

University Committee Report, 2011-2012

1. University Committee Meetings, Schedule, and Membership

During the 2011-2012 academic year, the University Committee met nearly every Wednesday afternoon except when Faculty Senate met. We met once during summer 2011 (26 July), 13 times during Fall 2011, and 9 times during Spring 2012 (not counting one meeting, on 4 April 2012, that was cancelled), for a total of 23 meetings, most two hours in length.

University Committee members for 2011-2012 consisted of David Dolan (also UW-System Faculty Representative), Michael Draney (UC Chair), Tim Kaufman, Derek Jeffreys (also Speaker of the Faculty Senate), Bryan Vescio, and Ray Hutchison. Linda Parins was Academic Staff Representative, and Heba Mohammad was the Student Government Association Representative.

Provost Julia Wallace met with us during most meetings for informal information exchange. Secretary of the Faculty and Academic Staff Cliff Abbott met with us on the Wednesday before each Faculty Senate meeting to help us set the Faculty Senate agenda, and to clarify procedural matters.

2. Faculty Senate Actions

A. Faculty Senate Passed the Following:

1. Code Changes

- Establishment of Joint Committee on Workload and Compensation
- Code change for Graduate Programs (so that the code adequately reflects current administrative structure, etc.)
- Code Change on tenured faculty merit reviews (so Code conforms to UW-System code, calling for merit reviews at least once every five years)
- Proposal for a Joint Committee on Legislative Affairs (combining Faculty and Academic Staff committees that had previously collaborated)
- Conversion of the Library and Instructional Technology Committee to a Joint Governance Committee
- Conversion of Awards and Recognition Committee to a Joint Governance Committee
- Proposal to Dissolve the Faculty Senate Committee on Planning and Budget
- Proposal to modify composition of Awards and Recognition Committee (to satisfy the Academic Staff Council of its "Joint" status)
- Proposal to modify composition of Learning and Instructional Technology Committee (to satisfy the Academic Staff Council of its "Joint" status)

- Code Change to create a Graduate Studies Council (replacing the Graduate Studies Advisory Board)
- Code Change in Graduate Faculty Status (Specifying that Faculty Status needs to be periodically reviewed before renewal)
- Code Change in Periodicity of Senate Meetings (Once every three weeks during Fall and Spring Semesters, not counting Winter and Spring breaks)

2. Proposals not involving Code changes

- Proposal for online B.S. program in Health Information Management and Technology
- UW-Green Bay Policy on Post-Retirement Employment (Specifies conditions for university employment of "rehired annuitants")
- Revised Declaration of Major/Program Policy (simplifies and clarifies when students must declare a major)
- Proposal to Create a New Interdisciplinary (budgetary) Unit in Theatre/Dance
- Proposal to Create a New Interdisciplinary (budgetary) Unit in Music
- Proposal to Amend Student Bereavement Policy (specifying different policy for courses shorter than semester-length)
- Proposal for an online M.S. in Nursing degree
- Proposal for an online M.S. in Sustainable Management

3. Resolutions and Elections

- Elected Tim Kaufman Deputy Speaker of the Faculty Senate
- Resolution in response to 2011 Wisconsin Act 35 - Concealed Carry Law (in support of banning firearms and weapons from campus buildings)
- Memorial Resolution for Charles Matter
- Resolution in support of a UW "Nine over Twelve" benefit payment plan for faculty
- Resolution on Granting of Degrees (Fall 2011)
- Memorial Resolution for Professor Emeritus Thomas Van Koevering
- Approved Slate of Candidates for Faculty Elective Committees for 2012-13
- Resolution on Granting of Degrees (Spring Semester)
- Resolution from Committee on Workload and Compensation (in support of the administration's hiring a Faculty and Academic Staff workload and compensation consultant)
- Election of Speaker of the Senate for 2012-2013 (Bryan Vescio)

B. Open Forums (no action needed)

- Open Forum on Strategic Planning (Chancellor Harden)
- Open Forum on Accreditation (Provost Wallace)
- Open Forum on General Education Reform (General Education Task Force)

C. Faculty Senate Considered but did Not Pass the Following:

- Code Change on Defining Interdisciplinarity
- Proposal to Modify Senate House Rules (Proposal to not count abstentions of the vote)

3. University Committee Actions

Committees and Personnel Matters

- UC Chair Draney Chaired three Named Professorships Selection Steering Committees:
 - B. H. Cofrin
 - H. F. Johnson
 - Frankenthal
- Appointed Professors Kersten, Dolan, Bauer-Dantoin, and Meier to serve on the Joint Committee for Workload and Compensation.
- Helped the Chancellor suggest Faculty representative for UWGB Foundation Board of Directors and the Chancellor's Council on Diversity committee.
- Replacement recommendation for Individualized Learning Committee: UC members recommended Jill White for this committee.
- Recommendations to Provost of Faculty to serve on search committee for the Associate Provost.
- UC revived the practice of having an Academic Staff Report at Faculty Senate, with help from ASC Chair Linda Parins.
- Discussed Faculty and Academic Staff workload and compensation issues with Academic Staff Committee (Leif Nelson, David Kieper, Samantha Surowiec; Linda Parins, Chair, was also present) and Professor Andrew Kersten.
- Discussed merit review process with Dean Scott Furlong.
- The UC suggested a Faculty member to serve on the search and screen committee to replace the Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance, at the request of Chancellor Harden.
- UC Chair Draney met with Vice Chancellor Tom Maki to discuss the function of the Chancellor's Council on Planning and Budget.
- UC met with the Faculty Senate Planning and Budget Committee about the possibility of modifying their charge.
- Discussed a request by Professor Arendt to examine merit review practices across units. Decided not to pursue that project.
- Discussed CWC's Resolution to the Senate with CWC Chair Andrew Kersten.
- Chair Draney met with LAS and PS Unit Chairs meetings to discuss strategies to increase effectiveness of Faculty Senate.
- UC recommended approval of Faculty status for Patrick Forsythe, ES&P; Mary Guy, NAS; and Sara Schmitz, HUB.

- The UC made recommendations for candidates for the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities.
- Elected Derek Jeffreys as UC Chair for 2012-2013
- Selected Bryan Vescio as Speaker of the Faculty Senate for 2012-2013
- Selected Dan Meinhardt to replace Angela Bauer on the Committee on Workload and Compensation.
- Selected David Dolan to replace Andrew Kersten on the Committee on Workload and Compensation.
- Selected Mimi Kubsch to replace David Dolan as UC Representative to Committee on Workload and Compensation.

Academic Issues

- Discussed the Health Information Management Technology proposal with AAC Chair Steve Dutch.
- Discussed Declaration of Major policy with Academic Actions Committee (Chair Steve Meyer, Darrell Renier, and Amanda Hruska).
- Discussed history and policies regarding online CCQ's with Associate Provost Kathy Pletcher.
- Arranged a special Senate meeting for a first reading of MS program in Sustainable Management.

Other

- The UC provided feedback to Cliff Abbott regarding his "Faculty Summit" meetings over the summer of 2011.
- Discussed openness and transparency of the UW-System's HR overhaul, and Chair Draney expressed the UC's concern with Faculty Senate and in the Chancellor's Leadership Council. Discussed these issues with UW-Green Bay reps Joe Schoenebeck, HR Director Sheryl Van Gruensven, the Chancellor, and the Provost. Chancellor Harden acted on these concerns at the UW-System Chancellor's meeting.
- Discussed changes to Adult Degree enrollment policies with Provost Wallace; she considers those to not be curricular issues and so not subject to Faculty Governance.
- Discussed Cliff Abbott's proposal for a series of faculty debates.
- Met with Associate Provost Tim Sewall about options for correcting problems with the Segregated Fee policies as they relate to online courses.
- UC suggested Faculty member to attend Board of Regents dinner in Madison, for Chancellor Harden.
- Discussed childcare survey with SGA representative Heba Mohammad.
- Discussed search and screen reimbursement problems with Provost Wallace.

4. Self-evaluation

In looking over my year as UC Chair, I am very pleased with the overall performance of the UC and Faculty Senate. Faculty Governance can be a frustrating exercise in trying to reconcile large aspirations and limited means, but we were all united this year in our attempt to determine what was possible and to maximize our effectiveness given our circumstances. I am particularly proud of our successful creation of a Joint committee to address Workload and Compensation issues. I expect this committee will play a prominent role in coming years as we continuously adjust to the challenges and realities of our situation. This first Joint Governance committee was followed this year by three other committees that we decided were legitimately Joint Governance bodies; I expect that other committees will be given this useful designation in years to come. Although we created a new committee, we kept overall Faculty and Academic staff service load manageable through the elimination of the Faculty Senate Committee on Planning and Budget, when it was determined that the committee cannot fulfill its charge given our campus' current planning and budget policies and procedures.

One issue that this year's UC worked hard at addressing concerned the effectiveness of the Faculty Senate as the main Faculty Governance institution on this campus. Over the past three years, the UC noticed a decrease in engagement and participation of some members of the Senate, and we feared that the effectiveness of the Faculty Senate was thereby compromised. We changed the Senate meeting schedule from monthly to every three weeks in order to create a more predictable and useful Senate calendar, and I met with Unit Chair Meetings of both Colleges to encourage future election of some tenured "senior Senators" which we hope will result in a Senate more familiar with university culture and history and more willing and able to vigorously debate issues that come before the Senate. Lastly, although the measure did not pass the Senate, a proposal to eliminate abstentions from Senate voting procedures (by changing the Senate House Rules) was considered a great success by many Senators, as it allowed us all to carefully consider the purpose and consequences of voting and abstaining from voting. In summary, I hope that the Senate is now more aware of its own critical role in Faculty Governance, and I feel this will be a very positive result of this year's efforts, going forward.

5. Acknowledgments

As Chair of the University Committee for the 2011-2012 Academic Year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with the many accomplishments of the committee. First and foremost, I would like to thank SOFAS Cliff Abbott for sharing his knowledge, and for his diligence and acumen that prevented me from making some mistakes and helped me to recover from others. His efforts were indispensable in the success of the Faculty Senate. I also want to extend a special thanks to the entire UC and Reps, who were a particularly cordial and helpful bunch. In particular, I want to thank Derek Jeffreys for skillful service as Speaker, and to thank both Derek and Bryan Vescio for their willingness to take on greater UC responsibilities for the next academic year, providing the institution with much-needed experience and continuity. Thanks to Mary Goral in the SOFAS office for helping us to organize the many UC and Senate activities this year. Thanks to all members of the Faculty Senate for a year in which I think the operations of this Governance body were improved because its members had the courage and patience for self-reflection. I would also like to thank Illene Cupit for her help and encouragement as I assumed the Chair of this committee. Lastly, thanks to everyone who met with the UC this year for numerous demonstrations of commitment to UW-Green Bay, and for patiently trying to help Faculty Governance accomplish our goals. In particular, I'd like to thank Provost Wallace and Chancellor Harden for many small kindnesses and for continuously endeavoring to improve the lines of communication between Faculty and Administration.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael L. Draney