University Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 29, 2020

Present: Jim Loebl (Chair), Mark Klemp, Heidi Sherman, Jon Shelton, Christine Smith, Gail Trimberger, Julie Wondergem

Guests: Mike Alexander, Kate Burns, Christin DePouw, Pat Hicks, Holly Keener, Steve Meyer, Kim Mezger, Lynn Niemi, Mary Kate Ontaneda, Alison Staudinger

1. Meeting brought to order at 3:05 pm via Microsoft Teams

2. Minutes from the 4/22/20 meeting were approved.

3. Heidi Sherman was selected as the faculty representative for the Campus Master Plan Work Group.

4. Mark Klemp was nominated to serve a second term as Speaker of the Senate. Jim nominated and Jon seconded.

5. Mike Alexander, incoming Chancellor, announced that the State made a $1.4 million cut to UWGB’s budget for this fiscal year. It came as a complete surprise. So far, it is not a permanent cut and M. Alexander is hopeful it will not become one. UWGB also took a $3 million hit from housing and dining this semester and from summer cancellations. We also have a $1.2 million structural deficit from the alternative locations that we need to overcome. M. Alexander said that we will likely be faced with additional furloughs in June to help absorb this additional cut. UWGB does have some money in reserves that will allow us to not have to take drastic measures at this time.

The conversation then turned to moving forward with plans for the campus reopening. Kate Burns announced that Ray Cross might make a decision for the entire UW System in mid-May. She then discussed the 5 new working groups that were formed that will help advise how UWGB will open. She is leading one of them that will work to figure out the sessions and modality of fall classes. The UC asked that she consider faculty workload before making any permanent changes.

K. Burns shared that UWGB has called every student to make sure that the student’s needs are being met. They will soon begin a second round of calls to all students who have not registered for fall. The UC suggested that the fall timetable contain an additional column of “synchronous or asynchronous.” This way if we open in the fall and then have to go back online, students will know exactly what the plan will be to complete each of their courses.
6. Other updates: The date to submit final grades has been extended to May 22.

If students need to take an incomplete to finish the semester, they will have until December 2020. However, there is an option for faculty to offer a Covid-exception and grant students a longer time to complete this semester’s coursework. This will be communicated to faculty and students in the fall.

7. Steve Meyer, SOFAS, set the Faculty Senate agenda for next week.

8. Mary Kate Ontaneda reported that Clif Ganyard is working with the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium (HEDS) to distribute a survey to all students, faculty and staff to get data on how the semester online went. This survey will be distributed in addition to the reimagined CCQs.

9. Jon Shelton reported that the Faculty Reps are meeting weekly with System President Ray Cross. The main topic has been a possible budget cut for next fiscal year.

10. This is our last scheduled meeting. However, we are planning to meet again in two weeks (after the last senate meeting). We also have plans to continue to meet every second Wednesday of each month throughout the summer.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Wondergem

APPROVED 5/13/20