

MINUTES  
UW Green Bay University Committee

Present:

Dean VonDras (Chair)  
Steven Meyer  
Illene Noppe  
Terence O'Grady  
Laura Riddle

26 March 2008  
3:15 pm, CL 825

Previous Meeting:  
5 March 2008

Absent: Kevin Roeder

Guests: Kathy Pletcher, Associate Provost for Information Services; Leanne Hansen, Director of the Cofrin Library

1) The minutes of 5 March 2008 were approved with minor modifications.

2) Continuing Business

a) The working guidelines submitted to the UC by the Administrative Evaluation Committee (AEC) were thought to be both reasonable and thorough and were approved by the UC, although the committee may wish to adjust them slightly to take into account the new 14-week semester length.

b) There appears to be a recent increase in the amount of budgetary information made available to faculty members by the Chancellor and Provost. A budget web page is in preparation by the Provost. There will be a presentation on the budget by the Chancellor and Provost available to all faculty on Friday, March 28, and the new "Ask GB" feature on the university web page may be tailored to provide easier access to budgetary information in the future. The University Committee applauds all of these efforts on the part of the Chancellor and Provost to make budgetary information more accessible, but noted that the Senate Planning and Budget Committee remains less than sanguine about their ability to carry out its current charge from the University Committee. The UC chair will consult further with the chair of the Senate Planning and Budget Committee on this matter. In any event, the UC agreed that it might be more appropriate to rely on the ability of Unit chairs to convey budgetary information to their faculty, especially if those unit chairs are able to become familiar with budgetary initiatives that emanate from outside their own unit.

c) Regarding the newly appointed "Blue Ribbon" Task Force that is intended to study the state of General Education at UW-Green Bay, the UC values the potential contributions of such a task force, but reaffirms the primacy of the General Education Council as the elected governance body designated to deal with matters of general education curriculum. Any specific recommendations for change from the Blue Ribbon Task Force must be duly submitted to the GEC for its approval and commentary before being passed on to the Faculty Senate for its ultimate approval.

d) Salary issues

In reference to the formula used by Institutional Research in an attempt to predict appropriate salary levels, the view was taken by several members of the UC that contributions of the more experienced faculty may be undervalued, or at least under-rewarded. The point was made that the most experienced faculty continue to be very active as teachers and scholars while quite frequently investing disproportionately of their time in filling leadership and governance roles. The chair agreed to consult further with Institutional Research in an attempt to get further explanations of how the variables of age and years of experienced are factored in to the formulas currently in use.

### 3) New Business

The UC was visited by Kathy Pletcher, Associate Provost for Informational Services, and Leanne Hansen, Director of the Cofrin Library, to discuss a budget request for additional funding to expand access to electronic databases for students and faculty throughout the UW system. There has been no increase in funding for the acquisition of materials for almost ten years, during which times costs have increased dramatically, particularly in regard to journal subscriptions. This proposal has been supported by the UW System Vice President of Academic Affairs as well as UW System Provosts and Chancellors, but faculty support would also be instrumental to its achieving success at the state level. The UC agreed that this was an important issue and that the library was in serious need of “catch-up” funding. It was furthermore agreed that the emphasis on expanding access to electronic databases was particularly compelling. The UC agreed to bring the issue to the Faculty Senate for their potential endorsement.

4) The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

The next UC meeting will be April 2, 2008, at 3:15 pm in CL 825.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terence O’Grady, secretary pro tempore