did Not Pass the Following:

- Resolution that students wishing to repeat a course may not register for the course until after regular registration, including R & R, is completed.
- Resolution creating a "committee apprentice program" in which junior faculty members would serve as non-voting members on certain faculty committees.
- Resolution abolishing the Senate Committee on Planning and Budget.
- Resolution endorsing the creation of a School of Business at UWGB.
- Resolution that transcripts for future UWGB graduates should include, along with the student's GPA, the median and mean GPAs of members of the student's graduating class, for each of the student's majors and minors.

C. Faculty Senate Discussed the Following in Open Forums—No Action Required

- The possibility of unionization at UWGB (guests Julie Schmidt of the American Federation of Teachers and Patricia Terry of TAUP)
- The possibility of creating a Partner Hire Policy at UWGB.

- The possibility of raising the minimum GPA required to graduate *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, or *summa cum laude*.
- The current legislative outlook and actions individual faculty members could take to encourage legislators to support the UW System in general and UWGB in particular.
- A uniform style guide encouraging standardization regarding the University's logo, wordmark, colors, and abbreviation.
- The possibility of using clickers to allow for secret ballots in the Faculty Senate.

III. University Committee Actions

A. Committee and Personnel Matters

- Discussed with the Provost the possibility of reassignments for the UC chair. The administration and the UC eventually agreed to a change in which the UC chair could receive one three-credit reassignment per semester but receive no extra pay, or if he or she preferred, could stay with the current arrangement in which the chair receives no reassignments but receives a 1/9-of-salary stipend over the summer following the academic year of service as chair.
- Informally selected Steve Meyer to serve as *ex officio* member of the UC during the Fall 2009 semester in place of Mike Draney, who was unable to attend fall-semester UC meetings because of his teaching schedule.
- Elected Brian Sutton UWGB's representative at UW-System Faculty Representatives' meetings through the 2010-11 school year. Professor Sutton replaced Illene Noppe, who needed to be released from the Faculty Representative position in order to devote sufficient time to her work on creating an honors program at UWGB.
- Recommended that faculty status be granted to Brenda Tyczkowski, James Hatlak, and Kevin Kain.
- Appointed Julie Lukesch, Susan Gallagher-Lepak, and Jennifer Zapf to the Senate Committee on Planning and Budget.
- Nominated slates of candidates for faculty elective committees, following recommendations from the Committee on Committees.
- Selected members of a task force to propose a model for an honors program at UWGB.
- Discussed with members of the Senate Planning and Budget Committee that committee's frustrations over the formidable obstacles preventing the committee from fulfilling what it is charged to do according to the Faculty Handbook. Eventually the Provost, the UC Chair, and the Planning & Budget Committee members met to discuss ways the committee might profitably serve UWGB.
- Discussed with Jeff Entwistle the possibility of appointing new members to the Task Force on Interdisciplinary, one member having retired and another being too busy to serve in Spring 2010. The UC and Professor Entwistle eventually concluded that no new members were needed.
- Discussed giving the Task Force on Interdisciplinarity a May 2010 deadline for producing a final report (after all, the task force was created in September 2008 with a charge to produce a final report by the end of the 2008-09 school year), but eventually accepted the task force's assessment that it needed until the end of the Fall 2010 semester to produce a final report.
- Provided input to Secretary of the Faculty and Academic Staff Abbott regarding a schedule for Faculty Senate meetings for 2010-11.

- Discussed with SOFAS Abbott what heading should be given to a particular page on the SOFAS web site. The UC and the Secretary of the Faculty eventually agreed on the heading “Academic Program Governance.”
- Discussed, but ultimately decided against forwarding to the Faculty Senate, a resolution that clicker technology be used to create secret ballots on Faculty Senate items.
- Elected Illene Noppe UC Chair for 2010-11.

B. Academic Issues

- Endorsed the Chancellor’s acceptance of a 5.5 million dollar gift from Dr. David Cofrin, with the agreement regarding the gift stipulating the creation of an Austin E. Cofrin School of Business and earmarking some of the gift’s funds to convert the Austin E. Cofrin Professorship of Business into a Chair of Business.
- Appointed Illene Noppe to explore the possibility of an honors program at UWGB, including having Professor Noppe attend the National Honors Council Conference in October 2009. The UC eventually discussed possibilities regarding an honors program with Dean Scott Furlong and Associate Dean Donna Ritch.
- Forwarded to the Provost a request for a minor change in the Academic Calendar. The change was enacted by the administration: henceforth, merit reviews for new faculty members will no longer be due by the end of the first week of the spring semester. Instead, units will have until mid-February to report on satisfactory performance by new faculty members, although it is expected that cases of clearly unsatisfactory performance will be reported earlier.
- Discussed, but ultimately voted against forwarding to the Faculty Senate, a resolution to eliminate the rule that when a student repeats a course, only the most recent grade for the course counts toward the student’s GPA.
- Discussed the idea of a “statute of limitations” for counting courses as prerequisites, as when a student returns to school after many years away and seeks to count a course taken in 1990 as a prerequisite for a course taken in 2010. The UC eventually concluded that individual programs should continue to decide such issues on a case-by-case basis.
- Discussed a suggestion to standardize the credit-hour level at which students must declare a major. The UC eventually forwarded this suggestion to the Committee on Academic Actions.
- Discussed, without taking action, the possibility of a moratorium on merit reviews for tenured faculty until such time as faculty might reasonably hope for pay increases in the foreseeable future.
- Discussed with the Provost the question of what constitutes a “center” at UWGB (for example, Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning). The Provost seeks to create a set of guidelines for approval of new centers.

C. Other Issues

- Discussed with the Provost (on more than one occasion) the desirability of having a child care center on the UWGB campus.
- Discussed the UWGB budget with Vice Chancellor Tom Maki.

IV. Acknowledgments

My thanks to my colleagues on the University Committee in 2009-10. While faculty committee work is by nature tedious, the experience of chairing the University Committee was rendered much more enjoyable by the collegiality, intelligence, and efficiency of the committee members. SOFAS Cliff Abbott and Provost Julia Wallace provided invaluable help as well. The former consistently provided necessary information about how the UC should proceed; the latter sought to keep UC members fully informed regarding problems faced and actions considered not only by the UWGB administration but by the Regents and the UW System. Equally important from my perspective, both consistently displayed good cheer and a sharp sense of humor. I'm also grateful to Mary Goral for her efficient work in support of the UC. Finally, my thanks to the Faculty Senators for their diligent efforts throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Sutton, Chair, University Committee, 2009-10