

**University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE
2021-2022 Annual Report**

Members:

Name	Rank	Department	Div	E/A	Term Ends
Erica Bornstein	Prof	Anthropology	SS	E	2024
Mark Schwartz, Chair (from 6/13/22)	Prof	Geography	NS	E	2024
Nigel Rothfels, Chair (to 6/12/22)	Prof	History	AH	E	2023
Julia Snethen	Prof	Nursing	PR	E	2023
Devendra Misra ¹	Prof	Biomedical Engineering	NS	E	2022
Gillian Rodger ²	Prof	Music	AH	E	2022
Victoria Moerchen **	Prof	Rehabilitation Sciences & Tech.	PR	A	2022

** President pro tem of the Senate

1 Repl T. Freiburger (2022-E)

2 Repl J. Reisel (2022-E)

Charter:

Functions/ Responsibilities:

University Committee Composition and Function

A3.9 University Committee

(1) Membership

- a) Seven tenured faculty members as follows: six elected faculty members and the President pro tem of the Senate. No more than three of the members shall be from a single school, college, or equivalent academic unit. No more than one member shall be from a single department in a departmentalized school or college. All UC members are automatically Faculty Senators.

For all regular elections of members to the University Committee, a primary election shall be held. The final election ballot will contain twice as many nominees as there are individuals to be elected, such nominees to be chosen in descending order from the one who received the greatest number of votes in the primary election. The provisions above concerning membership distribution shall be honored.

The Committee annually elects a chairperson-elect from those having at least one more year to serve as a Committee member. The chairperson-elect serves as chairperson the year following his/her election.

- b) Vacancies in the University Committee membership are to be filled as soon thereafter as possible. If the vacancy cannot be filled within the regular annual committee elections process as specified in 6.24(1&6), then a special election will be held through preparation of a special slate of nominees by the Nominations Committee and permitting nominations from the university faculty followed by a mail ballot. If the special slate has more than two nominees for an available position, a final election will be conducted as specified in A3.9(1)(a). The membership that results from the filling of this vacancy will follow the membership composition restrictions of the University Committee with respect to school/college and departmental affiliation as cited in A3.9 (1) (a).

(Document 2477, 5/17/05; UWM Administration, 08/16/05)

(Document 2560, 2/15/07; UWM Administration, 2/21/07)

(Document 2659, 5/14/09; UWM Administration, 4/6/09)

(Document 2716, 4/15/10; UWM Administration, 4/20/10)

(2) Functions

- a) Serves as the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, and in that capacity performs those functions which may be delegated to it by the Senate. Takes action representing faculty interests and prerogatives within the jurisdiction of the Senate when the Senate is not in session. Such actions are reported to the Senate at its next regular meeting for ratification or other appropriate action.
- b) Examines any actions taken respecting the UWM campus by the Board of Regents, the various faculties or faculty committees, or by other bodies or individuals related to the university faculty, and makes recommendation as appropriate.
- c) On its own initiative, studies educational policy matters which are within the jurisdiction of the university faculty and makes recommendations to the Faculty thereon. To the extent feasible, the committee performs this function in consultation with other appropriate faculty committees.
- d) On its own initiative, or upon request, advises the Administration on the implementation of faculty action.
- e) Consults with appropriate administrative officers at campus level or above on budget matters and reports thereon to the faculty.
- f) In consultation with the Rules Committee prepares the agenda for committee of the whole discussions concerning matters of general interest to the university faculty.
- g) Makes an annual report at the Faculty Senate's first regular meeting of the academic year, and regularly submits to the Secretary of the University its minutes on all matters except those matters considered in closed session as permitted by 19.85, Wis. Stats.

- h) Advises the Chancellor on the membership on any campus search and screen committee which involves the faculty in making nominations for appointments to major university administrative positions as specified in 6.05, and represents the faculty on any system wide search and screen procedures.
- i) Advises the faculty and the administration on those questions concerning the operation of faculty governance which are within the jurisdiction of the university faculty.
- j) Receives grievances and complaints by or against members of the faculty and refers these grievances or complaints to the appropriate faculty standing committee.
- k) Receive notification within five working days from administrators when they, after conducting preliminary investigations, have grievances or complaints against faculty member(s) that may lead to discipline.

(Document 1016, 3/17/77; UWM Administration approval, 3/30/77)

(Document 1076, 3/21/76; UWM Administration approval, 3/28/78)

(Editorially revised, 5/13/92)

(Document 2424, 4/15/04; UWM Administration approval, 4/26/04)

(Document 2477, 3/17/05; UWM Administration, 08/16/05)

Meetings:

1. The UC met regularly with Provost Britz (about every other week) and Chancellor Mone (approximately once a month) during the year to keep informed and provide input on important campus issues. We also met monthly with Nicole Oswald, chair of the Academic Staff Committee, to maintain ongoing conversations on shared issues related for faculty and instructional academic staff.
2. Throughout the year, the UC monitored and provided advice regarding campus policies, including COVID-19 and the Title and Total Compensation Project, as well as campus enrollment. The UC provided feedback and made recommendations as appropriate regarding campus activities related to these matters.
3. The UC was briefed on a regular basis regarding such matters and school/college realignment, GER reform, and other 2030 initiatives.
4. The UC performed its usual function of transmitting faculty complaints to the FAGC or FRRC as appropriate and monitoring the progress of the cases.
5. The UC also performed its usual function of appointing faculty to open positions on governance committees and in recommending people to be nominated for appointment to these committees.
6. There was a variety of issues that were discussed at length among the members of the UC and special guests throughout the year. These included:
 - a. A discussion about lending periods of the University Libraries and specifically about the requirement that faculty physically return loans to the library every two years as a “proof of life.” The discussions led to Associate Vice Provost and Library Director Michael Doyle working with the library staff and advisory board to extend the loan renewal period to five years for

faculty and graduate students.

- b. Multiple discussions about the development of campus guidance on School/College voting rights for academic staff. The Guidance then moved through the Faculty Senate.
 - c. Multiple discussions about the development of campus guidance on the Teaching Professor and Research Professor titles. Information on these positions was later presented at the Faculty Senate but no vote was taken because none was necessary for the adoption of the titles.
 - d. A discussion about the proposed legislative bill on “freedom of expression” that led to the UC submitting a formal response to the legislature.
 - e. Multiple discussions about the work and report of the UW-System COVID CARES group that addressed issues faced by caregivers in higher education. The Committee agreed that caregiving -- whether by faculty, staff, or students -- needs to be understood as a significant issue impacting the diversity, equity, and inclusion of our campus. A resolution supporting the CARES group’s report was later endorsed by the full Faculty Senate.
 - f. Multiple discussions with administration and faculty regarding campus disciplinary procedures, and the process for post-disciplinary hearings, to both ensure that policy is being followed and that the policies are adequate.
 - g. A discussion with colleagues from the UWM Office of Sustainability to learn more about the substantial planning work that has been done on climate resiliency, vulnerabilities, and mitigation planning for UWM. Later in the year, the full Faculty Senate endorsed the Climate Report.
 - h. Multiple discussions over the year with colleagues from a variety of guests, including representatives of the Affirmative Action in Faculty Employment Committee and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion about the recruitment and retention of faculty.
 - i. Discussions about the increasing burden of committees and the importance of governance as the overall size of the faculty at UWM diminishes. The UC emphasized that with declining faculty numbers, there are simply fewer and fewer faculty who can take on the extraordinary tasks of what is these days all lumped together as *service*. The situation is demoralizing and not sustainable.
 - j. Discussions with several guests about the various kinds of trainings being rolled out to faculty, with particular concern over how the issue of Financial Misconduct was being framed on posters in campus hallways.
 - k. Discussions about the ethics of requiring that theses and dissertations be submitted to ProQuest in order for degrees to be granted at UWM. This matter will be discussed by the GFC in Fall 2022.
7. At the June 7, 2022 meeting, the UC elected Mark D. Schwartz to be chair for the 2022-23 academic year. Because outgoing Chair Rothfels was appointed Acting Dean of the College of Letters and Science starting on June 13, 2022, Schwartz’s term began on that day and also included the remainder of the 2021-22 academic year.