

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 20, 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 December 13, 2011 were approved as distributed. Parsons suggested sending the minutes to Senator Larson and Regent Falbo, calling their attention to specific issues. Schwartz suggested it would be better to create a white paper/position paper on UC concerns and send that instead, asking them to bear it in mind for Task Force discussions. Walker volunteered to draft a document for the next UC meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the Task Force charge, the UWM dual mission, and potential effects on the structure of the institution.
- IV. SPECIAL GUESTS: STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT ANGELA LANG – Ms. Lang did not appear for the meeting.

INTERIM SENIOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE CHANCELLOR MARK HARRIS

Harris reported he had talked with Interim Provost Britz about setting up a group to explore reforming graduate assistantships. He reviewed issues related to this, including 1) the current low pay scale; 2) differences among PA/TA/RA appointments; and 3) highly differentiated rates set by the Union negotiated contracts; the bad structure has led to problems related to not being competitive.

Harris has also discussed setting up a 14-member Task Force with the GFC and RPC and briefly reviewed the membership structure and charge which will include 1) how grad assistantships should be set up – should separate PA/TA/RA categories and differentiated rates be retained; 2) how should it be funded; and 3) what is a realistic implementation plan. He indicated he would like the group to begin work in the spring and hopes to have them meet with administrative and governance groups in order to come up with 3-4 options/solutions for campus-level support.

Discussion ensued regarding differentiated rates and potential problems this can cause, work and tax differences among PAs/TAs/RAs and payment of in-state tuition, stipend amounts/salary rates, how RAs are funded, lack of guidance on campus for which type of grad assistant to hire, oddities in the current system, payment of tuition remission, difficulty in understanding the current system and the need to restructure it so it works

better, NSF support, funding issues, potential legal issues, the need for clarity and some flexibility, and the need for data from other institutions. Harris asked the UC to provide him with a name to serve as UC rep to the Task Force. He noted he has also requested data for the different types of appointments for every unit on campus which will be provided to the Task Force.

V. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS – Schwartz reported the following:

- A. Some students have complained to the Chancellor about having final exams after graduation. UW-Oshkosh has solved this problem by adding five extra minutes to classes so they are completed prior to graduation. Schwartz informed the Chancellor that APC sets the academic calendar and any request to change it must go through them.
- B. He volunteered to serve as UC rep to the Task Force discussed earlier by Harris; there was general consensus supporting this.
- C. Growing Power wants UW-Madison more involved with them. Issues related to this were briefly discussed.

VI. MEMBERS' REPORTS –

- A. Misra reported the main business item discussed by the GFC was the Graduate Assistant Employment Grievance Procedures. The GFC will receive reports every year on the number of cases. Also discussed were Graduate Fellowships. He reported there was no report from Interim Dean Yu, the Associate Deans discussed recruitment for vacant positions, the RGI review is proceeding, marketing and recruitment discussions are going on with VC Luljak, and discussions are being held with the ADC to increase RA/PA rates.
- B. Holahan reported the CEAS Dean Search Committee plans to put out an ad and include on website that we partner with M7; he strongly opposes this and explained his reasons. Misra indicated that the information comes from the description used in the Provost Search description. Discussion ensued regarding partnering, issues related to various searches, purview of committee to approve certain things, what to include in ads and descriptions, and what the committee should review. Holahan also reported that faculty/staff moving to Bolton were not consulted about where they wanted to park. He asked Strickler to raise this issue with the PEC. Strickler reported the PEC would be discussing student parking at the Pavilion. He noted the UC should have been able to discuss this with the SA President today. Discussion ensued regarding potential motions Strickler could put forward to the PEC and issues with Parking & Transit.
- C. Walker reported the Budget Model Subcommittee met last week. An RPF was put out and the committee will be interviewing two companies to serve as consultant. She also attended an AAFEC meeting where a presentation was made by EDS Director Francene Botts-Butler.
- D. Kunert reported Mark Harris attended the last APBC meeting to discuss the Task Force. A presentation of guiding principles was also made by the Budget Model Subcommittee. The APBC expressed concern about these; it was unclear who wrote them. The Subcommittee has worked on them since then.

- E. Parsons expressed concern that some faculty committees get entangled in things and it takes too long for decisions to be made; Chapman therefore makes decisions without faculty input. Discussion ensued regarding differences seen in various committees, e.g. things being done at last minute, asking for approval without discussion, etc.

- VII. NEW BUSINESS – None.

- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Focal Topics for 2011-2012 – No discussion.

- IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
 - A. Future Meetings – No discussion.

- X. PERSONNEL MATTERS: [Closed session according to Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(f):
 - A. Update on pending personnel matters – A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to go into closed session at 2:15 pm. The committee rose from closed session at 2:21 pm.

- XI. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 pm.