Minutes
Approved 10/7/2015

University Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 30, 2015, 3:00 – 5:00 PM
CL 735

Present: John Lyon (chair), Patricia Terry, Christine Style, Christine Vandenhouten, Kristin Vespa, David Voelker, Joshua Goldman (Academic Staff Rep), Amanda Wildenberg (University Staff Rep), Hannah Stepp (SGA President)

Guest: Greg Davis

1. Minutes: The Minutes from 9/23/2015 were approved.
2. Greg Davis joined us and updated the UC on a variety of items.
   - Thanked the UC for endorsement of the College Reorganization Model and timeline.
   - Shared that UW System undertook a reorganization with 30 positions lost through attrition. Most programs are still in place but response times from UW System may be longer.
   - Remedial Development Education Program (Math & English) was reviewed at the Provosts meeting. Provost Davis shared that UWGBs program fared very well with fewer UWGB students needing remedial courses than other UW campuses. There is concern that since the remedial program is funded on a fee recovery model and these fees support tutoring services, that as fewer students require remedial courses, fees covering tutoring services are also reduced.
   - UW System Approval documents for proposing/offering new programs (ACIS-1) are currently under revision. Changes that were noteworthy include: increasing the page limit for the Notice of Intent document (from 2 to 5 pages), once Notice of Intent is approved, the campus has up 3 years (changed from 5 years) to develop/approve the new program (rationale that after 3 years the program may be obsolete), current programs choosing to offer an existing program using an alternative delivery model (e.g., distance delivery) must get approval (formerly shared for information only), & programs adding additional locations for delivery of existing program now requires approval (formerly shared for information only).
   - ACA Impact on benefits for full time employees- beginning in 2016, the university is required to offer minimum coverage to 95% of full time employees (defined by IRS as working 30 hours/wk & 130 hrs/month. This includes students, RAs, ad hocs/lecturers. The system would pay a large penalty if not in compliance.
   - UW System is undergoing an audit on cash handling.
   - Provost Davis will meet with unit chairs and Deans to begin the conversation about how to implement the new 24-credit teaching load. The exact implementation timeline is unknown.
   - Merit Program - President Cross is proposing to take $24.5 million from the UW System-wide contingency fund for faculty compensation based on merit, salary inequities, promotions, and competitive factors. UWGB would receive approximately $128K. Provost Davis is uncertain when the university would receive the funds. A question was raised regarding whether the salary study conducted under former Chancellor Harden would guide distribution.
   - Response to question regarding impact of the reorganization (OAA moving to College of LA) would impact faculty compensation (i.e. as part of load or as overload). Provost Davis felt most OAA courses would be counted as part of teaching load however it is likely that some faculty will still teach courses as overload.

3. UC Chair Report- John Lyon shared
   - He has not received much response from units/senators regarding the UW System Strategic Planning questions however there is still time for a response.
   - Assoc. Provost for Academic Affairs, Clif Ganyard asked the UC to review the revised University Assessment Council charge. UC members felt the changes were appropriate.
   - Clif Ganyard shared revisions adopted by the HLC Board (June 2015) regarding determining faculty qualifications for teaching. Clif felt the UWGB documents regarding expectations for tenure should sufficiently satisfy the revised HLC requirements.
4. Faculty Rep Report (C. Vandenhouten)- items discussed at Sept. Rep meeting included changes to statutory language related to tenure with the legal opinion of System Counsel that the value of tenure before and after statutory revisions is the same, the Accountability Dashboard was launched providing greater transparency, increased Medicaid budget is impacting all state budgets, a proposal allowing faculty with 9 month contracts to be paid over 12 months is “not going to happen” due to the cost of software changes, in response to a my request for “best practices” for faculty reassignment, UW Parkside Faculty rep shared a draft faculty teaching load including guidelines for reassignment developed by her Provost. Based on discussions among faculty reps there is little consistency both within and among campuses in reassignment.

5. Program Discontinuance Policy and Layoff Policy Statement were reviewed with plans to seek final approval at the Oct. 7th UC meeting and presentation to faculty senate at its October 16th meeting.

6. Chancellor Miller & Provost Davis are meeting with faculty and staff in each department to present the current state of the university and the Reorganization Model.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Vandenhouten