



University Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Present: Courtney Sherman (Chair), Ray Hutchison, Mark Klemp, Jim Loebl, Kim Metzger, Lynn Niemi, Gail Trimberger, Kris Vespa, Abbigail Wagaman, Julie Wondergem

Guests: Caroline Boswell, Michael Draney, Steve Meyer, Nathan Kraftcheck, Aaron Weinschenk

Visitors: Andrew Austin, Tara DaPra,

1. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the February 20th meeting were approved.

2. Announcements: C. Sherman shared the following updates with the committee.

- The Provost is unable to join the UC today but will attend next week and discuss the topic of consistency across the four campuses in Instructional Academic Staff (IAS) titling, contracting, and compensation. He will also provide other relevant updates.
- C. Sherman has been invited to a meeting called by Associate Provost Clif Ganyard to discuss CCQs and their use across the four campuses. Given course evaluations were already on the UC's agenda, she will share updates as to how this meeting impacts any potential actions we might take on the issue.
- Vice Chancellor for Business & Finance S. Van Gruensven has indicated a willingness to present on RCM budgeting to the Senate. She also shared plans for two campus open forums on the topic in April. The UC discussed options and felt it best to attempt to schedule a Senate presentation for the March 27, 2019 meeting.
- In future meetings this semester the UC will need to consider who will assume leadership roles for next year on the committee. They will also have to set the UC and Senate meeting schedule for 2019-20 and take action to make recommendations for any committees requiring nominations from the UC.

3. Academic and University Staff Representative Reports: Both L. Niemi and K. Metzger shared updates that focused on challenges getting enough individuals involved in governance. They are actively seeking more members for committees, and this can be a particular challenge on the branch campuses given the small number of staff members they have.

4. Discussion of online CCQs with C. Boswell & N. Kraftcheck: Guests from CATL joined us for a discussion of current practices with regard to online course evaluations. C. Boswell advocated for inclusion of student voices in promoting teaching effectiveness and instructional development. She also, however, shared an overview of research on best practices in use of student ratings. The literature does not support using evaluations in comparative assessments across individuals or groups, but rather a focus on, for example, development within an



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individual instructor. In terms of the actual administration of CCQs for online classes, there are practical issues (e.g., dissolution of Adult Degree, increased number of online classes, software limitations) that appear to be complicating having a more desirable system. Using Qualtrics to administer and “score” the CCQs is very labor intensive. She presented information about software programs specifically designed for course ratings currently in use at other campuses and would like to pursue that as a partial remedy for some of the practical concerns. The UC will be examining ways to support that request, as they agreed the current system sounds untenable. Boswell and UC members also talked about the importance of ensuring we have a system and an “instrument” that measures what we actually want and uses that information in ways consistent with research-supported best practices for student rating forms. Decisions on how to move forward are on hold until after we learn more about C. Ganyard’s CCQ meeting next week, which Boswell was also invited to attend.

5. Committee on Workload and Compensation (CWC) and IAS Employment Practices:

Some members of the CWC came to the UC on behalf of their committee to share a possible resolution for Faculty Senate. They wished to express concern about decisions made to align IAS titles, compensation, and contracts across the four campuses for associate lecturers. Their concerns centered around two issues: a) the lack of governance input on the decisions made, which they saw as falling within the CWC committee charge, and b) the actual changes being proposed, which appear to involve decreases both in pay and career progression potential for branch campus staff. There was a wide-ranging discussion of these issues and possible next steps. A UC member volunteered to work with the CWC on revisions to the possible Senate resolution, while C. Sherman will determine whether a representative from HR might join Provost Davis for our discussion of the topic next week. One or more of today’s guests/visitors may also attend.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Vespa

APPROVED March 13, 2019.