

Minutes

University Committee Meeting

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

October 8th, 2014

Cofrin Library 750

Attendance: Cliff Ganyard, Katrina Hrivnak (Academic Staff Rep.), Mimi Kubsch, John Lyon, Steve Meyer (Chairperson), Cristina Ortiz (minutes), and Kristin Vespia.

Student Government representative: Vanya Koepke.

Invited: Chancellor Gary Miller, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Kelly Franz, Denise Bartell and Dean Scott Furlong.

Meeting called to order at 3:02pm

- 1) Chancellor Miller met with the UC to discuss the recent report on Program Revenues and Reserves. He distributed three handouts with revenue balances and explained the definitions of the different categories. The categories are: a) “obligated” (projects that you cannot back away from), b) “planned” (projects planned but not yet contracted), c) “designated” (money for specific projects, non-academic), f) “reserves” (money campuses must have for contingencies) and g) “undocumented” (money in hand whose use has not yet been decided).

Last year the legislature reduced the amount of money individual campus could reserve from 15% to 12%. However, UW-Green Bay was able to save 27%. None of the money in the above categories is actual money. For instance, under “planned” there is \$546,641, which refers to a grant for the new Engineering Technology program.

UW-Green Bay finances, the Chancellor explained, are closely related to the enrollment problem. We are facing a steady decline in student enrollment (about 200 less from last year, which was already down from the year before), and this decline in the student population translates into less revenue from tuition and less student fees covering costs (i.e. Kress Center). Even with fewer students enrolled the operational costs remain the same, but the institution has less revenue from tuition dollars to cover those costs. The result of this situation is that right now UW-Green Bay is \$2.5 million in the red. The “tuition freeze” mandate aggravates the problem by eliminating the possibility of campuses to offset low enrollments by raising tuition as a way to increment their revenue. According to the Chancellor, the choices right now are either to downsize or get enrollments up.

Ray Cross called Chancellor Miller to tell him that he is going to use UW-Green Bay and our current financial situation in his address to the Legislature as an example of why having reserves are a good idea.

The Chancellor is having a retreat on Saturday Nov. 1st to address the issue of enrollment. He has tasked two groups to come up with ideas to increment our class by 200 students next Fall. According to Chancellor Miller now is the time to stop talking about the enrollment crisis and start doing something to address it.

On another topic, the Chancellor commented on the current policy for the creation of Centers. In his opinion, right now there are too many Centers at UW-Green Bay and he could not ascertain why they are needed or if they are just simply a reformulation of goals of academic programs already in existence. In his opinion, the designation of a "Center" must be used sparingly and only for projects that respond to a major institutional goal. His comments were in the context of having received the UC agenda prior to the meeting and seeing listed the consideration of three proposals for the creation of new Centers on the campus. He offered to provide the UC with a more detailed critique of the current UW-Green Bay policy for the creation of Centers as a starting point for a major revision of the policy.

3:40pm Chancellor Miller and Kelly Franz left the meeting.

- 2) Minutes from the Oct. 1st meeting were approved.
- 3) 3:42pm Denise Bartell and Dean Scott Furlong were invited to clarify some aspects of the proposal to create a "Center for Students in Transition." In particular, there was a concern about the potential overlap of this Center with other institutional retention efforts that needed clarification. According to Bartell, right now there is not a "home" for all the retention initiatives happening on our campus. The Center will supply this role in a manner similar to CATL. Furlong commented that on other campuses there is an Assistant Dean or some other administrative position coordinating all the various activities regarding retention. During the conversation, it became obvious that whether in the form of a Center, Institute or appointed administrative position, there is a need for structuring and aligning internally the different retention initiatives happening on the campus. There will be a letter from the UC supporting the idea of creating an institutional structure around retention initiatives at our campus.

Linked to Centers and Institutes, Dean Furlong brought up the issue of the need to identify who controls "how you call something." This discussion also included labs and the question of the appropriateness of an individual faculty linking a personal research project to the university's webpage, which creates the confusion that the individual "research lab/project" is actually a UW-Green Bay lab.

It was concluded that there is a need for clarification on language and policy regarding centers, institutes and labs.

- 4) The UC discussed the change of code needed to add University Staff to the Learning Technology Collaborative Committee and the Legislative Affairs Committee. To ensure equal representation there was a proposed change in code to add three university staff members to both committees.

- 5) The UC revisited the issue of current summer session structures. During the discussion, members of the UC contemplated the pros and cons of proposing a new model that will reduce summer sessions to just two sessions of 6 weeks and 4 weeks (session I: 6 or 4 weeks; session II: 6 or 4 weeks). Related to this issue, the members of the UC looked into proposing a cap on the number of credits that a student can take in each individual summer session. Next Wednesday they will invite the Registrar Amanda Hruska, Associate Dean of LAS Donna Ritch, and Associate Dean of the College of Professional Studies Lucy Arendt to look into the proposed model and give the UC their feed-back.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm

Respectfully submitted by Cristina Ortiz