

MINUTES  
UW-Green Bay University Committee

Present:

Greg Davis	28 November 2012
Derek Jeffreys, chair	3:00 PM, CL 750
Mimi Kubsch	
Ryan Martin	Previous Meeting
Steven Meyer	7 November 2012
Bryan Vescio	
Leif Nelson, Academic Staff Representative	
Heba Mohammad, Student Government Association Representative	

Guests: Provost Wallace, Cliff Abbott, Kimberly Desotell, Stephanie Cataldo Pabich, Tim Kaufman, Steve VandenAvond, Christina Trombley

1. The meeting began with updates from Chair Jeffreys – the main topic was the announcement of UW-Milwaukee Flexible Degree (FD) programs. Reactions from UC Members included dismay related to FD general education courses from UW Colleges; continued concerns about the FD planning and implementation process; continued lack of not really addressing competencies; and belief that the public has been misinformed.
2. The next topic taken up was the agenda for the upcoming Faculty Senate Meeting. SOFAS Abbott was informed that the 5 December Faculty Senate Meeting will be cancelled due to lack of business. UC will meet instead at that time.
3. Minutes from the 7 November 2012 University Committee (UC) meeting were approved as distributed.
4. Kimberly Desotell, Stephanie Cataldo Pabich, and Tim Kaufman joined us for a discussion related to the Phuture Phoenix Program. UC Members raised concerns over students not coming to class during the Program and asked if there should be a letter to faculty to alert them Program related absences of students. Desotell informed the group that faculty members don't need to excuse students and that Phuture Phoenix has a substitution policy for students that should be in class. Next there was discussion of the use of the phrase 'at risk students' that appears in the Program's website. Phuture Phoenix is in the process of removing such verbage and clarifying that the Program focuses on students that have risk of failing and/or not graduating from Title I school districts. Finally there was discussion on the effectiveness of the Program and whether or not the 'floodgates' are open. The answer was unclear, but the UC was provided with some data indicating a positive correlation. Phuture Phoenix seems to be a part of the improvement.

5. Provost Wallace then joined us. She informed the UC that the number of students applying for graduation continues to increase. It is not clear as to whether this is a result of bigger incoming classes and/or better retention. Discussion switched to the topic of the Flexible Degree. The Provost was asked if we need to accept competency based credit. Apparently we have some latitude, but at the same time she noted a comment made by Governor Walker related to better transferability across UW Campuses. At this point another set of Walker's comments on types of degrees offered by the UW-System was brought up. Some fear the fate of the liberal arts. Finally, the Provost provided an update on the Engineering Technology collaboration between UW-Green Bay, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Colleges, and several technical colleges.
6. Finally Steve VandenAvond and Christine Trombley joined us for a discussion on the Adult Degree Program. During the discussion a host of topics were touched. One group of topics was associated with curriculum and included: the relationship between Adult Degree and on campus programs as well as courses; breaking barriers between Interdisciplinary Studies (IST) Program and regular courses; the rigor within the IST Program (a major goal of VandenAvond). Another set of topics related to budget and included that Adult Degree runs on cost recovery, hence motivation may be different and revenue sharing was possible; however the sustainability of the funding model was questioned. Next VandenAvond indicated that it was their goal to do new better things – better than others (FD?); in fact he revealed that his Unit has the mission to create innovation and that funds are available to do so. The last topic of note was related to tuition issues especially those related to in-state versus out-of-state tuition rates for online courses. Finally it was agreed that we would meet again and talk about topics related to Flexible Degree Programs.
7. The meeting adjourned at 5:02 PM.

Respectively submitted,  
Greg Davis, Secretary pro Tempore