

MINUTES
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay University Committee

Present:	3 February 2010
Dave Dolan	
Mike Draney	3:00 pm, CL 825
Laura Riddle	
Illene Noppe	Previous Meeting:
Brian Sutton (Chair)	16 December 2009

Absent: Tim Kaufman

Guests: Katrina Hrivnak, Academic Staff Representative; Megan Loritz, Student Government Representative.

1) The minutes of the meeting of 15 December 2009 were approved with minor corrections.

2) Information items:

a) An Update on the Academic Actions Committee: The UC was reminded of the original proposal of Mike Stearney to require students to declare a major when 45 credits were attained. In addition, Stearney proposed a policy of “academic forgiveness,” wherein students who have not been enrolled in post-secondary education for at least five years and who did poorly academically in the past would have the opportunity to return to college with “a clean slate.” We reviewed a memo and minutes from the Academic Actions Committee (AAC) from Prof. Jolanda Sallman regarding to these two issues and were advised that the AAC supported the latter proposal. The AAC will draft a proposal on academic forgiveness that will then be forwarded to the UC.

3) Continuing Business

a) Collective bargaining: Prof. Dolan reported on his conversation with State Representatives Soletsky and Nelson regarding a pending bill in the state legislature on UW System neutrality in the collective bargaining issue. Prof. Dolan will obtain a copy of the bill to present to the next Faculty Senate meeting. Prof. Dolan’s comments led to further discussion of collective bargaining, including the points that we have an obligation to keep our colleagues informed about collective bargaining but as UC members we are not well versed in the intricacies of this important decision. The UC decided to ask Dan Spielmann, the Interim Assistant Chancellor for the University, to report on the pending legislation as well as whether or not the Faculty Senate can vote on a resolution supporting the unionization of UW-Green Bay.

b) Proposal to add mean GPAs for a major on the transcript: After revisiting Prof. Breznay’s proposal regarding adding the mean GPA of a student’s major to his or her transcript, the UC decided not to recommend this change, concluding that this may create many more problems than would be solved.

c) Interdisciplinary Task Force: Prof. Entwistle requested advice about whether there should be replacements for two committee members who have dropped out. Given that so much ground was covered last semester, the concern was that new members might have a difficult time getting up to speed in order to help this group with its final recommendations. Thus, it was decided that Prof. Entwistle will be informed that the UC will find one or more persons only if the task force deems it necessary.

d) Proposed honors program: Prof. Noppe met with Dean Furlong and Assoc. Dean Ritch regarding the current status of the Honors Program. Dean Furlong itemized several components of a potential program, but underscored the perennial issue of lack of resources. He suggested that it is important to await the anticipated strategic planning themes that are currently being developed. Prof. Sutton will invite Furlong and Ritch to a UC meeting to further discuss the implementation of the Honors Program.

e) Revising Committee Structure: At the Faculty Senate meeting of January 27, 2010, SOFAS Abbott presented his thoughts about committees that are comprised of both faculty and academic staff. The UC discussed this further with Prof. Abbott and it was determined that joint governance committees should be acknowledged in the faculty handbook. Prof. Abbott agreed to draft a proposal with specific language for the handbook to present to the UC at its next meeting. It was acknowledged that eventually this proposal will need to go to a Faculty Senate vote.

f) Pretenured Committee Work: Prof. Noppe requested that the UC revisit the proposal that was defeated in the Faculty Senate that would provide additional institutional service for pretenured faculty members. A number of concerns and questions were raised. The UC decided that this issue would be a good open forum topic for a future Senate meeting.

g) State of Wisconsin disinvestment in the UW System: Prof. Sutton initiated a discussion about the resolution to be presented to the Faculty Senate protesting the state's progressive withdrawal of funding to the UW System. We agreed that it would be a more powerful resolution were it to focus on the long-term figures on state appropriations that clearly indicate a precipitous drop in funding from 1984 – 2010 rather than emphasize the current furloughs.

4) New Business:

a) Setting the Faculty Senate Agenda: Concern was raised about making invited guests wait until the end of the Senate meeting before having a chance to speak. Prof. Sutton will explore whether or not we have the option to move guests up in the agenda.

b) Lab Sciences parking lot traffic: Prof. Draney voiced concern about the fast traffic that is using a new road to gain access to Sports Center Drive. He will discuss this problem with Public Safety.

c) Report from the Chancellor's Cabinet: The big ticket item was Strategic Planning Themes. Our antennae have been alerted!

Much was accomplished and our collective neurons were in a refractory phase. Thus, the meeting adjourned at 4:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Illene Noppe
Secretary Pro Tempore