

# University Staff Senate

October 17, 2023

Via TEAMS

## MINUTES

Present: J. Almquist, J. Azinger, E. Cochrane, A. Dempsey-Fischer, L. Eastman, G. Dukes, K. Harris, G. Henion, S. Kennedy, C. Parks, K. Premeau, E. Rakowski, R. Sauers, T. Steffan, K. Valerius, M. Vallejo, R. Wahl, C. Warneke, S. Wirka

Absent: P. Dixon, C. Fitzpatrick, P. Geraci, S. Fuller, T. Nation, L. Perryman Ramsey

Guests: M. Mone, A. Daire, M. Steinhofer

- I. Call to Order-The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.
- II. Approval of minutes for September 19, 2023-The minutes were approved as submitted via autoconsent.
- III. Chancellor Update-The Chancellor was available for a brief update.
  - The Chancellor issued a statement about conflicts in the Israel and around the world to help re-enforce Campus' commitment to all students during difficult times.
  - JCOER met on October 17 to decide to approve the payplan for State Employees. Due to issues with the State Legislature there may be issues with approval for the budget for UW System. System President and others are hoping to still get the raises approved but it may be delayed or stricken from the budget.
  - UW System is discussing options for branch campuses. More information will be forthcoming from Campus administration.
- IV. Chair Update-It is important to remember when working on committees that while Governance Duties are important so is using work time wisely. All appointments to committees should give an appointment letter. Meetings are noticed in advance so departments and supervisors can be made aware of duties needed with a committee. Balance between work and Governance work is essential for Staff and supervisors. Communication is important.
  - Delta Dental is having issues keeping Dentists in their plan. Delta Dental services all the Dental Plans with the state. The State will be evaluating the issues with Delta and potentially changing in 2025. For now they are still serving as the Dental Provider. Staff should check with their Delta to confirm coverage of their preferred provider.
- V. SAAP 7-14 Summer Session Appointments-The SAAP was approved with no issues via Autoconsent.
- VI. SAAP 10-12-COVID Policy-The SAAP was approved with no issues via Autoconsent.
- VII. Commencement Volunteers-M. Steinhofer-Commencement Coordinator from the Secretary of the University's office stopped by the meeting to ask for volunteers for the year's Commencement ceremony. Anyone interested can contact her at [secofunv@uwm.edu](mailto:secofunv@uwm.edu) or directly to volunteer.
- VIII. Provost Daire was at the meeting to discuss issues facing campus. Culture and climate are

important at UWM. It is important to change to a unified climate to work towards UWM's goals.

- Graduation Rates are still low and Campus Administration is focusing on raising those rates. Increasing Retention and Graduation Rates could increase revenue from tuition dollars greatly and would help offset budget shortfalls from state budget cuts.
- Recruitment of underserved areas also is an area of interest that may be a great opportunity for UWM.
- Microcredentiality will also be looked at to give flexible options to students and potential students.
- It was announced today that UW System is making closures to some branch campuses due to budget cuts. UWM's Washington County Campus will be one of those closed. The College of General Studies both campuses will be absorbed by Letters and Science. A plan will be developed on how to work with students and staff as the changes occur.

IX. Committee/Member Reports-

- APBC report-E. Cochrane reported that the Academic Planning and Budget Committee (APBC) met and will be conducting their budget meetings soon.
- Grievance Committee-K. Valerius sent in her report that the Grievance Committee did not meet.
- Nominations Committee-G. Henion reported that the committee did not meet.

X. New/Other Business-There was no new or other business.

XI. Adjournment-The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Senate website: <https://uwm.edu/secu/us/university-staff-senate/>