

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE  
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
September 13, 2011  
Lubar N456  
1:00 pm

Present: M Schwartz (Chair), B. Holahan, M. Kunert, D. Misra, M. Parsons, R. Strickler, C. Walker

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm and the agenda was approved as distributed.
- II. PERSONS WHO WISH TO BE HEARD – None.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes of September 6, 2011 were approved as distributed.
- IV. SPECIAL GUESTS<sup>a</sup>: INTERIM PROVOST JOHANNES BRITZ - Interim Provost Britz reported he had discussed with the Chancellor working with Will Allen and the greenhouse project. He noted the Chancellor indicated he will not move forward without the support of the Biology faculty. The Chancellor would like Biology faculty at a meeting scheduled tomorrow between Strickler, Phyllis King and Rodney Swain to discuss greenhouse issues. Strickler responded that the faculty have not had a meeting to fully discuss the matter. Discussion ensued regarding the building cost study, options discussed with the planners, changes in cost from the original plan, and the need for a multiplier effect on return for the investment.

Additional items discussed included:

- A. Status of fundraising for the new Neeskay vessel and fundraising issues in general.
- B. Formation of the Special Committee regarding Faculty/Staff Salary Planning by the UC. Briefly discussed were current system issues, the need to invest in a culture of promotion, and the potential of using a step system/ranking.
- C. Appointment of a small working group to discuss a new budget model. The working group will present findings/recommendations to the VCs and Deans and then to the Chancellor. Briefly discussed was the need to identify funding for new initiatives while sustaining existing programs, the need to re-evaluate what we do and how, e.g. are the Centers efficient and should they continue, how to fund basic needs, how to fund mandated but unfunded initiatives/programs, the need to find funds for new buildings and hires, partnerships and issues related to them, the lack of state funding/resources, potential for job creation if we can move forward quickly with new buildings and renovations, faculty pay plan, tuition and textbook costs, the need to increase retention rates and increase out-of-state and international student enrollments, remedial education and potential partnering with MATC.

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

- D. Moving forward with planning for a short-term pay plan for faculty and academic staff. Discussion included market-based increases, restoration of the 2% rescinded from the last pay plan, potential for distributing across-the-board, merit-based plans and the merit exercise, and the need for base amount figures.
- E. Britz asked that UC members attend the Digital Future Summit scheduled 9 am - noon on 9/27.

ASSOC. VC JAMES HILL – Schwartz indicated the “Panther Pledge” had generated discussion and questions. He noted the substance is not at issue, but rather what it is called and what is supposed to be done with it. Hill briefly reviewed the history, purpose, and potential uses of the document. He noted this is not a formal policy which is enforceable but he would like endorsement of it by students, faculty, and staff. Discussion ensued regarding appropriate/expected behavior in classrooms, establishing relationships, communications, manners, socialization skills, and engaging students in classroom topics. UC members pointed out that faculty were not likely to distribute the document in classes; however, they might be willing to add a web link to the document in their syllabi. Schwartz noted the document did not need to be taken before the Senate. Hill will take suggested title changes back to his workgroup then bring the document back for UC endorsement.

- V. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS – Schwartz reported the following:
  - A. The Journal Sentinel Editorial Staff had offered dates for the UC to meet with them at their offices. There was general consensus to meet with them on October 4, 2011 at 1:30 pm.
  - B. He has asked Associate VC Venugopalan for data on School/College appointments made where Divisional Committee recommendations were not followed.
  - C. Interim Provost Britz has scheduled Schwartz and ASC Chair Jean Salzer to meet with the new Deans.

VI. MEMBERS’ REPORTS

- A. Strickler reported Biology Department faculty members will have a discussion regarding an Urban Farming Program. He reviewed faculty member’s views of the greenhouse. He indicated he spoke to Interim Provost Britz about the idea of Urban Farming; Britz indicated the Chancellor supported the idea as well but wants Biology faculty support before approaching Will Allen. Discussion ensued regarding the meaning of “Urban Farming,” other Urban Farming programs, peer reviewed research aspect of such a program, and the need for a curriculum proposal.
- B. Parsons reported the Provost Search and Screen Committee held its first meeting this morning. She was appointed Chair by the Chancellor. The committee wrote a statement to be sent to campus regarding the Search which will include a link for people to provide suggestions to the Committee as it develops the position description. The Committee voted to enlist a Search Firm, they scheduled two listening sessions, they set a tentative calendar, and they will meet again in two weeks to review the position description.

- C. Walker reported that she, Holahan, and Parsons attended the budget meeting last Friday at SCE. She indicated the meeting was very informative. Discussion ensued regarding inequities created by use of 189 funds for online instruction, funding for TA stipends, the TA Union, tuition remission budgets, and the status of the Special Fund set up by the UC for TAs. Walker agreed with Interim Provost Britz that MyDev and the list of Centers should be reviewed. Walker volunteered, and there was UC consensus for her to serve, as the UC rep on the smaller working group on budgets created at the meeting on Friday.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Planning for Faculty Senate Meeting – Schwartz reviewed the draft UC Report for the Senate. Parsons suggested identifying focal points the UC will be looking at this year. Discussion ensued regarding the UWM Foundations and who determines what funds are being raised for. Schwartz suggested inviting Dave Gilbert to meet again with the UC. Walker described how fund raising worked for faculty proposals in the School of Education. Responsibilities of Dave Gilbert and Patricia Borger were briefly discussed.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Special Committee regarding Faculty/Staff Salary Planning – Schwartz reported Keith Bender has agreed to serve on the Special Committee. Lee Ann Garrison responded to his request but is not sure whether or not she'll serve as one of the APBC reps. He is waiting for additional names from the various committees.
- B. Focal Topics for 2011-2012 – No discussion.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Future Meetings – No discussion.
- B. Invitations to Deans and VCs for 2011-2012 – No discussion.

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 3:45 pm.