

MINUTES

University Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 27, 2014, 3:00 PM
Cofrin Library 750

Present: Clifton Ganyard, Kristin Vespia, John Lyon, Katrina Hrivnak, Sylvia (Mimi) Kubsch, Steven Meyer (chair), Cristina Ortiz

1. The UC meeting minutes from the May 7, 2014 were approved.
2. Information Items:
 - a. Meyer noted Chancellor Miller's decision to hold a series of Deep Dive Information sessions. Members of the UC will attend these sessions as follows:
 - Athletics (Tues, 9/2, 1:00-3:00, 1965 Room) – Meyer
 - University Advancement (Wed, 9/3, 9:00-11:00, 1965 Room) – Ortiz
 - Enrollment Management (Wed, 9/3, 1:30-3:30, 1965 Room) – Kubsch, Meyer
 - Business and Finance (Thurs, 9/4, 9:00-11:00, 1965 Room) – Lyon, Meyer
 - Academic Planning, Program Review, Strategic Positioning (Thurs, 9/4, 1:30-3:30, 1965 Room) – Lyon, Vespia
 - b. Meyer noted that two academic centers (Information Disclosure and Environmental Decision-Making project (Mike Kraft) and the Institute on Dying, Death and Bereavement (Illene Cupit)) were closing. The UC does not need to take action on these closures. However, Meyer noted that the Provost is interested in reviewing the process by which academic centers are reviewed.
3. Continuing Business:
 - a. Ganyard indicated willingness to serve as Deputy Speaker. An election will be held at the Senate Meeting on 9/10/2014.
 - b. The process of granting Honorary Degrees was discussed.
 - i. In the case of the Chancellor Harden's recent nomination, Meyer will contact Chancellor Miller to see if he supports the nomination.
 - ii. Ganyard will contact Professor Lora Warner, chair of the Honorary Degree subcommittee of the Awards and Recognition Committee, for information on the process of granting Honorary Degrees.
 - c. Meyer reviewed the issues concerning Essential Job Functions. The issue, introduced by David Coury and Sheryl Van Gruensven, was intended to make it easier to take medical leave but proved to be very contentious in Senate. A second reading of the proposal was heard at Senate on 4/30/2014. Meyer noted that the UC had two options: 1) it could revise the proposal, perhaps calling on a Senate

subcommittee to review the policy, or 2) it leave the proposal on the table, at which point it would die. Vespia noted the Human Resources already uses some essential job functions. Meyer will ask Sheryl Van Gruensven for more information on HR's policy and invite her attend a UC meeting.

At 3:50, Meyer offered for the UC to take a break for ice cream. However, the UC noting the long agenda, opted to persevere and accomplish as much as possible.

- d. Meyer noted that several years ago, the Senate had adopted a policy whereby administrators (Chancellor, Provost, Deans) would be evaluated on a regular basis. Meyer further noted, however, that the committee that developed the evaluation tool (Greg Davis, Cheryl Grosso, Lloyd Noppe) had been composed entirely of faculty members and suggested that staff should be included in developing the evaluation tool. In any case, the departure of Chancellor Shepard and Provost Hammersmith meant that no evaluations were actually carried out. Meyer noted that a new evaluation tool should be adopted. He suggested that a task force be assembled to look into this issue. Lyon noted that a tool already existed and perhaps it would be worthwhile to test that tool before a new one was developed. One issue that emerged was that of privacy. Who should be allowed to view the evaluations? How should administrators respond to them? Should the evaluations be kept on record or destroyed? The UC will continue the discussion at its next meeting. Meyer will distribute information on the current tool.

4. At 4:15, Associate Provost Greg Davis joined the meeting.

- a. He noted that the current University Select Mission Statement is incomplete and out of compliance. A state statute requires specific language regarding programs and degrees granted be included in the Select Mission Statement. The University had been informed of this, and Associate Provost Kersten had been working on it, but it was incomplete. Davis will re-draft the statement and re-submit it to UW System.
- b. Davis also raised the issue of how to commemorate deceased faculty and staff members. It was noted that there should be some memorial on campus, perhaps a plaque, named room, tree, brick path, etc.
- c. Finally, Davis raised the issue of credits for transfer and returning students. There is no policy on the duration of credits earned. He noted that there should be some kind of expiration date regarding which credits can count toward a degree.

5. At 4:30, Provost Julia Wallace joined the meeting.

- a. She briefly discussed the issue of centers. The UC indicated it had no problems with the closure of the two aforementioned centers.

- b. Lyon asked the provost what kind of information she would like in regard to administrator evaluations. The Provost discussed her previous experience with such evaluations and that she had developed a tool she found useful. She will distribute that tool to the UC.
 - c. Hrivnak raised the issue of Academic Staff contact with the administration. Previously, the Provost had attended Academic Staff Committee meetings, but she had not attended recently. The Provost noted that this was just an oversight and that she would be willing to attend the meetings if invited.
6. The UC unanimously supported faculty status for Adrienne Fletcher in Social Work.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Clifton Ganyard.

Approved 9/3/2014.