

## University Committee Agenda

9/29/2021 3-5 pm

### Teams

- Approval of 9/22/2021 minutes
- Provost report (Kate Burns)
- Faculty status for Sarah Cherniak and Jennie Lambrecht
- COVID resolution (Jolanda Sallmann)
- Position and Compensation Committee letter (Jon Shelton)
- Council of Budgetary Chairs course cap resolution (Patricia Terry)
- Review of Administration discussion (see the Chancellor's response)
- UW System Faculty Liaison (Jon Shelton)

### Minutes:

**Present:** Heidi Sherman, Patricia Terry, Devin Bickner, Jon Shelton, Joan Groessl, Aaron Weinschenk, Dan Kallgren

**Guests:** Kim Metzger, Kate Burns, Michael Alexander, Sue Machuca, Victoria Englebert, Jolanda Sallmann, Ted Evert, Holly Keener

- The UC first met with Chancellor Alexander and Provost Burns regarding the COVID resolution put forth by Jolanda Sallmann (with help from other faculty). Jolanda Sallmann was also present and introduced the resolution. The Chancellor responded by comparing UWGB's mask mandate to peer institutions, explaining to us the cognitive disconnect that students perceive because many public places do not require masking, reiterating that there is inherent risk everywhere, promoting the need for vaccinations and vaccine reporting, and reminding us of the risks of going to far beyond current societal COVID response. A need for surveillance testing was brought up, but the Chancellor said that UWGB cannot enforce this. Concerns about people eating/drinking unmasked all over campus, a need for better signage, and faulty/administrators not following the mask mandate were discussed. The chancellor stated that administration is working on better signage and that he would look into members of the cabinet not masking properly, but asked that we all be empathetic towards students. It was pointed out that a vaccine mandate would solve the greater problem and that Pres. Biden recently announced a vaccine policy for larger organizations and federal government entities. The chancellor stated that he is waiting for guidance on this policy, which will likely be challenged. He shared that there was an ugly situation outside the Weidner on Sunday when unmasked people were not

allowed into the Philharmonic performance and that the UW System view of a vaccine mandate is not favorable. He stated that faculty have the right to pass a resolution, but let us know that faculty were not united on the issue.

After the Chancellor left the meeting, discussion continued, centering on how some of the resolution's requests would be implemented. Jon Shelton suggested that we edit the resolution such that 3-4 feasible requests were made. All agreed this was a good idea and that Jolanda Sallmann would be invited to next week's meeting and we would work on the resolution together before bringing it to Faculty Senate.

- Provost Burns delivered the Provost report, which included;

The HLC will conduct their accreditation visit on campus Mon-Tues, 10-4-10/5/2021. There are several open forums, for which faculty have been sent meeting links, and a Shared Governance forum from 3:15-4 pm that may be attended virtually or in the 1965 room.

The Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Commencement Ceremonies will be split. For Dec. 2021, CAUSS and CHESW will commence in the morning and CSET and CSoB will commence in the afternoon.

Feedback on the Administrator evaluation process was given. It was discussed whether this should be administered by the UC or the Co6, with representation from Academic staff and university staff. Timing, periodicity, open record concerns and other logistics were discussed.

- After the provost left, discussion continued, particularly the idea that administration gets to approve the evaluation questions. We decided that the UC with University and Academic staff representation and help from the SOFAS administrative assistant could administer for this spring. Aaron Weinschenk will tweak his draft of the policy and the UC will discuss this again next week before putting it on the Senate agenda.
- UC minutes from the 9/22/2021 meeting were unanimously approved.
- Motions were made and seconded to give faculty status to Sarah Cherniak and Jennie Lambrecht, both from Education. Both were approved unanimously in separate votes.
- Patricia Terry introduced the discussion of "course cap creep" and efforts taken over the summer in some Colleges to establish some uniformity in course caps campus-wide. It was noted that course caps are a curricular issue, but Shared Governance was not consulted, the trend seems to be always towards higher caps, and that it is not

appropriate to do this type of work over the summer, when faculty are off contract. It was also noted that this is part of a larger issue and that larger class sizes is inconsistent with student success in an open access mission university. The UC decided to invite Provost Burns to the next UC meeting to discuss our concerns framed in the spirit of pedagogy for student success in an open access environment.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Terry