Minutes of the UWRF Faculty Senate for October 19, 2011, Volume 36, Number 7

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<th>Representation</th>
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<td><strong>CAFES</strong></td>
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<td>James Graham*</td>
<td>Ian Williams</td>
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<td>(Laine Vignona)</td>
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<td><strong>CAS</strong></td>
<td>David Rainville</td>
<td>James Madsen</td>
<td>Patricia Berg</td>
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<td>Brad Mogen</td>
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<td>Coni Gehler</td>
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<td><strong>CEPS</strong></td>
<td>Todd A. Savage</td>
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<td>Donald Stovall</td>
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<td><strong>CBE</strong></td>
<td>Hossein Najafi</td>
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<td><strong>4th Division</strong></td>
<td>Barbara Stinson</td>
<td>Kristie Feist</td>
<td>Thomas Pedersen*</td>
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<td>Ashley Olson</td>
<td>(Tracy Gerth)</td>
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<td><strong>At-Large</strong></td>
<td>Dawn Hukai*</td>
<td>Wes Chapin</td>
<td>Dennis Cooper</td>
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<td>(Arpan Jani)</td>
<td>Stephen Reed*</td>
<td>Jane Harred</td>
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<td>Marshall Toman</td>
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<td>Fernando Delgado</td>
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* Absent
() Substitute

Agenda, October 19, 2011

Call to Order, Seating of Substitutes, & Approval of Minutes
1. Call to order

   The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m., Willow River Room, UC

2. Seating of Substitutes
   Laine Vignona for James Graham
   Arpan Jani for Dawn Hukai
   Tracy Gerth for Thomas Pedersen

   The seating of the substitutes was approved by consensus of the Faculty Senate.
3. Approval of the minutes from the October 5, 2011 meeting of the Faculty Senate

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2011 meeting of the Faculty Senate was made by James Madsen; it was seconded by Ian Williams. The minutes were approved by consensus of the Faculty Senate.

Reports
Chair’s Report (Wes Chapin, CAS)

Budget Cuts:
- The State has decided to call for the UW System to absorb significant lapses, with UWRF’s shares being $1,306,120 in 2011-2012 and $556,132 in 2012-2013. Obviously, many details are undefined, and the System will try to get the amounts reduced. The window of opportunity to accomplish this task is very short.
- I met with Chancellor Van Galen this morning. Among the issues we discussed was a concern that we do everything possible at a local level to help faculty members and staff. I asked that any decisions about activities that involve significant staff time, such as search and screen committees, be either confirmed or halted as soon as possible, if they are going to be frozen, to minimize the staff time invested (and to reduce other costs, such as investments in advertising for searches that do not go forward).
- A resolution is being placed onto the Senate’s agenda for today under Miscellaneous New Business.

Senate Appointments:
- Here are the current committee openings. Please convey them to your colleagues and ask them to contact me if you find volunteers.
  --Assessment (one CAFES)
  --Technology Council (one CEPS)
  --Faculty Welfare & Personnel Policy Committee (one Academic Staff)
  --Non-Academic Misconduct Hearing Committee (1 at-large), see https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/uws/17.

Senate Motions:
- All the regular motions except those related to #35 have been sent to the Chancellor and signed. Motion #35 was held up because the EC wanted to ensure that it had the correct language.

Board of Regents Meeting
- This month’s meeting was at UWGB on Thursday and Friday, October 6-7, 2011. The Regents addressed several issues. The most prominent included a discussion of graduation rates and transfers. We are credited with a “graduate” only if they finish at the institution where they started, but many students, perhaps 30,000 annually, transfer and finish elsewhere, usually within the System. What this means, is that if we can “capture” the “graduates” who are transferring within the System in our data, UW graduation rates could go up significantly. A program is being developed that will allow, hopefully, faculty at an UW to review a potential transfer’s record and plan academically. Essentially, this would be like using a DAR for the System.
Senate Website and Handbook:
- Polly Kleven has indicated the Website, including the updates to the UWRF Faculty and Academic Staff Handbook, will be ready within days. I will send a notice to the entire campus when it is operational.

Committee Reports
- Committees have begun to make report regarding their composition and duties. The Diversity and Inclusivity, and the Academic Standards committees did not recommend any changes. External Relations has sent a proposed change to the Executive Committee.

Strategic Planning
- Planning has been proceeding well, with significant input from across campus and beyond. The current timeline includes Senate votes on a draft of the Mission/Vision/Values statement on November 2, 2011 the draft goals on November 30, 2011 and the draft initiatives on January 17, 2012. Please, be sure to look for communications and information that will be made available to the entire campus about these documents.
- Vice Chancellor Joseph Harbouk, SPCG Chair, is here today to provide an update and the strategic planning process and to answer questions.

Vice Chair’s Report (Marshall Toman, CAS)
Welcome to the two newly-elected members of Faculty Senate: James Graham (CAFES) and Coni Gehler (CAS)!

Strategic Planning Update (Joseph Harbouk, Vice Chancellor, Administration & Finance)
Joseph Harbouk provided an update as to the current status of the strategic planning process, noting specifically that in terms of the immediate future, the vision and mission statements should be approved by the end of October. A draft of the strategic plan is anticipated to be shared with campus sometime in February or March 2012 and the overall strategic planning process is expected to be sent to Faculty Senate for its approval at its April 2, 2012 meeting; the Chancellor will assign his approval to the plan from there. Vice Chancellor Harbouk provided other information about the work of the Strategic Planning Coordinating Group and he entertained questions from the Faculty Senate about the strategic planning process, as well. For more information about the strategic planning process, please, visit the following link: http://www.uwrf.edu/StrategicPlan/index.cfm

Other Reports
David Rainville (Chair, Faculty Welfare and Personnel Policy Committee) indicated the Faculty Welfare and Personnel Policy Committee will be meeting Friday, October 21, 2011 4-5 p.m. in 140 KFA. One item on the agenda for this meeting includes a “Time on Campus” policy. Any and all members of the campus community are invited to participate in this meeting and/or to provide feedback on the proposed policy.

Consent Items
1. Motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Wes Chapin, Chair) to approve the following committee appointments:
Non-Academic Misconduct Hearing Committee (UWS 17)
Lesa Jacobsen (CAS; term ends 2014)

International Laboratory Working Group
Pat Berg (CAS)
Sylvia Kehoe (CAFES)
Ozcan Kilic (CBE)
Marshall Toman (CAS; recommended to serve as Chair)
Gay Ward (CEPS)

2. Motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Wes Chapin, Chair) to appoint Mark Gillen (CEPS) as a faculty member on the Search and Screen Committee for the Advancement Officer position.

3. Motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Wes Chapin, Chair) to approve the appointment of John Heppen (CAS) as a substitute for Wes Chapin during spring 2012.

*Todd A. Savage asked to have items 2 and 3 removed from the consent agenda. Item #1 was approved by consensus of the Faculty Senate.*

Unfinished Business
*No unfinished business was addressed at today’s meeting.*

First Readings
*No first readings appeared on the agenda for today’s meeting.*

New Business
1. Resolution from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Wes Chapin, Chair) to endorse the following resolution about summer benefit payments:

   **University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate Payment Resolution**

   WHEREAS most UW-River Falls faculty members are paid for nine months and not given an option to be paid in 12 installments (a “9/12” payment option);

   AND WHEREAS most new faculty members especially those who have taught at other universities across the country, are accustomed to the “9/12” payment option and, in fact, were expecting to have that option at UW-River Falls;

   AND WHEREAS UW-River Falls’ lack of ability to offer a “9/12” payment option has become a recruitment and retention issue;

   AND WHEREAS many UW-River Falls faculty members must prepay their summer healthcare contributions resulting in four months’ worth of deductions being taken from one paycheck;

   AND WHEREAS many UW-River Falls faculty members have seen a significant increase in their healthcare contributions;
AND WHEREAS this increased contribution will substantially reduce the paycheck from which the summer prepay is taken and cause undue hardship;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate of UW-River Falls respectfully requests that UW-System develop a “9/12” payment option that would provide faculty members and teaching academic staff the option of using such a model (and thereby allowing for the possibility of spreading the summer prepayments across several paychecks).

_Hossein Najafi made a motion to have Faculty Senate endorse this resolution; James Madsen seconded this motion._

_Brad Mogen moved to amend the resolution to strike the third clause regarding recruitment and retention; Jim Madsen seconded this movement. The amendment failed (0 yeas; 19 nays, 1 among voting members present at this point in the meeting)._  

Faculty Senate then returned to the original motion. The motion passed unanimously (20 of 20 voting members present at this point in the meeting).

Miscellaneous Business

1. Motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Wes Chapin, Chair) to appoint Mark Gillen (CEPS) to serve as a faculty member on the Search and Screen Committee for the Advancement Officer position.

   _David Rainville moved to approve this motion as presented; James Madsen seconded. The motion passed unanimously (20 of 20 voting members present at this point in the meeting)._  

2. Motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Wes Chapin, Chair) to approve the appointment of John Heppen (CAS) as a substitute for Wes Chapin during spring 2012.

   _Todd A. Savage moved to approve this motion as presented; Kris Butler seconded. The motion passed (18 yeas; 0 nays; 2 abstentions among voting members present at this point in the meeting)._  

3. Resolution from the UWRF Faculty Senate in response to the recent announcement of additional budget cuts from the State to the UW System

   _Stressing that the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is committed to helping students learn; and_  

   _Stressing further that the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is dedicated to playing key roles in the social and economic development of the State;_  

   _Aware that quality education is dependent on appropriate levels of funding;_  

   _Mindful that the Faculty Senate of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is committed to supporting the Growth Agenda in Senate resolution 5/2006-2007;_
Deeply disturbed that the State of Wisconsin has enacted budget cuts of various levels in GPR support for the UW System for nine consecutive years;

Bearing in mind that continued cuts will lead inevitably to an alarming erosion of quality that will undermine the System’s ability to serve the State of Wisconsin;

Regretting that the 2011-2013 Wisconsin biennial budget bill cut in funding for UW System institutions by $250 million over and above the $90 million in cuts in compensation that resulted from Wisconsin Act 10;

Concerned that this is the 8th consecutive year of budget cuts, with additional cuts already planned for 2012-2013;

The Faculty Senate of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls hereby...

1. Stresses the critically-important role that the UW System plays as an engine of growth for the State of Wisconsin;
2. Expresses its alarm that the State has asked for the UW System to absorb additional cuts of nearly $66 million in the 2011-2013 budget cycle, and it notes that the University of Wisconsin-River Falls’ share of the cuts is estimated to be $1,306,120 in 2011-2012 and $556,132 in 2012-2013;
3. Objects most strenuously to the newly-proposed budget cuts;
4. Calls upon the political leadership of the State to desist from further disinvestments in higher education;
5. Requests that the UW System’s vital role by recognized by providing substantial and long-term investment in higher education.

James Madsen made a motion to have Faculty Senate endorse this resolution; Ian Williams seconded this motion.

David Rainville moved to amend the resolution in the ways listed below; Jim Madsen seconded this movement. The amendment passed (13 yeas; 6 nays; 1 abstention among voting members present at this point in the meeting).

Deeply disturbed that the State of Wisconsin has enacted budget cuts of various levels in GPR support for the UW System for nine consecutive years;

Concerned that this is the 8th consecutive years of budget cuts, with additional cuts are planned for 2011-2013;

Barbara Stinson then moved to further amend the motion in the way listed below; Coni Gehl seconded this movement. This amendment passed unanimously (20 of 20 voting members at this point in the meeting).

Bearing in mind that continued and repeated cuts have led to the inevitable and will lead inevitably to an alarming erosion of quality that will- undermining the System’s ability to serve the State of Wisconsin;

David Rainville called the question; no one objected to calling the question. Faculty Senate then returned to the original resolution as amended. The
resolution was endorsed unanimously (20 of 20 voting members present at this point in the meeting).

Adjournment

This meeting of the Faculty Senate was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. by consensus of the Faculty Senate.