

MINUTES

University Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 3:00 PM
Cofrin Library 750 & 735

Present: Clifton Ganyard, Katrina Hrvnak, Sylvia (Mimi) Kubsch, John Lyon, Steven Meyer (Chair), Christine Style, Kris Vespa, and Vanya Koepke (SGA President)

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:00 p.m. Invited guest Sheryl Van Gruensven, Director of Human Resources, was also present at that time.

The meeting began with a proposal from Chair Steven Meyer that the agenda for the meeting be suspended or postponed in favor of considering a special Faculty Senate meeting and a possible resolution related to the proposed UW System budget cuts. Meyer noted other campuses are passing such resolutions, and that the issue is a time sensitive one. Other UC members agreed to this plan for the day's meeting, but guest Sheryl Van Gruensven was asked to provide some brief background on the code of conduct issue she was to address today.

A summary of the meeting business conducted follows:

1. Director of HR Sheryl Van Gruensven shared that the implementation of the new UPS system for personnel means that "work rules" will not be incorporated in the same way. She indicated that the recent promulgation of codes of conduct on individual campuses is likely a result of trying to fill any gap that might be left as a result. UW-Madison's new "Language Describing Hostile and/or Intimidating Behavior" code is one example. She offered to share copies of relevant documents for our consideration and will attend a future meeting to discuss the issue. If we wish to consider timing, action between now and July would be needed to have something in effect prior to UPS implementation. She will be invited back.
2. The UC meeting minutes from the January 21, 2015 meeting were approved.
3. The possibilities regarding a special meeting of the Senate and potential faculty resolutions were discussed by the UC membership. They were ultimately joined in that discussion by SOFAS Cliff Abbott, who was previously invited to the meeting to address two other agenda items. His presence was also needed given his role in the Senate and in publishing the agenda for such meetings.

Meyer shared samples of existing resolutions from other campuses with the group. Information was also discussed pertaining to the public authority issue and the proposed change to Wisconsin Idea language in an attempt to make decisions about what might be included in any draft resolution. Abbott also raised the issue of interdisciplinarity and the Chancellor's recent essay about it as potentially relevant to campus budget decisions and noted he had written a response to that essay. Abbott asked the UC for input on what to do with that document, and members encouraged him to share it directly both with the UC and Chancellor Miller. Based on lengthy discussion of all of these issues, the following decisions were made and/or actions taken:

1. A resolution related to the proposed budget cuts was drafted for Faculty Senate consideration.

“Whereas the proposed \$300 million dollar budget reduction to the UW-System would irreparable damage the quality of the education we provide and our ability to serve our students, the citizens of Wisconsin, and the state economy, be it resolved the UW-Green Bay Faculty vehemently opposes this unprecedeted cut. We also reaffirm our commitment to the Wisconsin Idea and to shared governance and tenure as essential to the existence of the University System.”

2. The decision was made to call a special meeting of the Faculty Senate for 2/11/15 with the agenda item of considering that resolution. The meeting will convene at 3:30 p.m. to permit maximum participation in case of teaching conflicts, and to permit the UC to meet at 3:00 p.m. to set the agenda for the 2/18/15 Senate meeting.
3. Given the discussion of interdisciplinarity and concerns UC members are hearing from faculty, they hope to include an open forum on that issue at the next Senate meeting. The UC hoped that allowing faculty to share their perspectives and ask questions of Chancellor Miller about his views and whether/how he sees this issue as linked to budget/budget cuts would be helpful.
4. As a part of the larger discussion of the #3 above, Cliff Abbott asked the UC for input on a blog with budget information out of UW-Madison that he has been sent as the perceived contact for UW-Green Bay. He inquired about the best method for sharing that information if it were of interest to the campus. He will communicate its existence in a Log entry and link the blog on the SOFAS website.
5. Provost Fritz and Associate Provost Davis joined the meeting for the regularly scheduled Provost report. Fritz indicated he will be attending the Board of Regents meeting on Thursday and Friday with Chancellor Miller, and that they hope to have additional information about budget after that. He also shared that a focus in campus planning will be on how we can emerge as a stronger University. The UC expressed concern with the Provost about edits to the Wisconsin Idea in the budget. They also inquired about the status of the Data Science proposal in the context of the campus cost-cutting measures already announced, as well as the needed cooperation among multiple campuses. Davis indicated that steps in the process on campus should proceed, and ultimately things would be suspended at a later date if so dictated by finances.
6. SGA President Vanya Koepke shared that there is work being done in student government with regard to organizing student voices in reaction to the proposed budget cuts, both on this campus and regionally. He asked if plans might be presented to Faculty Senate for their endorsement. The UC thanked him but shared the view that any student ideas or actions related to budget should come entirely from them and not be viewed as subject to faculty influence or approval.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Vespa