

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 1, 2011
Lubar N456
1:00 pm

Present: B. Holahan, D. Misra, M. Parsons (Acting Chair), R. Strickler, C. Walker
Guest: Danielle Mackenthun, UWM Post

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm and the agenda was approved as distributed.

- II. PERSONS WHO WISH TO BE HEARD – VC Tom Luljak joined the committee to present an idea about how to identify speakers for the December Commencement Ceremonies. He indicated various groups are being asked to consider institution of a plan to use a campus member as the December speaker; an individual who represents academic programs that graduates have just completed. He suggested that a nomination process could be developed for use on an annual basis, adding that this would be a special opportunity to recognize peers/counterparts on campus. There was general consensus by UC members that this seems to be a good idea. Luljak asked the UC to share the idea with colleagues and provide him with feedback.

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes of October 25, 2011 were approved as distributed.

- IV. SPECIAL GUESTS^a: INTERIM PROVOST JOHANNES BRITZ and CHANCELLOR MICHAEL LOVELL – Interim Provost Britz reported he has asked the Deans to provide him with projected budgets which are to include the budget cut/lapse (1.67% per year). He noted this is a challenge because some schools have more funds than others. He must look at how all are affected by the cuts and will ask the Deans for their advice on how it should be dealt with, equally across schools or not. He reviewed potential issues and solutions. Discussion ensued regarding the marginal tuition model and concerns related to breaking ad hoc instructor contracts if that is the only place to cut. Britz responded that the Deans have also been asked to submit information regarding the impact of the cuts as well as on how carry-forward balances are handled in the Schools/Colleges. Discussion ensued regarding the national financial crisis, Wisconsin's lack of support for Education, private schools vs. publicly supported schools, the need for strategic investment for smart growth, recessionary forces of distribution of income and the effect on investment, infrastructure, and investment vs. consumption.

Per Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(f) it was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to go into closed session at 1:40 pm to discuss personnel issues at which time Ms. Mackenthun left. Chancellor Lovell joined the meeting at 2 pm. The committee rose from closed session at 2:24 pm.

^a The Committee may go into closed session to discuss personnel matters according to Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(f)

Chancellor Lovell briefly reviewed meetings he had with several businesses/community partners, noting the large number of alumni employed at these companies who are very supportive and appreciative of UWM. He indicated they expressed major concerns regarding the budget lapse and its affect on UWM and resources, including how it will impact their programs and the pipeline of new employees to their businesses. Lovell also reinforced concerns expressed in the letter by President Reilly and signed by all System Chancellors which was circulated to all UW System employees.

Strickler pointed out that post-doctoral fellows are not state employees and therefore should not be affected by the salary freeze noted in the OSER compensation proposal; their salaries must be raised according to the grant proposals submitted. Lovell agreed the OSER proposal is wrong and should not be an issue as it's part of the flexibilities promised by the State. A brief discussion ensued regarding the greenhouse, changing our name, outside perceptions of UWM, and building community connections.

V. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.

VI. MEMBERS' REPORTS

- A. Parsons reported the Chancellor approved the position description and schedule for the Provost Search. She noted the information will be circulated to campus by Brad Stratton. A brief discussion ensued regarding web pages for Searches.
- B. Misra reported the Nominations Committee had met. Preference Sheet entry will be opened November 21 with a submission deadline of December 16.
- C. Strickler attended the PEC meeting last week. Parking issues and fees were discussed. He reported the Chair indicated raising fees for parking for next year will be a problem. Discussion ensued regarding Pavilion parking. Holahan stated campus parking is priced in the wrong way; it allows for huge debt. He indicated it must be priced to eliminate shortages and surpluses. The system should pay for itself and include all methods of commuting; we must get rid of the idea that each parking structure should pay for itself. He pointed out that a transportation/parking study is needed. Strickler noted the PEC Chair is aware of the issues and suggested inviting him to meet with the UC.
- D. Walker reported the following:
 - 1. She attended a STEM meeting called by Provost Britz. She indicated that a very large group of people attended; however, some key STEM faculty seemed to be missing. The group was supposed to break into workgroups, but rather, the majority of time was spent discussing the mission and goals of the proposed STEM Center.
 - 2. She was asked by Associate Dean Doug Woods to be a member of a committee to study the RGI process.
 - 3. The Budget Subcommittee discussing alternate budget models will be meeting on Friday as well as the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

VII. NEW BUSINESS – None.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Focal Topics for 2011-2012 – No discussion.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Future Meetings – Parsons reminded everyone of the lunch meeting on Nov. 18 with Regent Falbo.

X. PERSONNEL MATTERS: [Closed session according to Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(f)]:

A. Update on pending personnel matters – None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm.