Welcome Back!
We are so glad to welcome back everyone to campus this Fall 2021. 2020-2021 Academic Year was definitely one for the history books as we all adapted to working within the COVID-19 Pandemic. As we work towards vaccinating all, we also continue to work hard to keep things safe so that our campus is safe and healthy.

Chair’s Report
Welcome back everyone. This year that means a lot more than it has in the past. Some of us have not been on campus much for a year and a half. Many of us have been doing our job at home and remotely. And many of us who’ve remained on campus had to adjust to the ghost-town like atmosphere, and now are adjusting back. Quite a year!

There are a number of ongoing efforts designed to keep our workplaces safe. Signs, equipment, barriers, consistent air handling maintenance, are just some of them. Each of us play a key role in keeping our work safe. Keep a mask handy, even if you’re vaccinated, and use it. Don’t come in if you’re sick (the CDC now reports concerns with nonCovid respiratory illnesses this fall and winter, so be careful!). If you have concerns about the health of a coworker, or a student, or anyone else, report that concern to your supervisor. Don’t just assume someone else has said or done something. We all have increased responsibility maintaining a safe work place.

Continued next page
Chair’s Report continued
As I write this in late July, all plans to return to full campus activity are continuing. Those plans all include contingency plans. If there’s a surge in our community or on campus, or some new outbreak, UWM has planned on how to respond. Our return to full campus activity is important in many different ways, but it will NOT be done as the expense of our health. Keep an eye on campus emails, sit in on any campus Town Hall meetings, attend your departmental meetings (or demand there be one if none are announced!) to stay current with the ever changing news.

I was elected Chair of the Senate for the 2021-22 school year. It is my honor to do so. Each of you is an absolutely invaluable resource for me to do this job. Your eyes see what I can’t. Your ears here what I don’t. Your minds form ideas and solutions that I need to hear of. Together we are a strong voice in UWM’s governance. I look forward to our continued efforts.

Stan Yasaitis | 414-229-2940 | yasaitis@uwm.edu

RETURNING TO CAMPUS SAFELY
Most will be returning to campus full time to welcome back our students. Some will be choosing to have a flexible schedule to be able to keep each other safe. What guidelines will still need to be followed? Be sure to work out your schedule with your department and supervisor for specific details. To see what campus is working on, check the website here:

https://uwm.edu/coronavirus/faculty-staff/

Can you be exempt from testing while working on campus? Check out the information here:

https://uwm.edu/coronavirus/faqs/im-vaccinated-do-i-still-have-to-get-tested-on-campus
21-23 State Budget Finalized

Governor Tony Evers has finalized the state budget, which includes approval of the UW System’s (UWS) 2021-23 biennial operating and capital budgets.

The final 2021-23 operating budget for UWS includes an increase of $42.3M (4.4%) of additional General Purpose Revenue (GPR or state-levied taxes) base funds in FY 2021, including:

- $21M to cover 70% of the costs of the first year of a 2%/2% pay plan increase for UWS employees over the biennium, which is subject to approval in early fall 2021 by the state Joint Committee on Employment Relations (JCOER). If passed in its current form, UW institutions will need to self-fund the remaining 30% or about $8.4M in FY 2021. Including this pay plan in its entirety, UW institutions will have self-funded about $40M in cumulative pay plan increases over the last several years, without assistance from tuition increases as had been the case historically. If approved, pay increases will be implemented in January 2022 and January 2023.

In addition, the Board of Regents now has restored tuition-setting authority, which means they may end the undergraduate resident tuition freeze that started in 2013-14 and will continue through 2021-22, for nine total years, to date.

This budget contains positive elements for UWM given the challenging year behind us, particularly funding of a pay plan (which is subject to JCOER approval).

Graduation 2021

We will be returning to in person graduation on December 19, 2021! There are volunteer opportunities for Graduation 2021. If you are interested let Louisa Eastman know at louisae@uwm.edu.
University Staff Senate

Schedule FALL 2021

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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<td>AUGUST</td>
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THE AUGUST 17 MEETING WILL BE ON TEAMS ONLY; BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER, MEETINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON TEAMS AND ON UWM’S MAIN CAMPUS IN ROOM 175 OF CURTAIN HALL.

See Agenda for link/phone in number
https://uwm.edu/secu/us/university-staff-senate/

Want to know what is going on the University Staff Senate? Come to a meeting! Meetings are open to all!

Newsletter Working Group:
Roy Badger, Louisa Eastman, and Anna M. Kupiecki