

MINUTES
UW Green Bay University Committee

Present:	2 March 2011
Brent Blahnik, Academic Staff Representative	3:00 pm, CL 830
Dave Dolan	
Mike Draney	
Derek Jeffreys	
Tim Kaufman	
Heba Mohammad, Student Government Representative	Previous Meeting
Illene Noppe, Chair	23 February 2011
Brian Sutton	

Guests: Provost Julia Wallace, Jennifer Zapf, Secretary of the Faculty and Academic Staff Cliff Abbott

1. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with minor corrections.

2. UC Chair Noppe led a discussion of the proposal to start a UWGB honors program. She stated that a “bare-bones” honors program would cost about \$37,000 per year, largely in course reassignments for the program director and participating faculty members. She added that given the current economic climate, the program would not seek internal funds but would be viable only if it were supported entirely with outside funding. The program also would be viable only with the blessing of the faculty. Thus, the proposal to be taken to the Faculty Senate will ask for the Senate’s approval to begin seeking outside funding to start such an honors program. Implicitly, of course, this means the Senate would also be approving starting such a program if outside funds are available to fully fund it.

UC members brought up various concerns and suggestions:

- Concern: corporate funding might someday compromise the program if the educational program were beholden to a corporation’s interests.
- Suggestion: could the proposed set of courses be made more coherent, perhaps through a thematic link between the seminar honors students take one year and the seminar they take in their next year of college, etc.?
- Suggestion: Could the seminars be used to promote interdisciplinary or to promote the Common Theme?
- Concern: While applicants’ essays should work well overall as the primary selection device, might the essay format short-change some students who are gifted in nonverbal areas such as music or the visual arts?
- Concern: Some Faculty Senators may criticize the proposed honors program as elitist, as undermining the rest of UWGB by segregating its top students from “regular” education, or as requiring resources that some units cannot provide.

These concerns and suggestions notwithstanding, UC members supported the proposal and the idea of forwarding it to the Faculty Senate.

3. Provost Wallace arrived and discussed UWGB's situation relative to Governor Walker's Budget Repair Bill, his proposed 2011-13 budget, and his advocacy of making UW-Madison a "public authority" institution, independent from the UW System. While she expressed concern regarding UWGB's financial situation, she seemed fairly confident that proposed tuition increases, combined with use of funds UWGB has set aside for financial exigencies such as these, would allow UWGB to continue providing its key services while avoiding layoffs. She did, however, express concerns about the longer-term implications for UWGB if UW-Madison is separated from the UW System.

4. Asked to provide candidates for election to the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities, the UC nominated Kris Vespia and Regan Gurung to be candidates from Social Sciences, and Cheryl Grosso and Tim Kaufman to be at-large candidates.

5. With the Bereavement Policy having passed the Faculty Senate, it was suggested that a "boilerplate" wording for syllabi might be created and circulated to the faculty. Professor Noppe agreed to come up with a draft of such a wording.

6. Secretary of the Faculty and Academic Staff Abbott arrived and suggested, as future business, that the UC might seek to bring UWGB's faculty election procedures into line with the Open Records Law. The SOFAS stated that the Open Records Law forbids secret ballots in faculty governance meetings, whereas most units elect unit leaders by secret ballot. According to the SOFAS, if anyone asks for a roll call vote at a faculty meeting, the request must be granted. Moreover, UWGB is supposed to contact the "local newspaper of record" in advance of all meetings involving faculty governance.

7. UC members and SOFAS Abbott constructed the agenda for the next Faculty Senate meeting, which would take place on Wednesday, March 9.

The UC meeting adjourned at 4:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Sutton
Secretary pro tempore