

## University Committee Meeting Minutes

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Present: Devin Bickner (chair), Clifton Ganyard, Joan Groessl, Mark Klemp, Laura Nolan, Patricia Terry, Harrison Thiry, Becky Haeny (for Lea Truttmann), Christine Vandenhouten, Aaron Weinschenk

Guests: Steve Meyer, Kim Mezger

Minutes from Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 approved by consensus.

Provost update (Kate Burns)

- Tuition Differential: All systems schools have put forward a proposal. Meeting with student government about the process at this time.
- Program Review- have been on hiatus. One of comprehensive program review recommendations was how to make it more regular, easier, and more user friendly. Looking to pilot test a process. Hopefully pilot over next few months and bring to Senate in fall. (2024-2025 would be first AY for implementation).
- Docusign—trying to see what can be applied to in order to streamline process.
  - o Goal would be for less effort/work in the documents completed in the initial stage of the process.
- SOFAS and Steve’s upcoming retirement—
  - o Larger system—we had developed following UW Madison guidelines initially. UW-Milwaukee also has a SOFAS but others have a governance secretary. System is working on “ATP” over next year and a half. Non-academic affairs side connecting data (transitioning to “Workday” software). Will have implications for tenure and promotion tracking.
  - o Ideas thus far include transitioning Kim to the governance secretary role (a lot of current position focuses on support of shared governance. Minutes, etc.) Role of ombudsperson duties. System does not allow us to have a campus attorney—could Christopher fulfill this duty. [Concerns over this were presented by the Committee—his function is to reduce risk of the institution]. Policy questions to the Associate Provost. Ceremonial piece, faculty handbook, etc. elevated to UC?
    - Why now—anytime a resignation occurs reconsider moving forward. Need some overlap because of institutional knowledge which will be lost when Steve retires. Per Kate—according to the position description, duties do not require faculty expertise. Comments that as an administrative position, some may aspire to the role. Centralized location is helpful for people go to with questions.
    - Other institutions use “academic staff member” (Kim is university staff). Comfort with someone who is a faculty member—need for relationship building capacity—seen as important. Trust and linkage to faculty morale were discussed. The UC turnover does not allow gaining of enough institutional knowledge. [Would we need to rethink the terms of the UC/ Chair terms?]
    - We do not have a separate SOFAS FTE so is the rationale for no search at this time. Evaluating what a position would look like. Cost—no hiring; would no longer pay stipend/ release. Also noted is that if administration notes as

important, need to consider having an FTE available. Per Kate, this would mean taking someone out of the classroom and finds this unacceptable.

- Student Governance—If switching to a shared governance secretary, could assume an increased role in student governance (when no longer Secretary of the Faculty). SOFAS has worked collaboratively to participate in shared governance.
- Goal- to finalize plan over the next month or so.
- Kate used the analogy of SOFAS as the GBOSS of faculty.

Gen ed realignment update (Valerie Murrenus Pilmaier and Ryan Martin joined the meeting)

- Working group update: Listening session feedback has been incorporated. New proposed model information literacy and civic requirement instead. Reducing humanities and social sciences. Working on revision of gen ed outcomes
- Evaluating how to reduce credits. Will survey faculty soon about the issue
- Will have listening sessions again after the survey. Plan to be able to have everything set for fall 2024. With revised learning outcomes, will need to reapply for program inclusion in the general education program.

Nominees for Committee on Rights and Responsibilities Candidates

- Reviewed of proposed slate. When William Sallak went on sabbatical, was removed from committee but he is interested in serving again.
- Will keep the three candidates for each position. Committee approved by acclamation.

Agenda for Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> Faculty Senate Meeting

- Reviewed proposed agenda.
- Discussion of adding “Future of the SOFAS Position” to New Business. Devin to present the idea to the Provost as an informational item.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Groessl