

University Committee

During the 2014-15 academic year, the University Committee (UC) met every Wednesday from 3:00-5:00 p.m., except during meetings of the Faculty Senate and on holidays. Members of the committee included Clifton Ganyard, John Lyon (Speaker of the Faculty Senate), Mimi Kubsch, Steve Meyer (Chair), Cristina Ortiz (Fall semester), Christine Style (Spring semester), and Kristin Vespia. Katrina Hrivnak served as Academic Staff Representative and Vanya Koepke served as Student Government Association Representative.

The members comprising this year's UC worked tremendously well together, there was always a high level of respect demonstrated for each other's ideas and opinions. As a result, every member felt free to express their thoughts which made for collegial and effective meetings. The UC appreciated the visits of the Provost, Associate Provost, and SOFAS Cliff Abbott, who joined us before each Senate meeting to help set the agenda and to whom we frequently consulted on matters of policy and institutional memory. We were also pleased to welcome new Chancellor Gary Miller to the UC table whenever he was available to share ideas and information and to provide feedback whenever possible.

2014-15 was an academic year of great change and even greater challenge. With the November 2014 installation of Chancellor Miller, leadership changed at the highest level at UW-Green Bay and the UC successfully adapted to the new Chancellor's style of leadership. Immediately after the end of the Fall 2014 semester, university governance would face its greatest challenge when murmurs of massive budget cuts to the UW System would be heard. In January 2015, we learned the UW System budget would be slashed by \$300 million dollars (later reduced to \$250 million dollars). In addition to the enormous reduction state fiscal support, Governor Walker and the State Legislature began a systematic attack on tenure and shared governance, removing both from state statutes – the Board of Regents would eventually place both under Board policy, the final form of tenure and shared governance under Board policy is still to be determined. These actions by state government consumed much of the

attention, time, and effort of the UC, causing the UC's agenda to change dramatically during the Spring 2015 semester. The actions of state government also created a challenging first year for Chancellor Miller, and the UC would like to express its appreciation of his efforts toward transparency and inclusion regarding the budget decision making process that followed.

Fall 2014

1. Committee charges: With the conversion of Classified Staff over to University Staff, the new group requested representation on all Joint Governance Committees. As a result, the UC modified the charge of three Joint Governance Committees – the Legislative Affairs Committee, the Learning Technology Collaborative Committee, and the Committee on Workload and Compensation – to include representation by the University Staff on each of these committees. These were approved by the Faculty Senate.

2. Revision of the University Mission Statement: UW-Green Bay administration received a request from UW System to correct an oversight. UW-Green Bay's mission statement was in violation of state statute 36.09 (1b) for not "delineating specific program responsibilities and types of degrees to be granted". Then-Associate Provost Greg Davis, revised the University's mission state to include programs offered in the liberal arts and sciences and in professional studies. The revision was ratified by the Faculty Senate.

3. Appointments to New Committees Created by Chancellor Miller: Upon assuming the reins at UW-Green Bay, Chancellor Miller establish two initiatives: University Planning and Innovation Council (UPIC) and Invent the Future (which includes the Steering Committee and four working groups: the Academic Portfolio Working, the Enrollment Working Group, the Innovation and Growth Working Group, and the Partnerships and External Affairs Working Group). The UC was tasked with suggesting the names of faculty who would populate these committees.

4. Resolutions: Memorial resolutions for Donald Larmouth and Frederick Kersten were prepared and read by Prof. Cliff Abbott.

5. Honors and Recognition: Ms. Ginny Riopelle was recognized with an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree. In addition, the UC approved Faculty Status for Rebecca Hovarter (Nursing) and Adrienne Fletcher (Social Work).

6. Realignment of Summer Terms: In response to a suggestion that students are overestimating the number of courses they could successfully complete during a summer session, the UC examined a proposal to: (1) Simplify the number and organization of the summer sessions, and (2) restrict the number of credits students can take during the summer to 7. After much discussion, the UC suggested a realignment of summer sessions. The benefits of changing the sessions were numerous, including streamlining registration, simplifying billing and financial aid, and extending the period in which independent studies, travels courses, and the like could be conducted. There was no evidence that students taking several courses at one time resulted in poor performance, so the UC did not pursue this any further. The case for realigning the summer session was presented to the Faculty Senate, however, the senate did not endorse the proposed realignment, so the proposed realignment was not pursued.

Spring 2015

1. Elimination of a Faculty Committee: There were two committees on which faculty serve that served essentially the same purpose - Facilities Planning Committee and Facilities Management Committee. The Facilities Planning Committee had a charge, but had no authority (it was strictly a reporting committee). The Facilities Management Committee had no codified charge, but had authority to solicit information, ideas, and suggestions from colleagues/constituents on potential future projects/repairs. The same three faculty occupied seats on each committee. The UC worked with Kelly Franz, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance and Chair of the Facilities Management Committee, to create a

charge for the Facilities Management Committee. With the charge, the two committees duplicated efforts. The Faculty Senate voted to eliminate the Facilities Planning Committee.

2. Code Changes: The members of the UC suggested that only two weekly meetings between Faculty Senate meetings did not give the UC enough time to vet the various issues. Thus, the UC proposed a change in code that “The Senate shall normally meet monthly during the academic year, or as business dictates.” The code change was approved by the Faculty Senate.

3. Programs: The Faculty Senate approved support for a new six campus collaborative M.S. Degree in Data Science. The on-line revenue-based, collaborative graduate program will be housed in ICS and NAS. It will initially be funded by UW-Extension and UW-Green Bay is committed to teaching two courses. The Faculty Senate also approved support for a new four campus collaborative Ed.D Degree in First Nations Education. The new degree program will work off a cost-recovery budget model and uses both on-line and face-to-face classes.

4. Resolutions: A special meeting of the Faculty Senate was called for 11 February 2015 to vote to support a resolution drafted by the Faculty Senate of UW-Madison denouncing the \$300 million dollar budget reduction proposed by Governor Walker. The Faculty Senate voted to endorse a resolution, originating out of UW-La Crosse, denouncing the proposed Public Authority. A memorial resolution for Betty Baer was prepared and read by Prof. Doreen Higgins. A resolution was prepared by the Committee on Workload and Compensation to increase compensation be pursued until UW-Green Bay faculty and staff compensation is at least the national median.

I want to again thank each member of the UC for their service to the university. While being a very interesting committee on which to serve, the UC is also quite demanding and time consuming; thus, each member’s efforts are greatly appreciated. I have nothing but the utmost respect for all of my

faculty colleagues who served on the UC this year, those feelings extend to Academic Staff Representative Katrina Hrivnak and Student Government Association Representative Vanya Koepke. Next year's committee is in the very capable hands of incoming Chair Clifton Ganyard and returning Speaker of the Senate John Lyon. I am confident next year's UC will carry on the tradition of effectively representing the entire faculty at UW-Green Bay. There are huge challenges ahead, but I am confident my UC colleagues are prepared to meet each one head-on.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Meyer, Chair