



Minutes of the UWRF Faculty Senate for November 4, 2009 Vol. 34 No. 8.

Representation	Term Expires 2010	Term Expires 2011	Term Expires 2012
CAFES	Kris Hiney	Laine Vignona	
CAS	Wes Chapin	Patricia Berg	David Rainville
	Karl Peterson**	John Heppen	
		Jennifer Willis-Rivera	
COEPS		Hilary Pollack	Todd Savage
CBE			Hossein Najafi
4th Division	Kristie Feist** (McKenna Pfeiffer)	Valerie Malzacher	Barbara Stinson** (Gretchen Link)
	Kristen Hendrickson		
At Large		Kathleen Hunzer	Robyne Tiedeman
	Sarah Parks**	Dennis Cooper	Marshall Toman
	David Furniss		Dawn Hukai
	Fernando Delgado*		

* Chancellor's Designee

** Absent

() Substitute

Call to Order: David Rainville called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

Seating of Substitutes: McKenna Pfeiffer for Kristie Feist, Gretchen Link for Barbara Stinson

Recognition of Invited Guests:

Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2009: Approval of the minutes was moved by David Furniss and seconded by Hossein Najafi. Discussion: The last sentence of the first paragraph of the Chair's Report should read "The petition will initiate a referendum." The minutes as amended were approved by a vote of 17 for, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Chair's Report:

On Friday, October 30, 2009 I attended a meeting of the faculty representatives of the University of Wisconsin System in Madison.

The main item discussed was the formation of a "Competitive Compensation Task Force," to examine and advocate for compensation issues for faculty and academic staff in the UW System. This task force would play an important role in the overall growth agenda for the UWS and for the economic vitality of the State of Wisconsin. In simple language, the State can only succeed if it has a highly educated workforce trained for the competitive economic environment of the 21st century. This group is to be composed of faculty and academic staff representatives, several administrators, someone from UWS, two Regents, some past legislators, and outside community leaders.

The faculty representatives made it clear that they felt it was extremely important that the group be perceived more as an external group and not an internal UWS group advocating for higher salaries.

We discussed collective bargaining and the status of it on UW campuses. No one has gone beyond informational meetings.

We discussed the composition of search and screen committees for chancellors. The current procedure is mandated by a UWS Regents Policy. Some faculty representatives were concerned by the procedures used and indicated their concerns about administrators chairing such committees. After much discussion, it appeared that administrators were not chairing any such committees but there was a misconception as to classifications. It was also pointed out however by UWS that "limited term appointees" are not faculty or academic staff during the term of their appointment, but fall into a separate category. As this affects governance, I have requested a list of Limited Term Appointees on this campus.

We also discussed the growing problem of undefined interim appointments for two or more years with no faculty input. It was pointed out that in some cases; interim administrators were appointing other interim appointees. This appears to be a growing problem within the UWS and needs to be examined.

We requested an update on Inclusive Excellence at our next meeting as many have only a cloudy view of what it really is.

We also discussed the formation of Honors programs across the UWS. A poll showed that universally these programs are administered through the Provost's Office on UWS campuses. I should point out that UW-LaCrosse has dropped its program citing budgetary concerns. This discussion also initiated a discussion of oversight of Instructional Technology across the UWS. A poll of faculty representatives showed that these programs were also administered through the Provost's Office at UWS campuses.

A lively discussion occurred concerning Recruitment and Retention Funds within the UWS. The faculty representatives requested a list of the criteria used for awards and a distribution of the funds across the UWS. I received it today, but have been unable to look at it with any detail.

We discussed tax issues as they relate to insurance benefits for domestic partners and for children who will be able to remain on their parents insurance until age 27 if proposed legislation is enabled. The conclusion was that for domestic partners, the benefit is income and taxable. This is reflected in the HR web site for the UWS. Al Crist did not know of the tax implications of non dependent children between ages 21 and 27 and he indicated that he would look into it.

We also discussed current legislative issues such as the legislation going through both houses requiring regional representation on the UWS Board of Regents. Both bills have had hearings in committee and it is expected that they will both receive floor votes. Beyond that little else was stated.

A major item involving legislation is a piece involving a "Longitudinal Data System" for PK-20 to share and access student data within the DPI, UWS and Wisconsin Technical Colleges. This system would better position the State to compete for federal stimulus funds. It was indicated that there will be extensive safe guards to protect privacy. This system would greatly aid in research within the State.

We also discussed proposed legislation to expand mandated scholarships from valedictorians within classes to 2nd and 3rd highest students. Additionally it was indicated that there may be legislation to expand scholarships on a need as well as merit basis.

It was also indicated that UWS President Reilly and UWS BOR President Chuck Pruitt had visited Washington recently to express concerns for increased funding for Pell Grants and for the Perkins Student Loan Program. It was indicated that it would be appropriate to extend this to two year campuses whereas it is now restricted to community colleges. Perhaps this is to reflect that Wisconsin does not have a community college system but rather a unique two-year college system.

It was indicated that despite much publicity, few undocumented students have taken advantage of the instate tuition initiative in the states biennial budget.

It was also indicated that there is some concern about possible inquiries into admissions as a result of the Illinois scandal involving preferred admission in their system. A request for email data pertinent to this has revealed no cases or discussion within the UWS.

Finally, we were asked to examine the Proposed System Policy for Making Textbooks More Affordable. We were asked to bring it back to our governance groups for input. As such I have placed it on our agenda today.

The Executive Committee will meet with senior leadership tomorrow at 9:00 A.M.

The next meeting of the UWS faculty representatives is December 4, 2009.

Vice Chair's Report: Vice Chair Dennis Cooper noted that the ballots for the special election to fill Sarah Parks' former seat have been sent out, and that there is one nominee, Michelle Parkinson. There is also space for a write-in candidate.

Other Reports:

Advising Committee - Hilary Pollack, Chair: Pollack explained that there is an advising survey for teacher education students as UW-River Falls is up for DPI review this year. They require a component on evaluation of the quality of advising. This was discussed with Mike Martin who had the opportunity to provide input.

Unfinished Business

New Business Consent Agenda:

1. Program Change from AP&P (James Zimmerman, Chair) - Masters of Arts in TESOL (TESL 793 for Plan B papers to replace ENGL 798 - Independent Study): Approval of the consent agenda was moved by Marshall Toman and seconded by Dennis Cooper. The consent agenda passed by a vote of 18 for, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

New Business:

1. A proposal from the Executive Committee to approve a **resolution** in response to the recent incident on the UWRF campus. The resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls (UWRF) is dedicated to creating and maintaining a culture of learning and to fostering a culture of inclusiveness; and

WHEREAS, UWRF core values include Integrity, Inclusion, and Community; and

WHEREAS, recent racist and threatening vandalism in the Chalmer Davee Library has inflicted harm upon the African-American, Black, Asian-American, and Asian members of the UWRF campus community, as well as the River Falls community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, when even one individual or group of people is vulnerable to harm and injustice, every individual or group of people is rendered vulnerable; and

WHEREAS, this horrific act and the ensuing vulnerability has affected the members of the UWRF campus community in carrying out duties that contribute to the fulfillment of the institutional mission of creating a culture of learning, of fostering a culture of inclusiveness, and thus, of the welfare of its students, administration, faculty, instructional academic staff, academic staff, and classified staff;

BE IT RESOLVED that the UWRF Faculty Senate condemns all forms of hatred, including this cowardly attack on our African Americans, Blacks, Asian Americans, and Asians, as well as our campus community, and it vows its support in contributing to a campus climate that is inclusive, valuing, and supportive of all members of the campus.

Dated this 4th day of November in the year 2009.

Approval of this resolution was moved by Todd Savage and seconded by Marshall Toman.

Kristen Hendrickson moved to amend the resolution to read “**WHEREAS**, UWRF core values include Integrity, Inclusiveness, and Community; and” and was seconded by Gretchen Link. The amendment was approved unanimously.

Laine Vignona moved to amend the second to last paragraph to read “**BE IT RESOLVED** that the UWRF Faculty Senate condemns all forms of hatred, including this cowardly attack on African Americans, Blacks, Asian Americans, and Asians, as well as our campus community, and it vows its support in contributing to a campus climate that is inclusive, valuing, and supportive of all members of the campus.” Dennis Cooper seconded the amendment. The amendment passed by a vote of 17 for, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

The resolution as amended passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous New Business:

1. Proposed Regent Policy on Making Textbooks More Affordable - This policy has been forwarded by UWS Administration for review by governance groups. It does not depart significantly from the "Guidelines For Making Textbooks More Affordable" approved by the Board of Regents on May 8, 2009:

A senator said they would like to know what the Textbook Services staff have to say about this proposal, as well as Student Senate. Another senator, to whom Textbook Services reports, noted that there were no problems seen with the document. Chair David Rainville noted that student governance groups have seen the proposal.

This item will be discussed at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. A senator noted that there is a Textbook Advisory Committee that includes students.

2. Status of the Constitutional Referendum: Rainville said that the referendum is going forward and ballots should be in the mail sometime on Friday. He passed a draft of the ballot around to the senators. The referendum will go forward as one ballot as it was received by petition that way. The due date for the ballots will be changed to November 23, 2009.

At this time, Sandy Ellis of the Journalism Department stood up and said she has

concerns regarding the publicizing of the referendum. She said she would be glad to share the current reference guide on this matter.

It was indicated that the method for announcing agendas through Falcon Daily and providing the public with information had previously been approved by Mark Kinders.

Following this, Travis Tubré noted that it is perceived that this is a Faculty Senate action. Rainville said that it is not. A senator suggested putting off putting out the ballots so that listening sessions can be held so people are informed.

A senator said they would like to have conversations with the person or persons who wrote it so that they could be informed. Rainville said he was not entirely sure who was the originator.

A senator asked about Pat Brady's legal opinion as it applies to splitting of the two items on the original petition. A senator replied that it is inappropriate to change one section of the Constitution and have it conflict with another.

Another senator noted that both senators and faculty who are not senators distributed the petitions. A senator asked that those who wrote the original petition make themselves available for information.

Jennifer Willis-Rivera moved to postpone the constitutional referendum ballots going out until the Monday after Thanksgiving in the interest of transparency. The parliamentarian said this would be out of order because the ballots must go out without interference. Rainville ruled that the motion was in order. The motion was seconded by Kristen Hendrickson. Discussion: A senator spoke in favor of the motion, saying that she feels the vote is critical to campus. Another senator said that if more time is given, a date should be set.

A senator said that she feels people could be better informed if they have the ballot in front of them. Academic Staff Council Chair Gretchen Link said she would be happy to arrange for discussions on this issue, including copies of the petition so that those attending could be informed.

The motion passed by a vote of 15 for, 4 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Provost Fernando Delgado wondered if the Faculty Welfare Committee would be an appropriate body to sponsor discussions. Rainville said it would not be.

A senator said that if Faculty Senate is going to be distributing the ballots, they should be the one letting everyone know what they are voting on.

Hosseini Najafi moved to send out a sample ballot, minus the voting portion, to faculty, instructional academic staff, and non-instructional academic staff with an indication of

the upcoming vote. Hilary Pollack seconded this motion. The motion passed by a vote of 17 for, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

The ballots will be sent out with a water mark of Sample Ballot to indicate this is not the final ballot.

3. Update on Salary Letters: Rainville said that the Executive Committee received an email from Lisa Wheeler concerning salary letters, letting them know they have the last piece of information needed and they will be going out shortly.

4. Statement developed by the Executive Committee and Chancellor Dean Van Galen with respect to campus operations on November 2, 2009. The statement is as follows:

The Chancellor, in consultation with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, has jointly established a policy regarding campus operations for Monday November 2, 2009. The campus will conduct normal business and all scheduled classes & events will be held. However, we recognize that some students may be uncomfortable coming to campus on Monday, given the recent threat made against members of the campus community. This threat affects our entire campus. For those students who do not wish to attend class on Monday November 2, they may be excused from class, but must notify their instructors in advance of Monday. For those choosing not to attend classes on Monday, arrangements for all missed work must be made with each instructor, in order to satisfy course requirements.

This was an informational item.

Kathleen Hunzer moved for, and was seconded by Fernando Delgado, adjournment. There was no dissention.

Adjournment at 5:04 p.m.