

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Policy Advisory Committee  
Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.  
Location: Lubar N456 and Microsoft Teams  
Minutes

Present: E. Bechly-Schubert, D. Clark, K. Dolan (in place of K. Kirshner), T. Nation, J. Reisel, K. Scholz, J. Urdan

Guests: Ariana Myers, LGBTQ+ Resource Center Director & CACLGBT+A Co-Chair

I. Meeting called to order at 3:01 p.m.

II. Auto Consent

a. Minutes of the January 8, 2025 meeting approved as distributed.

III. Business

a. SAAP 6-6 Inclusive Restroom Facilities Policy

A. Myers presented the revised document which defines inclusive facilities at UWM, including a requirement for gender-neutral bathrooms in new construction projects. Key changes include updating names of centers/committees, removing obsolete positions, refining exceptions for smaller-scale projects, and adding language to ensure feasibility.

T. Nation raised concerns about safety issues in inclusive restrooms, citing past incidents in Mitchell Hall and asking who to report such concerns to. J. Urdan responded that these are behavioral rather than policy issues and advised calling UWM police, as they are best equipped to handle such situations, with follow-up available for repeat offenders.

The committee suggested clarifying wording changes and the removal of the 'universal design' definition.

MOTION: to recommend approval of the policy as amended. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. The policy will go to the Academic Staff Senate, Faculty Senate and University Staff Senate as automatic consent.

b. SAAP 1-14 Teaching Evaluation Policy

D. Clark presented a draft of the policy, seeking feedback on core questions, data access, and best practices. Discussion focused on privacy concerns, response rate inconsistencies, and whether best practices should be incorporated into the policy rather than as an external reference. Academic Affairs was urged to define standardized practices to ensure fairness, with some advocating for explicit policy requirements over discretionary guidance. D. Clark will revise the document to integrate essential best practices and clarify implementation details.

c. Program Array Review Policy

D. Clark presented the policy. It is a UW System-mandated policy for undergraduate programs graduating fewer than 25 students, outlining a phased process for struggling programs, including action plans, potential suspension, and closure if improvements aren't met within five years. A qualitative exemption process allows programs to argue their essential function, though its application is expected to be limited. Discussion included concerns about metrics, departmental restructuring, and governance review, with suggestions to involve ASC and UC earlier for broader input. The policy aims to balance fairness with UW System requirements and will proceed through governance review by May.

IV. Other Business as needed – None.

V. The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.