

University Staff Senate

November 21, 2023

Via TEAMS

MINUTES

Present: J. Almquist, J. Azinger, E. Cochrane, A. Dempsey-Fisher, P. Dixon, G. Dukes, L. Eastman, P. Geraci, K. Harris, G. Henion, T. Nation, C. Parks, K. Premeau, E. Rakowski, R. Sauers, T. Steffan, R. Wahl, C. Warneke

Absent: C. Fitzpatrick, S. Fuller, L. Perryman Ramsey, K. Valerius, M. Vallejo, S. Wirka

Guests: M. Mone, K. Hennemann, B. Schneider

- I. Call to Order-The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.
- II. Approval of minutes for October 17, 2023-The minutes were approved as submitted via autoconsent.
- III. Chancellor Update-The Chancellor was on hand to update the Senate on the latest at UWM.
 - Negotiations are still ongoing for advocating for the Universities of Wisconsin Payplan pay raises.
 - UW-Milwaukee is working hard to eliminate their deficit by the year 2025.
 - CGS Transformation teams are working to create a plan to work with UW Waukesha and UW Washington County as those sites change.
 - Enrollments are doing well and will help offset some of the cuts that have been anticipated.
 - Discussions around conflicts in the Middle East have been created on campus to help students and staff work through issues and open dialogues.
- IV. Ombuds Council-B. Schneider spoke to the Senate about the Ombuds Council. The Ombuds Council is to help facilitate or mediate discussions in departments that may be having difficulties. This is before problems reach a Grievance Level. They can help departments come up with solutions for Staff and Supervisors that help work flow better or more smoothly. If they can't help, they are willing to find out what is the best path for a department to move towards a solution. They are neutral and confidential. The Senate is considering having them help with some discussions or trainings in the future to create better work culture at UWM.
- V. Chair Update-Chair Dukes discussed the Universities of Wisconsin President interview that was on Fox6 that discussed the issues facing the Universities of Wisconsin.
- VI. Committee/Member Reports-Please send reports/updates to L. Eastman to be put on the agenda for future meetings.
 - K. Premeau updated the Senate on the search for the Dean of the College of the Arts and Architecture. A search firm has been hired. The committee will meet soon to work on the position description. The campus hopes to have a Dean hired by July 1, 2024.
 - E. Cochrane updated the Senate about the Academic Planning and Budget

Committee (APBC)-Budget meetings have concluded. The Campus Budget Team will update the committee and give an overview of the Budget by the end of the semester.

- L. Eastman updated the Senate on University Staff Elections-Preference Forms are being developed. Preference Forms will be sent to campus by February 1, 2024. University Staff are encouraged to sign up for Committees on the Preference Forms. The Preference Forms determine the Elections Ballot. The Elections Ballots will be sent in March of 2024.
- P. Geraci updated the Senate on the search and screen for the Dean of the Zilber College of Public Health. They have 12 applicants so far and hope to several more by the end of the semester. The committee will review applicants after Winter Break.

VII. New/Other Business-

- P. Geraci asked about Purchasing requirements. When discussing budget and issues facing departments it seems difficult to understand why required vendors prices are so much higher than other outside vendors. This is particularly frustrating for departments that must pay high prices for everyday things like chairs and batteries when outside the state system pricing is so much lower. Other University Staff Senators voiced similar frustrations at having to use required vendors when departments are facing greater budget cutbacks.
- B. Klinger from Purchasing will be invited to discuss these issues at a future meeting.
- K. Hennemann told the Senate that Senate Bill 555 which was the Collective Bargaining agreement for non-UW represented craftworkers has been approved.

VIII. Adjournment-The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

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