Minutes
UWC Senate Steering Committee
Meeting #11: WisLine
Wednesday, March 4, 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, John Short, Jeff Verona, and Linda Baum

1. Call to order. The March 4, 2015 WisLine meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee (SSC) was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by SSC Chair Mark Peterson.

2. Approval of the agenda. The agenda for the meeting was amended to add an item of business (sending the UW-Madison and UW-Extension resolutions on the public authority to campus collegia for straw polls to determine possible future Senate action) and was then unanimously approved [Ahrenhoerster/Hankenson].

3. Approval of Minutes for SSC #10 (2015-02-18). The minutes of the February 18, 2015 WisLine meeting of the SSC were approved by unanimous vote [Raunio/Dickson].

4. Reports

a. Chancellor Cathy Sandeen reported that UW System had had time to speak before the Joint Finance Committee on March 3, 2015. President Cross emphatically stated that a reduction of $300 million is too large and too fast. It should reassure people to see that President Cross is not focused only on the public authority, but is working to reduce the proposed cuts. The Board of Regents is to meet Thursday, March 5 in Madison, and their sixth item will be the impact of the cuts on the campuses. Chancellor Sandeen informed the committee that all of the chancellors are invited to attend and respond to different questions. She cautioned Steering that in discussing the potential impact of budget cuts she might very well respond to questions by talking about reduced numbers of courses and staff reductions, but that no specific decisions have been made. The process, though, is in place: a Budget Planning Task Force has been formed, the composition of which will be shared soon. Shared governance, including the Senate Budget Committee, is well represented she assured the SSC. Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Greg Lampe and Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Steve Wildeck will co-chair; various members of administration will either consult or act as staff. The Huron Report and the Repositioning Task Force Report will be consulted, and opportunities for institution-wide consolidation and streamlining are to be examined in full before allocating any share of the reductions to the individual campuses. Chancellor Sandeen expects recommendations to be presented to her in the first week of April.

b. Provost and Vice Chancellor Greg Lampe reminded the Senate Steering Committee members that Caroline Geary (Associate Professor & Chair, Chemistry, UW-Manitowoc) has been appointed as the UW Colleges Faculty Coordinator for the Associate of Arts and
Science (AAS) degree and curricular reimagining project. Caroline met last Friday with Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joe Foy, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Rich Barnhouse, Provost Greg Lampe and Chancellor Cathy Sandeen to discuss critical directions and next steps. Caroline will be meeting Friday, March 6 with the academic department chairs to talk about what is working now and what is not working now with the AAS degree. Caroline will also be discussing possible future directions for the UW Colleges AAS degree and curricular reimagining efforts. Who should serve on the leadership team for the project will also be under discussion soon. The process of searching for the new Dean of UW Colleges Online and Distance Education has begun with invitations to be part of the search committee being sent out with a Friday, March 6, response deadline. The composition will be as usual for a dean search committee, and response to invitations has been very good especially from online students. The search should begin the third week of March and end no later than July 1; Interim Dean of UW Colleges Online and Distance Education Christa James-Byrnes will help with transitioning the newly hired dean to UW Colleges Online and Distance Education responsibilities. Two peer reviewers from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) will be visiting the UW Colleges March 16-17, 2015 to conduct a site visit for the UW Colleges Flexible Option program. Kim Kostka is the UWC Flexible Option Coordinator, and has populated the document library to which the peer reviewers already have access. The planning group has a final meeting next week. Provost Lampe believes things look well in line for the site visit.

c. **Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joe Foy** related that last Thursday had been a UW System Transfer Symposium composed of representatives from System, UW comprehensive campuses, the UW Colleges, and the Wisconsin Technical College System. The focus was System-wide collaboration regarding transfer of the associate degree, which fits in with planning related to the reimagining of the AAS degree and curricular reform. Collaborative degrees, proficiency domains, and competency based education were also part of the discussions. Friday, March 6 the associate vice chancellor will be meeting with the deans, associate deans, and department chairs to discuss a curriculum capacity study involving curricular demand and existing personnel. The purpose, Associate Vice Chancellor Foy said, is to help inform those considering position requests and meet the demands of students in spite of budget cuts. He continued that he will be joining AAS Assessment Coordinator Valerie Murrenus-Pilmaier at the dean’s meeting in April. They will discuss assessment at the department and campus levels and how it might be used to help decision making and to highlight the value of the associate degree to outside stakeholders.

d. **Senate Steering Committee Chair Mark Peterson** reminded the committee that they had not authorized him to sign the *Joint Statement on Public Authority status for UW System* at the last meeting; he had then taken the *Joint Statement* to the Faculty Council of Senators who had raised objections and ultimately written revisions. However, the Board of Regents announced that they had already decided to act on the *Statement*, moving Chapter 36 and policies (including policies related to classified staff), to be Board of Regents policies. Peterson noted that he has received many emails complaining
that there have not been statements put forth from UW Colleges. Holly Hassel suggested developing a separate statement that addresses just UW Colleges issues.

e. **Academic Staff Lead Senator Jeff Verona** noted that the results of the shared governance survey from academic staff responders had been forwarded to Margaret Hankenson and Holly Hassel. He thanked those who had done the work gathering survey results.

f. **Classified Staff Lead Senator Rose Brust** reported that the University Staff Council had a special meeting on February 26 to discuss the amendments proposed to two chapters of the UW Colleges Constitution coming up on the SSC agenda later. UW System Senior Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Workforce Diversity Al Crist had emailed the classified staff advisory committee chairs System-wide to let them know that the probationary period for university staff will be reduced from one year to six months in the new UPS Operational Policy HR 1 on Job Security. The change was made on the basis of recommendations and work done by the classified staff shared governance groups, and he thanked them for their efforts. CS Lead Senator Brust related that Council elections are going on; a UW-Rock County representative is still needed. March 12 will be the next University Staff Council meeting.

g. **SGC President Graham Pearce** informed Steering that the SGC would be meeting the next day. The SGC Executive Board has composed resolutions on the rights of Online students and on budget cut issues. SGC President Pearce has been having discussions around strategies for talking to students about budget cuts. It is critical that they understand. There is a perception, SGC President Pearce said, that students are bound by the same rules as faculty and staff, but that is not the case. He is working diligently on student organized meetings focused on the budget situation.

5. Business

a. **Ombudsman for UW Colleges – making it safe to speak truth to power.** SSC Chair Peterson noted that the idea of having the safety to speak truth to power has been talked about off and on for a while. Jeff Verona said that UW-Marshfield/Wood County has a campus ombudsman. Matt Raunio related that the campus steering chair unofficially fills that role at UW-Sheboygan, but Holly Hassel said there is no such person at UW-Marathon County. Provost Lampe added that the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion was available and set up to field various concerns. He also noted that there are other support mechanisms and processes or avenues in place on campus or institutionally. Hassel said that the idea is similar to the advocate proposal that was advanced a few years ago, saying that having a local person to talk a situation over with is helpful. She furthered that a person might not be comfortable speaking for themselves locally, but not feel the need to take an issue all the way to Central, either. SSC Chair Peterson pointed out that there is nothing set in policy to provide such a source. It was unanimously agreed to send the question to Senate Academic Policy Committee (SAPC) [Hassel/Dickson].
b. **Clarifying Chapter 11 with regard to “jurisdiction” of departments over programs.** Steering Committee Chair Mark Peterson explained that when reading Chapter 11 of the UW Colleges Constitution, jurisdiction is placed with a department, but if the department creates a program, they will lose jurisdiction based on how a program is defined. He suggested that SAPC be asked to clarify if that had been their intention. It was asked if he was seeking an interpretation of the policy from SAPC. Peterson said that the inherent contradictions should be eliminated: any program created by a department will be budded off and the department will lose control of the program. Hassel suggested that the charge to SAPC be that they review the definition of jurisdiction and the potential contradictions of academic program creation in UWC Constitution Chapter 11. The motion carried by unanimous vote [Hassel/Raunio].

c. **Amendments to Constitution 3.01 on Collegia membership and voting.** SSC Chair Mark Peterson reminded the committee of the discussion he and Associate Vice Chancellor Joe Foy had held with UW System Legal in which it was determined that the UW Colleges Senate was the primary governance body which must, therefore, follow the faculty majority rule; he then noted that while 3.01 is in the process of being amended, it should probably go further in addressing collegia membership. Peterson wondered if the section could be replaced with a sentence simply stating that campuses shall determine their own collegia membership and voting rights. Hassel noted that such a general phrase could end up with wildly inconsistent collegia memberships across UW Colleges. Lead Academic Staff Senator Jeff Verona said that it could lead to faculty only collegia, and that the representation of other groups must be protected. Chair of Chairs Greg Ahrenhoerster and Matt Raunio both agreed that vague language was not a good idea. Associate Vice Chancellor Foy noted that the first sentence of the section listed faculty, academic staff, classified staff, and student representatives and that perhaps removing the mandates for numbers would solve the dilemma. Peterson asked the committee to look over the issue and be ready to discuss it at the March 20 Steering meeting.

d. **Requiring Campuses to elect their Senators in time to participate in Senate standing committee selection.** Chair Peterson explained that having faculty senators elected in a timely fashion is an annual challenge. Some, he noted, are not elected until after the April meeting, and so do not participate in the standing committee selections or in the elections that take place at the April meeting. Peterson wondered how to ask that all faculty senators be elected in March, or early enough to make all the processes run smoothly. Matt Raunio agreed with Peterson, saying that it was an excellent idea.Late elections had been an issue at UW-Sheboygan for years, but were now fixed by a change to their campus constitution. Senate Assistant Linda Baum noted that in previous attempts to effect a change, it had been asked that faculty senator elections be included in the campus constitution template. After discussion of the campus constitutions, the Bylaws, and IP #405, Baum suggested UWC Constitution Chapter 2. Peterson read the initial sentences of 2.02 regarding Senate membership and it was agreed that language to fix the situation would fit well there. The motion passed unanimously [Ahrenhoerster/Hassel]. Peterson will write the rationale for the March 20 Senate introduction.
e. Nomination for membership on the Colloquium Planning Committee. Nominations for Peggy Turnbull (Library Director, UW-Manitowoc) and Tony Millevolte (Professor, Chemistry, UW-Barron County) were given unanimous support [Raunio/Hankenson].

f. Send Madison and Extension resolutions to collegia for straw polls/possible Senate action? A resolution from UW-Madison and one from UW-Extension around the budget cuts and potential change to public authority were discussed. Chair Peterson wondered about forwarding the two to collegia for discussions and straw polls to perhaps enable the Senate (at the March meeting) to endorse one or both or amend a resolution to more closely align with the UW Colleges situation. Holly Hassel shared that the UW-Marathon County collegia had done something very similar at their collegia the day prior, voting to allow their senators to endorse something similar if it were to come up. There was discussion as to whether there was enough time to have meetings on all of the campuses by March 20. Conversation also came up as to whether these resolutions are being well received by those in Madison. The April Senate meeting will be around the time of the budget hearings, so it was decided that a resolution completed by that time and perhaps delivered in person could be very powerful. It was further determined that crafting a UW Colleges resolution would be better than signing on to that of a different institution. Avoiding rhetoric, discussing how Colleges are and have been inordinately hit with cuts, the importance of keeping shared governance, the service only UW Colleges provides to students—were pointed out as items to consider. The following charge was fashioned for the Senate Correspondence Committee (SCoC): SCC would like to see a statement drafted with the audience of the Board of Regents; the purpose of the document is to present in a positive, constructive, and specific way what we would like to see preserved and protected moving forward in the next budget biennium and under the proposed public authority model. We would like to highlight the values that are part of UW Colleges’ mission, how we fulfill the Wisconsin Idea, and what we want preserved in this potential shift (examples: shared governance, services to students, educational quality). It was accepted by acclamation. A draft should be prepared and sent to SSC prior to the March 20 meeting.

6. Other Business

a. The two Constitutional amendments proposed by University Staff Council to Chapter 2 and Chapter 10. SSC Chair Peterson pointed out the chapters proposed to be amended by the University Staff Council. There were no comments. They will be introduced on the March Senate agenda.

7. Adjournment. The March 4, 2015 WisLine meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. when the agenda was concluded.

8. Action Items

a. Baum will post the approved minutes of SSC #10 in the appropriate electronic files.
b. Peterson will send SSC minutes and chair report to senators and campus steering chairs.
c. Peterson will send the question of campus ombudsmen to SAPC.
d. **Peterson** will steer the definition of jurisdiction and potential contradictions around academic program creation in UWC Constitution Ch 11 to SAPC.

e. **Peterson and Baum** will place possible amendment of UWC Constitution 3.01 on March 20 SSC agenda.

f. **Peterson** will write rationale for proposed amendment to UWC Constitution 2.02 regarding faculty senator elections. **Peterson and Baum** will place it on the March 20 Senate agenda.

g. **Peterson** will inform Turnbull and Millevolte (copying Foy) of their placement on the UWC Colloquium Planning Committee. **Baum** will include them on the email listing.

h. **Peterson** will send SCoC the charge and ask for a draft statement to be sent to Steering before the March 20 meeting.

i. **Peterson and Baum** will place proposed amendments to UWC Constitution Ch 2 and 10 on the March 20 Senate agenda.