University Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2020 3:00 PM
Microsoft Teams

Present: Devin Bickner (notetaker), Heidi Sherman, James Loebl, Alison Staudinger, Mark Klemp, Jon Shelton, Julie Wondergem (chair)

Guests: Sue Machuca, Holly Keener, Kate Burns, Sherri Arendt, Steve Meyer, Mary Kate Ontaneda, Guillermo Gomez, Paula Ganyard, Joan Robb

Call to order: 3:01

1. Approval of minutes – Unanimously approved minutes from November 4th and November 11th, 2020.

2. Fall Update 2020 (K. Burns):
   a. COVID:
      i. Numbers continue to be promising.
      ii. Weidner Center testing will continue through mid-December.
      iii. Regular testing will still be required, possibly including the additional locations.
   b. Board of Regents meeting soon. Several Wisconsin universities will propose removal of application fees for students.
   c. Enrollment:
      i. FTE is down. But head count is up, as is revenue.
      ii. Spring enrollment is much lower than normal for current time (approximately 30%)
      iii. Transfer student numbers are slightly higher than normal.

3. Tenure, promotion, evaluation policy for faculty and staff (K. Burns):
   a. Some tweaks to the language, including stressing “in the context of the pandemic” where necessary.
   b. To prevent over-burdening of reviewers, the rubric will be considered optional.
   c. Discussion about whether the rubric should be completed by the reviewer or the reviewee.
   d. Some units are already including the rubric.
   e. Final draft will be sent very soon.

4. COVID course readjustment policy (K. Burns):
   a. Burns shared her concerns with various aspects of the policy, including cost, pushback from the deans, availability and effectiveness of ad hoc instruction, delayed reward instead of immediate relief, etc.
   b. Members of the UC shared their frustrations and disagreements with some of the concerns raised by the provost and the deans.
   c. Burns indicated that the policy is unlikely to be enacted in its current form, suggests tabling for time being.
Reminder that Chancellor Alexander is putting $1,500,000 into strategic priorities, which might address some of the issues that the policy was attempting to address.

5. Library budget and Elsevier journal discussion (P. Ganyard, J. Robb):
   a. Ganyard and Robb provided an overview of problems with current and upcoming pricing models becoming too expensive.
   b. UW System was providing assistance with library budget, but that is ending.
   c. Library intends to cancel some of the more expensive or infrequently used subscriptions to address the problem.
   d. Most media and publications will still be available through interlibrary loan, but will need to be requested and delivered.

6. Senate agenda (S. Meyer):
   a. Set agenda for faculty senate meeting on 12/9/20.
   b. Added approval of graduates to agenda.
   c. Representation from additional locations in senate and UC tabled until January.
   d. Added Library budget issues to agenda.

7. Interim instructional and academic staff review policy discussion:
   a. Policy is intended to address need for “Meets expectations” rating for upcoming pay plan.
   b. Holly Keener has formed a committee to implement a permanent policy.

8. Other: With his imminent retirement, members and guests of the UC thanked Jim Loebl for his contributions and wished him a safe and fulfilling retirement. Please come back to talk about HR every once in a while!

Adjourn: 4:57 pm

Respectfully submitted by Devin Bickner

Approved 1-13-2021