

## MINUTES

University Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 3:00 PM  
CL 735 Conference Room

approved

Present: John Lyon (Chair), Christine Style, Patricia Terry, Christine Vandenhouten, Kris Vespia, David Voelker, Josh Goldman (Academic Staff), Amanda Wildenberg (University Staff)

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:00 PM

1. The minutes of the November 13, 2015 meeting were approved.
2. The Provost was unable to join the meeting, so there was no discussion with or report from him.
3. Old Business
  - John Lyon shared draft language for code change related to a proposed Graduate Academic Affairs Council (GAAC) that would parallel the AAC. He and Steve Meyer worked on the document, and Lyon reviewed some of the highlights of the proposal, including efforts to update it to align with the new four college structure. Some questions were raised, such as whether the GAAC instead of the AAC would meet with the Personnel Council in cases of proposed mergers or discontinuations of graduate programs. Although not all questions could be definitively answered, the UC determined it was ready for a first reading at Faculty Senate and the questions and comments of that larger group.
  - John Lyon also presented draft language for an Annual Review policy, which is next on the list of items requested by the Provost. He shared plans to include it in his UC report to the Senate. He noted the intention was to establish some minimums with the document while permitting flexibility for units. Some questions or issues raised by UC members included how/where related documents would become part of personnel files and whether verbal or numerical distinctions among unsatisfactory, satisfactory, and “meritorious” performance would be required. There was also a discussion of the pros and cons of general and more specific policy language in terms of strong faculty governance and the eventual use of review results.
  - The development of a workload policy is still pending as UC business.
4. SOFAS Steve Meyer joined the UC to prepare the agenda for the 12/9/15 Faculty Senate meeting. It will include the standard resolution on granting of degrees and a first read of the GAAC code change. UC member C. Vandenhouten also requested a first read of a new collaborative, online graduate program in Health and Wellness Management. Senator Andrew Austin joined the UC to present a draft resolution on tenure consistent with AAUP guidelines. He shared that similar, but not identical, resolutions have already passed on other UW System campuses. After discussion the UC endorsed the resolution with one addition suggested by Austin related to consistent application across all System campuses. The resolution will be added to the agenda for Faculty Senate consideration. On a related note, SOFAS Meyer, in his capacity as a member of the UW System committee considering tenure and post-tenure review, will share an update at the Senate meeting. Meyer noted that a draft of revised code from the Tenure Committee is expected on 12/14/15. He will post it on the SOFAS website and invite faculty to share comments with him or with UC members. The UC will review the documents and provide feedback at its 12/16/15 meeting because the Tenure Committee will meet again on 12/23/15. Meyer emphasized that the System committee is looking for “wordsmithing” recommendations right now, not philosophical arguments.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by Kris Vespia