Minutes  
UWC Senate Steering Committee  
Meeting #10: WisLine  
Wednesday, February 18, 2015  
4:00 p.m.

Present: Greg Ahrenhoerster, Rose Brust, Marcy Dickson, Joe Foy, Margaret Hankenson, Holly Hassel, Evan Kreider, Greg Lampe, Juli McGuire, Graham Pearce, Mark Peterson, Matt Raunio, Cathy Sandeen, Jeff Verona, and Linda Baum

Not Present: John Short

1. Call to order. The February 18, 2015 WisLine meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee (SSC) was called to order at 4.02 p.m. by SSC Chair Mark Peterson.

2. Approval of the agenda. The agenda for the meeting was given unanimous approval [Raunio/Ahrenhoerster].

3. Approval of Minutes for SSC #9 (2015-02-04). The minutes of the February 4, 2015 SSC WisLine meeting were approved by unanimous vote [Verona/Ahrenhoerster].

4. Reports

   a. Chancellor Cathy Sandeen informed the committee that she and Provost Lampe were on the way back to Madison from meetings held at UW-Fox Valley. At the deans meeting held there yesterday, a budget process for going forward had been planned. The chancellor will send an email later in the week or early next with information on the timeline and process for budget planning. The goal, Chancellor Sandeen said, is to have recommendations sent to her by the first week of April. Institutional solutions should be examined first; streamlining and consolidating any big money items. She assured the SSC that shared governance will be consulted in the process, and that the Repositioning Task Force and Huron Reports would be referenced. A committee will be formed to help craft the recommendations going forward. Chancellor Sandeen reminded the Steering Committee of the email that had gone out with information regarding the just launched internal blog site for budget information. There will be posts detailing talking points, public authority information, and answers to what is known around sick leave conversion and other frequently asked questions. The state budget process schedule will be posted there, as well as listening session information and resources for community advocacy. The chancellor again noted that the main talking points are that the proposed budget cuts are too large and too sudden; the flexibilities offered by public authority are something to be in favor of; and the proposed funding change to a block grant based on the consumer price indicator is ultimately a positive, as well. Chancellor Sandeen concluded by noting there had been a very misleading Facebook post which stated that ten Colleges will not survive these cuts. She told Steering that there are no plans to close campuses and she has not heard any proposals to do so. Please, Chancellor Sandeen asked, pass that along.
to constituents, again noting the ongoing efforts to communicate and have transparent dialogue.

b. **Provost and Vice Chancellor Greg Lampe** was driving a fleet vehicle when it came time to provide his report. It was noted that he would send a brief report later if necessary.

c. **Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joe Foy** reported that the first meeting of the International Education and ESL Task Force had been held on Friday, February 13. The task force will be scanning existing programs and curriculum, and collecting student data in order to see where there are gaps to fill or strong areas to build upon. Task force recommendations are expected in July. Chair of Chairs Ahrenhoerster asked about a decision regarding a person to oversee the curriculum review. Associate Vice Chancellor Foy replied that Provost Lampe is expected to announce the faculty lead for the AAS and curricular reform either at the end of this week or early next week.

d. **Senate Steering Committee Chair Mark Peterson** said that Regent President Michael Falbo had spent an hour with the faculty reps discussing how the Regents would move Chapter 36 into Regent policy. UW System President Ray Cross has asked them to move Chapter 36 to Regent policy by early April. Peterson announced that he had activated the Senate Correspondence Committee to write a letter (coming up later in the agenda) about the impact of the budget cuts on UW Colleges. UW-Barron County has already sent a statement of their own out, he said, but Peterson feels there should be something from the united Colleges instead of some. Finally, UW-Richland has asked that shared governance, the Senate, and the Budget Committee be included in discussions about the budget.

e. **Academic Staff Lead Senator Jeff Verona** noted that they had learned that a new member of the Academic Staff Nomination and Election Committee was necessary. A call had been put out for the vacancy, nominations were coming in, and someone should be in place within a day or two. Shared governance survey responses are being collected; he wondered what the next steps might be for that process.

f. **Classified Staff Lead Senator Rose Brust** related that the University Staff Council had met on February 12. Since the secretary had resigned, Christi Larson was elected to fill that position, but the campus representative spot will be left vacant until the normal election cycle. David Prucha will remain as the Council’s liaison, and has the layoff policy for feedback and will meet with the working committee before the Council’s next meeting. The grievance policy is awaiting the chancellor's approval. The Council will work on the Complaints Policy and Workplace Expectations Policy next at Prucha’s instructions. A special meeting will be held to discuss potential changes to Chapters 2 and 10 of the Constitution to help line terms and membership requirements of the Council with that of the Senate. Discussions with four-year campuses' classified staff leaders continue.
g. **SGC President Graham Pearce** is working with student reps to inform and involve students regarding budget cuts. He is hoping for student-driven meetings on campuses because the student voice is very powerful. Pearce reported the SGC is working on a resolution regarding the Online issue. He has spoken with Interim Dean Christa James-Byrnes, and is interested in having those student voices be represented in shared governance. He will share the language with Interim Dean James-Byrnes and Provost Lampe before taking it to the SGC for a vote.

5. Business

   a. **Nomination of member (Natural Sciences/Mathematics faculty, not Chemistry) for the Curriculum Committee to complete the 2013-2015 term.** Chair Peterson introduced the nominee. Missy Skurzewski (Associate Professor, Health, Exercise Science, and Athletics, UW-Sheboygan) was appointed by unanimous vote [Raunio/Hassel].

   b. **Nomination for Humanities member for SBAC to complete the 2013-2016 term.** Chair Peterson pointed out the nominee for the Senate BAAS Assessment Committee. Sarah Rudolph (Professor, Communication and Theatre Arts, UW-Marathon County) was unanimously endorsed [Hankenson/Hassel].

   c. **A request for Senate Steering Committee to approve the College’s faculty rep to endorse the UW Faculty Representatives Joint Statement on Public Authority status for UW System.** Peterson reminded the committee that the Joint Statement had been circulated prior to the meeting via email. After a brief conversation, the proposed motion was amended to be “A request for Senate Steering Committee to approve the Colleges’ Steering Chair to endorse the UW Faculty Representatives Joint Statement on Public Authority status for UW System.” Classified Staff Lead Senator Rose Brust reminded the committee that in the email conversations the need to include classified staff had been expressed and agreed upon. Chapter 36 does not include classified staff; “staff” in Ch. 36 refers only to academic staff. She did not think Steering should support the Joint Statement “as is,” noting that from Colleges’ viewpoint it should be a request to the Board of Regents to keep shared governance and current policies in order to protect faculty, academic, and classified staff if the university becomes a public authority. SSC Chair Peterson noted that the statement came from faculty reps who have a faculty governance system. Holly Hassel wondered if he had asked that classified staff be included. Peterson replied that the faculty rep author had turned down the request. There was discussion around the item being brought to SSC rather than the Faculty Council. Chair Peterson asked if the committee would approve him signing if he could find out about doing so with a rider that classified staff be included, noting that the Regents need to know the feelings of UW Colleges, and that the Regents need to be on task with this issue. He stated that if classified staff could be included in the Joint Statement he would sign, otherwise he would take it to the Faculty Council. The motion failed unanimously [Ahrenhoerster/Dickson].
d. A UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee endorsement of a public letter written by the Senate Correspondence Committee. SSC Chair Mark Peterson explained how he had spoken with the new legislative consultant for UW System, John Yingling, who said that one thing that was very important to everyone (voters state-wide, UW Colleges employees, students, and legislators) is the time it takes for students to get their degree. The letter written by the Senate Correspondence Committee was reviewed by the Senate Steering Committee. Holly Hassel suggested that a section referring to EPIC Systems in Verona be removed as it is not related to UW Colleges. Matt Raunio agreed. Chairs’ Rep Greg Ahrenhoerster suggested that local campuses could be prompted to insert a local example of a success story at that point. There was general agreement to that proposal. The same idea was suggested in place of a paragraph listing various politicians—Hassel and Margaret Hankenson suggested removing the list of politicians and inserting local people who had gotten their start with UW Colleges. It was further determined to remove the paragraph dealing with faculty salaries and recruiting faculty. The revised letter will be sent to senators and campus UR staff, asking them to tailor it to their location as they see fit and send it out to local media outlets as soon as possible. It was determined that the title should be “UW Colleges response to the proposed 2015-2017 budget.” The signature line could be the UW Colleges Senate and the campus could add their signature. Graham Pearce noted that some context around the time to degree should be included when the letter is sent to campuses. Jeff Verona added that senators should be made to understand the letter is not for collegia, it is to go to UR and the dean for quick action. The edited letter was endorsed by unanimous vote [Ahrenhoerster/Pearce].

e. A request to approve Steering’s ad hoc committee to vet redundant or moribund committees. [Rose Brust, Holly Hassel, Mark Peterson, Jeff Verona, and AVCAA Joe Foy (participating, non-voting)]. Peterson reminded the SSC that the group would be examining Senate committees in various ways. The membership was approved by unanimous vote [Raunio/Hassel]. Peterson will work with committee members to find a meeting time.

f. FPSC questionnaire on Merit and evaluations. The Faculty Professional Standards Committee (FPSC) had sent this questionnaire, asking for Steering approval. They had announced their plan for a brief survey at the January Senate meeting, and SSC Chair Peterson had asked that they send their survey to Steering first. Hassel stated that it looked like all of the appropriate questions were being asked. The motion to approve the merit policy and procedures survey carried unanimously [Hassel/Dickson].

g. Proposed revision of #405 to allow “program chairs” to serve in the same Senate, policy described, duties as “department chairs.” Chair Peterson pointed out that it had come about in the search for committee members that there was a language barrier that might prevent the chair of a program from serving in a department chair position. Department Chairs’ Rep Ahrenhoerster asked that IP #405 be revised to add language that a program chair or department chair could fill a “department chair” position on Senate committees. Holly Hassel noted that the change could become more pressing
since Chapter 11 had been added to the UWC Constitution. The motion carried by unanimous vote [Ahrenhoerster/Hassel].

h. **Proposed revision of #320.IV.B to include HR in the recipients for IAS merit letters.** Chairs’ Rep Ahrenhoerster pointed out that HR does not receive copies of merit letters for IAS in IP #320. The letters go to deans and to the provost, unlike letters for faculty members. Ahrenhoerster had checked with Provost Lampe, who reported that he did not need copies of the letters. Chair of Chairs Ahrenhoerster suggested the letters be sent to HR and the dean’s executive assistants (DEAs), and that the provost be removed from the list. The proposal to send the item to FPSC carried unanimously [Verona/Ahrenhoerster].

i. **Proposed revisions to #320 and #301 to guarantee that IAS who teach only in the Spring be able to hand in activity reports and thus be included in merit.** It was pointed out that IP #320 and IP #301 should have language noting that activity reports must be distributed to IAS who teach only in the spring to ensure that it is not overlooked. It was unanimously determined that Peterson will steer the matter to FPSC [Verona/Raunio].

j. **Resolution in Support of Maintaining Existing UW Colleges Senate Campus Senators Representation.** It was briefly noted that making this determination is a requirement of Chapter 2 of the Constitution. Senate Assistant Linda Baum had worked with HR to gather the necessary information and had passed it along to Chair Peterson to do the computations. The results show that no change in the number of any of the campus faculty senators is currently necessary, and so a resolution stating that for the record was written. Steering approved by acclamation, and the resolution will be on the March Senate agenda.

k. **Splitting the Faculty Rep position from the Steering Chair position.** SSC Chair Peterson explained that at other institutions, the Steering Chair and the Faculty Rep are separate positions. The faculty reps are discussing the idea that in light of the current upheaval, campuses should perhaps consider eliminating term-limits or creating longer-term positions in order to have consistent faculty representation with the Board of Regents. Peterson added that he thought there is a benefit in having a longer faculty rep term and building relationships with the other reps and the Board; however, he did not know if even a ¼ release time was possible for the position. It was asked if the chair would continue to go to the Board of Regents meetings in such a situation. Peterson replied that the chair would not attend as the rep. Holly Hassel offered that she would be opposed to not having term limits as mentioned in the letter. Chair Peterson replied that it actually referred to no pre-set number of terms; the rep would be elected annually, but would not have a limitation on the number of years that could be served. Hassel expressed that the person would have to be elected from faculty-at-large, and since they would need to be kept apprised of Senate business, perhaps be made an ex-officio Senate member. She agreed that not having a course release would be difficult. Due to time constraints, it was unanimously agreed to hold the topic for another meeting [Dickson/Ahrenhoerster].
6. Other Business.

a. Alternate Chair at March 20 Senate Meetings. SSC Chair Mark Peterson announced that he is unable to attend the March 20 Senate meetings at UW-Fond du Lac. He asked if someone else would be able to chair the meetings for the day. Chairs’ Rep Greg Ahrenhoerster volunteered. Peterson asked if that was possible. It was determined that there was no known rule preventing him from serving.

7. Adjournment. The February 18, 2015 WisLine meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee was adjourned at 5:25 p.m. at the conclusion of the agenda.

8. Action Items

a. Baum will post the approved minutes of SSC #9 in the appropriate electronic files. 
b. Peterson will send SSC minutes and chair report to senators and campus steering chairs.
c. Peterson will inform Skurzewski of placement on SCC. Baum will make all appropriate listing modifications.
d. Peterson will notify Rudolph of SBAC placement. Baum will make all appropriate listing changes.
e. Peterson will send edited SCoC budget response letter to senators and UR for local individualization and distribution.
f. Peterson will work to find meeting time with ad hoc committee members.
g. Peterson will inform FPSC that survey on merit policy has been approved.
h. Peterson will steer IP #405 to Senate Academic Policy Committee (SAPC) to ask that they add language saying that if committee membership calls for “department chair,” it can be filled by department or program chair.
i. Peterson will steer IP #320.IV.B to FPSC, directing that HR and DEAs should receive copies of merit letters, and the provost should be removed from the list.
j. Peterson will send IP #320 and #301 to FPSC so language can be included to make sure that IAS who teach only in spring are included in activity report distribution.
k. Peterson and Baum will place the resolution in support of maintaining the current number of faculty senators on the March Senate agenda.
l. Peterson, Ahrenhoerster, and Baum will communicate as necessary regarding Ahrenhoerster chairing the March Senate meetings.