

Resolution on Faculty Participation in Instructional Design and Delivery Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic of spring semester 2020 has created exceptional circumstances requiring substantial alterations of curricula during the semester and will have repercussions on fall semester 2020 instructional design and delivery;

And whereas Chancellors, in consultation with their faculties, are responsible for designing curricula (State Statute 36.09(3)(a)) and determining the primary divisions of the academic calendar (UW System Administrative Policy 165, Part 1);

And whereas faculty have “the primary responsibility for advising the chancellor regarding academic and educational activities,” (State Statute 36.09(4));

And whereas the University of Wisconsin has a long and proud tradition of shared governance which is already engaging students, staff, faculty, and administrators in addressing pandemic-generated challenges;

And whereas decisions about academic calendars and instructional design and delivery should be tailored to the unique circumstances of each campus and surrounding community;

Therefore, the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee request that The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System limit their involvement in decisions about changes in instruction to that necessary to protect lives, health and safety as specified in state statute 36.11(1)(a). Further, we assert the primacy of public health for students, faculty and staff in shaping these decisions.

36.11 Powers and duties of the board of regents.

36.11(1)(a) The board may promulgate rules under ch. 227 to protect the lives, health and safety of persons on property under its jurisdiction and to protect such property and to prevent obstruction of the functions of the system. Any person who violates any rule promulgated under this paragraph may be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than 90 days or both.

36.09 Responsibilities

36.09(1)(f) The board shall delegate to each chancellor the necessary authority for the administration and operation of the institution within the policies and guidelines established by the board. The board may also delegate or rescind other authority to chancellors, committees of the board, administrative officers, members of the faculty and students or such other groups as it deems appropriate.

36.09(3)(a): The chancellors shall be the executive heads of their respective faculties and institutions and shall be vested with the responsibility of administering board policies under the coordinating direction of the president and be accountable and report to the president and the board on the operation and administration of their institutions. Subject to board policy the chancellors of the institutions in consultation with their faculties shall be responsible for designing curricula and setting degree requirements; determining academic standards and establishing grading systems; defining and administering institutional standards for faculty peer evaluation and screening candidates for appointment, promotion and tenure; recommending individual merit increases; administering associated auxiliary services; and administering all funds, from whatever source, allocated, generated or intended for use of their institutions.

36.09(4): The faculty of each institution, subject to the responsibilities and powers of the board, the president, and the chancellor of such institution, shall have the primary responsibility for advising the chancellor regarding academic and educational activities and faculty personnel matters. The faculty of each institution shall have the right to determine their own faculty organizational structure and to select representatives to participate in institutional governance, except that the faculty of each institution shall ensure that faculty in academic disciplines related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are adequately represented in the faculty organizational structure.

UW System Administrative Policy 165, Part 1: The academic year calendar;
The regular academic year covers a full nine-month period which is the basis for academic year appointments. The following guidelines permit the institutions to vary the academic calendar within the nine-month period which is the basis for academic year appointments. The following guidelines permit the institutions to vary the academic calendar within the nine-month period of the academic year. The Chancellor of each institution, in consulting with the faculty, should determine the primary divisions of the academic year calendar. The calendar may be organized in two semesters, three quarters, or modules of semesters or quarters and shorter terms (mini-sessions, inter-sessions, etc.) within the academic year period. The contractual academic year shall consist of a full nine months (39 weeks) and shall include not fewer than 34 weeks of organized services for students including classroom instruction, registration, advising, and examining.