

University Staff Senate

March 19, 2024

Via TEAMS

MINUTES

Present: J. Azinger, E. Cochrane, A. Dempsey-Fischer, P. Dixon, G. Dukes, L. Eastman, S. Fuller, P. Geraci, G. Henion, C. Parks, K. Premeau, E. Rakowski, R. Sauers, T. Steffan, K. Valerius

Absent: J. Almquist, C. Fitzpatrick, K. Harris, T. Nation, L. Perryman Ramsey, M. Vallejo, R. Wahl, C. Warneke, S. Wirka

Guest: S. Stalewski (Chair, Academic Staff Committee/Senate), K. Hennemann

- I. Call to Order-The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.
- II. Approval of minutes for February 20, 2024-The minutes were approved with editorial revisions via autoconsent.
- III. Chair Update-G. Dukes was able to update the Senate on some key areas.
 - College of General Studies-Waukesha Campus Closure came as a surprise. There are still planning meetings and information will be available as plans are finalized. Discussion about the closure with the Senate showed concern about Staff at both Waukesha and Washington County campuses and the impact these will have on all of UWM. While there are smaller numbers of University Staff at these locations other satellite locations are concerned, as well as central campus, about job security at UWM. An update will be done at the April Senate meeting.
 - UWM is discussing an increase to the minimum starting salary of \$16 per hour. While this is welcome news for hiring how will this affect salary compression and already strained budgets? A pay progression plan is being worked on with Human Resources. As soon as more information is known it will be brought to the Senate for an update.
- IV. Academic Staff Update-S. Stalewski chair of the Academic Staff Committee and Senate was able to join the meeting today to share insights about the Academic Staff and what is going on. The closures of the the Washington County and Waukesha County campuses is very concerning for all Staff. Academic Staff are working on a Priority Referral Program at the campus so as many people as possible will not lose their jobs. At UWM's campus there are almost 2000 Academic Staff which include teaching and non-teaching positions. Academic Staff represent the largest section of employment at UWM. S. Stalewski gave a good overview of how the Academic Staff on campus work and how they work with their Governance on campus.
- V. Election update-L. Eastman updated the committee on the Election results so far. We have had an excellent return so far with over 15% return. We hope to get 20% or more return by the end of voting. Nominations from the floor will be taken at the May meeting if any spots need to be filled.
- VI. Committee/Member Reports-
 - Awards Committee-A. Dempsey Fischer-The Awards call has gone out to the campus. The committee will be meeting in April to review nominations.

- Grievance Committee-K. Valerius-The committee did not meet.
- Search and Screen for the Dean of Arts and Architecture-The committee has reviewed applications and will bring candidates in April to campus. They are still hoping for a July 1, 2024 start date.

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

VIII. Adjournment-The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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