

University Staff Senate

July 21, 2020

MINUTES

- Present: A. Avery-Johnson, R. Badger, S. Bukovic, M. Cosgrove, K. Czerniakowski, A. Dempsey-Fischer, J. Downey, G. Dukes, P. Geraci, G. Henion, J. Johnson, S. Kennedy, C. Larson, K. Miller-Kyles, T. Nation, P. Osheim, C. Parks, J. Peshut, P. Reilly, R. Sauers, C. Sekyi, J. Stoczany, A. Tarr, K. Valerius, R. Wahl, K. Waldoch, S. Yasaitis
- Absent: A. Kupiecki, L. Perryman
- Guests: Chancellor M. Mone

- I. Call to Order-The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am
- II. Approval of minutes for June 16, 2020-AUTOCONSENT-The minutes were approved as submitted.
- III. Chancellor Update-M. Mone-The Chancellor will be holding several town hall meetings to listen to concerns people have for returning to campus in the next few weeks. One specifically focused on Faculty and Staff will be the final week of July, look for the invitation in email. UWM will submit a proposal to Milwaukee Health department to return to in person classes. If approved we will have 25% capacity moving forward for Fall 2020. Check UWM's return to campus webpage for further updates.
- IV. Chair Update-S. Yasaitis-Chair Yasaitis has attended several meetings. He would like to remind the Senators that they provide valuable input to Governance. If anyone has questions or concerns they should contact him so he can get a response from Campus Administration.
- V. Return to Campus Fall 2020-See below.
- VI. Furloughs-
 - a. Problems with DWD-Those on furlough are eligible for Unemployment Compensation. UW-System and UWM Human Resources has been working with the State Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to facilitate a faster turn-around time for processing claims. Some staff have yet to see any compensation even after several months of furlough. The DWD has quite a backlog of claims to process. The Senate will keep watch on this and do whatever they can to move this forward.

- b. Hiring students over Univ Staff-Some departments/colleges/programs have hired students to do work of furloughed employees. The University Staff Senate will develop a resolution, so this does not happen further. The resolution will be developed by a working group with S. Yasaitis, J. Peshut, A. Avery-Johnson, J. Downey, G. Dukes, S. Kennedy, C. Parks, J. Stoczany and K. Valerius.
 - c. Layoffs/Future Furloughs-Budget issues continue to plague universities across the US and the state. Layoffs and furloughs are being discussed. How can we encourage fair and equal distribution of budget cuts? The working group will look into developing more concise/clear language in the current layoff policy.
 - d. Budget for Fall 2020-Budget forecasts are low and UWM is hoping to be able to recover from the losses. Colleges/programs are planning for a reduction in costs, but it will be more than cosmetic at this point. This will lead to further furloughs and layoffs. New System President T. Thompson is working with all system schools and the State Legislature to receive more funding to cover losses.
- VII. Committee and Member Updates/Reports-
- US Awards committee has a couple new members but still needs a few more. If interested in serving, please contact S. Yasaitis and he will forward your name to the committee.
- US Grievance committee met for their orientation. They have one case for review so far in FY 2020-2021. K. Negri was elected chair of the committee.
- Working Group on the Survey for University Staff-The working group is finalizing the survey and will work out a time when it is best to send it to campus for participation. It is expected to go out sometime in Fall 2020.
- VIII. New/Other Business-There was no other business.
- IX. Adjournment-The committee adjourned at 11:49 a.m.