

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE  
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 28, 2023  
LUB N456  
1:00 pm

Present: Professors K. Dolan, M. Kavanaugh, K. Kirshner, R. Leson, L. McHenry, W. Otieno, G. Rodger  
Excused: None  
Others Present: S. Boyd, K. O'Connor, S. Scholz, S. Stalewski

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – The meeting was called to order by K. Dolan at 1:00 p.m. The agenda was approved.

I. PERSONS WHO WISH TO BE HEARD

Professor Stephane Scholz visited the UC to express concerns on behalf of CGS regarding the CGS Transformation Team. He thanked the CGSTT co-leads for opening up the team formation process to nominations from CGS. He provided background on the history of the CGS experience in recent years both with the UW System and UWM. A survey has been conducted on what CGS faculty and staff wants for the transformation, and opinions differ widely.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes of the November 14, 2023 meeting were approved.

III. SPECIAL GUESTS<sup>a</sup>

Special Assistant to the Provost Suzanne Boyd

- A. S. Boyd presented two documents to the UC that will be considered by the APC later this week. One policy involves prohibiting instructors from creating due dates for assignments during break periods or legal holidays. The UC provided feedback on what problems may result and suggestions on alternative ways to phrase the policy.

The second policy involves an in-person class cancellation policy, which provides instructors with options on how to manage the loss of a class period. Instructors will not be allowed to switch to a synchronous on-line session with required attendance.

ASC Chair Sue Stalewski

- A. S. Stalewski reported on the number of instructional academic staff at UWM and how many are long-term employees working more than half-time on fixed term contracts. The ASC believes that these employees and UWM would be better served with these employees being on probationary/indefinite status contracts.

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<sup>a</sup> The Committee may go into closed session to discuss personnel matters according to Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(f)

- B. The ASC is concerned about the state of course evaluations at UWM, and are monitoring progress on improving the process.
- C. There are concerns about some Academic Staff seeking conversion from Teaching Faculty to the title of Teaching Professor and having their requests not acted upon by their executive committees. There would need to be changes to P&P to require the executive committees to act upon these requests.
- D. The ASC is also concerned about the lack of guidelines for both the appointment to different titles and with title progression.
- E. The ASC is working with the Student Association and the Dean of Students office to address problems with instructors not complying with mandated ARC student accommodations.

Interim Vice Provost for Research Kris O'Connor

- A. K. O'Connor informed the UC that he is planning on working on a research strategic plan for UWM in the Spring. Benefits of this include providing a basis for cohesive messaging and to target where internal funding and support will be directed. M. Kavanaugh pointed out that there is a need for immediate support for the research areas identified as focus areas of UWM. K. Dolan said that all internal funding decisions should not be limited to the chosen focus areas. K. O'Connor plans to use the associate deans for research to provide input on areas of excellence, and then take those ideas forward to a faculty-centric group to finalize the strategic plan.

IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

V. MEMBERS' REPORTS – None

VI. NEW BUSINESS – None

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of Contractual Notice Period for Faculty - Deferred

VIII. PERSONNEL MATTERS

Per Wis. Stats 19.85(1)(f), it was moved and seconded to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters. Upon voice vote, closed session began at 2:50 p.m. The committee reconvened in open session at 2:53 p.m.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – The next UC meeting is on December 5. Provost Andrew Daire will be attending.

X. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.