

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MILWAUKEE  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 16, 2020; 2:30 p.m.  
Held virtually on Microsoft Teams.**

Chancellor Mark Mone called the Faculty Senate Meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**I. COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

1. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Mone acknowledged the hard work that has gone into transitioning online during this difficult time. He encouraged the senate to attend the virtual town hall meeting that will take place on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. A video of the town hall meeting is posted at the following link: <https://uwm.edu/chancellor/april-14-2019-covid-19-town-hall-meeting-for-faculty-and-staff/>

The town hall meeting will include more detailed information than will be presented today. Future town halls meetings will be held for faculty, staff, and students.

Chancellor Mone announced on behalf of Vice Chancellor of University Relations & Communications Tom Luljak that the digital tracking billboard system has been found to not meet UWM's needs and will not be pursued.

The Chancellor reported that the UW System Board of Regents (BOR) will meet today to consider a policy related to employee furloughs. More details will be announced at the town hall meeting. The policy is meant to provide flexibility and coverage for employees and aims to minimize the need for layoffs. Chancellor Mone defined furlough as a temporary action during which health insurance will continue to be provided for the first 3-4 months. Within the policy there are three different types of furloughs: 1. Across-the-board, based on salary; 2. Position specific, for those who would come back once normal operations resume; and 3. Voluntary. The Chancellor predicted that UWM will likely go down the first two paths.

Chancellor Mone announced that BOR is considering adding a May meeting to give campuses the opportunity to explain the impact COVID-19 has had on students, faculty, and staff; continuity plans for next year; and to build a case for strong advocacy within the legislature. That meeting would take place on May 7. In addition, UWM will no longer host the June BOR meeting.

In terms of advocacy, Chancellor Mone, along with the other UW System chancellors, has written to congressional representatives seeking additional funding out of the fourth stimulus bill. UW System is also requesting \$25 million of the \$47 million governor's emergency relief fund. In addition, the federal government is directing governors to work with education systems for technology that is able to deliver education remotely.

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of declaring financial exigency; the impact of furloughs for those on soft money; and the governor, legislature, and congressional representatives' understanding of UW System's footprint in the state of Wisconsin.

Suggestions were made to form two special committees, one to make recommendations about furloughs and another about online instruction, and for UW System President Cross to submit an op-ed on the impact this will have on universities and state economies.

**MOTION:** to extend time by five minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Discussion took place on the possibility of cancelling and suspending anything that is not mission critical such as non-essential subscriptions, memberships, and licensing.

## 2. Provost's Report

Provost Britz reported that UWM moved more than 6000 courses online in the span of two weeks with only 37 cancelled courses. In addition, procedures were introduced for tenure clock extension and indefinite status extension. Also introduced was an interim grading policy for graduate/undergraduate students.

Provost Britz announced that official student evaluations will not be conducted for the spring semester and that the summer semester will be held fully online with a few exceptions. The Provost commented on hiring freezes, travel restrictions, and sabbaticals. He thanked the senate for their input, hard work, and support during this difficult time.

Scenario planning is underway for three fall semester and beyond. At this time there are three scenarios: 1. Virus contained but health control firmly in place. UWM will likely have some type of hybrid presence on campus; 2. Effective response to virus but it surges again in fall. UWM will likely hold online courses in the fall 2020; 3. No vaccine until spring 2021. UWM will likely hold online courses in both fall 2020 and spring 2021. Considerations include enrollments, lead time to allow instructors to prepare, support for students, student expectations, research labs, and courses that are difficult to move online.

MOTION: to extend time by ten minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Discussion took place on allowing for input from the university community regarding scenario planning. The Provost clarified that the hiring freeze does not include critical hires or new faculty with signed offers.

## 3. University Committee Report: Kathleen Dolan, Chair

The report is attached.

Professor Dolan reiterated that teaching evaluations have been suspended. A discussion on the possibility of convening a crisis faculty committee will be added to the next UC agenda.

## 4. Academic Planning and Budget Committee Report: Barry Cameron, Co-Chair

The report is attached.

## 5. Academic Staff Committee Report: Leigh Wallace, Chair

ASC Chair Wallace reported on the extended timeline for indefinite status reviews and that the Title and Total Compensation project has been placed on hold.

## 6. Physical Environment Committee Report: Wendy Huddleston, Chair

No report.

## 7. Student Association (SA) Report: Connor Mathias, President

SA President Mathias reported that he has been serving on UWM's crisis management team and working with members of the faculty on the transition to online instruction. He participated in the decision-making regarding the postponement of commencement and is working with Chief Student Affairs Officer Kelly Haag regarding stipends for student workers and the implementation of a pass/fail policy.

## II. SENATE ROLL CALL

Secretary of the University Trudy Turner conducted the roll call for the Senate. There were 45 senators and Parliamentarian Richard Marcus present. A quorum of the Faculty Senate was present.

## III. AUTOMATIC CONSENT

1. The minutes of the March 12, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting were approved as distributed.

2. SAAP 10-11: Recommendation of the Policy Advisory Committee and the International Travel Health & Safety Committee to Create the International Travel Policy was approved as distributed.

#### IV. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

1. Document 3201R1, 03/12/20: Recommendation of the Graduate Faculty Committee to Establish a Policy and Time Limit for Temporary Withholding of Theses and Dissertations from Public Disclosure. Sent to UWM Administration, 03/13/20.
2. Document 3271, 03/12/20: Request for Authorization to Implement a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science at UW-Milwaukee. Sent to UWM Administration, 03/13/20.
3. Document 3272, 03/12/20: Request for Authorization to Implement a Bachelor of Arts in Digital Arts and Culture at UW-Milwaukee. Sent to UWM Administration, 03/13/20.

#### V. BUSINESS

1. Faculty Document 3273: Request for Authorization to Implement a Bachelor in Freshwater Sciences at UW-Milwaukee. A senator moved adoption of FD 3273. The motion was seconded. Professor of the School of Freshwater Sciences Michael Carvan presented the document.

MOTION: To approve FD 3273. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by voice vote.

2. Faculty Document 3274: Request for Authorization to Implement a Master of Urban Design at UW-Milwaukee. A senator moved adoption of FD 3274. The motion was seconded. Chair and Professor of the Department of Urban Planning Lingqian (Ivy) Hu presented the document.

MOTION: To approve FD 3274. The motion was seconded and approved with one abstention by voice vote.

3. SAAP 01-09: Recommendation of the Policy Advisory Committee, the Academic Policy Committee, and Academic Affairs to Revise the Final Examinations Policy. A senator moved adoption of SAAP 01-09. Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Devarajan Venugopalan presented the document.

MOTION: To approve SAAP 01-09. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by voice vote.

4. Discussion of Student Grant Funding Concerns. PhD Student of Archaeology Alexis Jordan and Graduate Student Senator of the Student Association Reed Heintzkill presented. The statement is posted at the following link: [https://uwm.edu/secu/faculty/senate/agendas/19-20/04-16-2020attachments/jordan 2020 sac ...facsen statement/](https://uwm.edu/secu/faculty/senate/agendas/19-20/04-16-2020attachments/jordan%20sac...facsen%20statement/)

MOTION: to extend time by five minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

SA President Connor Mathias stated that travel grants remain intact, and that he did not find everything in Ms. Jordan's statement to be accurate.

Discussion took place on the importance of graduate student travel to academic conferences and the pitting of undergraduate and graduate student populations against one another. Student Affairs and the Student Association will look into this matter.

5. Report on Student Affairs. Chief Student Affairs Officer Kelly Haag presented. CSAO Haag reported that, prior to the COVID-19 changeover, Student Affairs made progress on building projects that will support student experience on campus. These include repairs and renovation within the south tower of Sandburg Hall, predesign work on the Norris Health Center, and the Union project.

Restaurant Operations engaged with a dining consultant and brought forward recommendations that will re-envision the dining program at UWM for students both on and off campus, faculty, and staff.

The resource centers have undergone administrative and mission alignment to bring about a collective effort entitled the Centers for Advocacy and Student Engagement (CASE). CASE includes the Inclusive Excellence Center (IEC), the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Resource Center (LGBTQ+RC), the Military and Veteran's Resource Center (MAVRC), and the Women's Resource Center (WRC).

CSAO Haag also reported that the Division of Student Affairs's strategic planning process is nearing its end.

Student Affairs has been working to address the basic needs of students and provide community support. University Housing worked to vacate nearly 4,000 students from the residence halls. There are about 200 students who remain on campus.

The food center and pantry continues to provide a vital service for students, faculty, and staff and currently provides a drive-thru service two days per week.

Providing support for students in this new online learning environment has taken the form of access to donated, low cost, or loaner laptops. If you know a student who needs access to a laptop, please email their name and email address to [dos@uwm.edu](mailto:dos@uwm.edu). Laptops are distributed during food pantry distribution.

There has been a massive influx of requests for emergency grants. Approximately 100 grants have been awarded within the past two weeks totaling nearly \$64,000. Sixty grants are currently under review with thirteen reviewers across campus.

In terms of community support, some onsite functions do remain open, though some are on a limited basis. These include the Norris Health Center, university housing for select students, the food center and pantry, and the Sandburg convenience store.

YOU@UWM was launched on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with the goal to connect students with campus resources and other online educational tools: <https://you.uwm.edu/>. In addition, a virtual student union has been launched as a canvas course to build a virtual community of students and staff.

6. Report on University Information Technology Services. Chief Information Officer Bob Beck presented. The presentation is posted at the following link: [https://uwm.edu/secu/faculty/senate/agendas/19-20/04-16-2020attachments/it at uwm/](https://uwm.edu/secu/faculty/senate/agendas/19-20/04-16-2020attachments/it%20at%20uwm/)

Discussion took place regarding the use of Zoom for instruction as an alternative to Teams.

MOTION: to thank CIO Beck and IT staff for their support during this massive transition to online instruction. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by voice vote.

Additional discussion took place on storage limits within Canvas and recommended password managers.

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None.

**VII. GENERAL GOOD AND WELFARE** – None.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** -The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

**Report to the Faculty Senate**  
**Thursday, April 16, 2020**

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**University Committee (UC) – Kathleen Dolan, Chair**

1. The UC has met weekly since the last Faculty Senate meeting on March 12th.
  2. We continue to monitor campus activities through our regular meetings with the Provost and Chancellor.
  3. As UC chair, I continue to take part in the weekly Crisis Management Team meetings.
  4. As UC chair, I have been taking part in the Provost's weekly meetings with the academic deans and governance reps to address a range of academic planning issues.
  5. The UC has worked with the Provost's office and Graduate School to review and approve various interim policies that have become necessary to deal with the impact of Covid-19. This includes the new interim policies on 1) tenure clock extensions, 2) allowing extensions for finalizing PTR evaluations in the spring semester, 3) time to graduate degree program extensions, 4) the adoption of the Credit/No Credit grading policy for spring semester, and 5) the suspension of teaching evaluations for spring semester,
  6. As UC Chair, I have been involved in discussions on planning an alternative for May commencement.
  7. System governance reps have a meeting with President Cross on Friday.
  8. More information on these topics, as well as up-to-date information on UC activities can be found at <https://uwm.edu/ucnews>.
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**Academic Planning & Budget Committee (APBC) – Barry Cameron, Co-Chair**

As I regrettably missed the last senate meeting report, I will update everyone that the APBC met on Thursday, March 5 to discuss the proposed Master of Urban Design. Dr. Ivy Hu, chair of Urban Planning, attended the meeting to summarize the proposed degree and answer committee questions. The committee had strong support for the new program. The committee was especially pleased to see that the new program would be a collaborative effort between Architecture and Urban Planning. The committee was encouraged that the new program could recruit new students owing to the real possibility that most students could complete the degree in twelve months.

APBC has met once since the last faculty senate meeting in March. APBC met on March 26 to consider a new PhD in Electrical Engineering. George Hanson and Ethan Munson were kind enough to sit in on the APBC Teams meeting and make opening remarks and answer questions. This is not a new degree, but rather more formal separation of an existing degree from a college-wide PhD program. This will enable Electrical Engineering to more effectively market the degree and recruit students, and the committee encouraged other areas within Engineering to similarly separate into discrete PhD degree programs. By formalizing the PhD in Electrical Engineering, the department would gain the independence to make informed decisions on matters such as total credits for the degree (66 versus 54), possible Minors in the degree, and make up of examining committees. There are no additional anticipated costs, and no additional faculty and staff needed, and the college anticipates the number of students remaining stable going forward. Overall, the APBC committee viewed the proposal for a PhD in Electrical Engineering favorably.

No new business surfaced for the scheduled Thursday, April 9 APBC meeting so it was cancelled to allow the Provost and members to focus on other critical university matters.

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