Minutes
UWC Senate Steering Committee
Meeting #12: UW-Fond du Lac
Friday, March 20, 2015
10:20 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

Present: Greg Ahrenhoerster, Rose Brust, Marcy Dickson, Joe Foy, Margaret Hankenson, Holly Hassel (via distance), Evan Kreider, Greg Lampe, Christi Larson, Juli McGuire, Graham Pearce, Matt Raunio, Cathy Sandeen, John Short, Roseann Stenstrup, Jeff Verona, Tricia Wessel-Blaski, and Linda Baum

1. Call to order. The March 20, 2015 meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee (SSC) held at UW-Fond du Lac was called to order at 10:27 a.m. by Alternate Presiding Chair Greg Ahrenhoerster.

2. Approval of the agenda. The agenda for the meeting was approved by unanimous voice vote [Kreider/Brust].

3. Approval of Minutes: SSC #11 Draft Minutes (2015-03-04). The minutes of the March 3, 2015 WisLine meeting of the SSC were unanimously approved [Dickson/Kreider].

4. Reports

a. Chancellor Cathy Sandeen deferred her report as she would be giving a presentation later in the day.

b. Provost/Vice Chancellor Greg Lampe reported that on Monday and Tuesday, March 16-17, two peer reviewers from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) had conducted what seemed to all involved a highly successful site visit for the UW Colleges Flexible Option program. The purpose of the visit was to determine if the UW Colleges was fulfilling the promise it made when granted Commission approval for offering the Associate of Arts and Science degree as a competency-based degree in a flexible, self-paced, assessment-based format. During the exit interview, one of the HLC peer reviewers commented that the higher education community should be thanking the UW Colleges for their hard work in establishing a competency based program. A draft of the peer reviewers’ final report to the Commission will be received by the UW Colleges in about four weeks.

c. Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joe Foy said that he had nothing to add to the written report found in the Senate materials.

d. Senate Steering Committee Chair Mark Peterson was unable to attend the meeting. Alternate Presiding Chair Ahrenhoerster pointed out the report Peterson had submitted in the Senate materials.
e. Academic Staff Lead Senator Jeff Verona said that he had nothing beyond his written report. However, he wished to make it known as the election process is underway, of how increasingly difficult it is to get academic staff involved in shared governance. Many academic staff appointments are being switched to LTE or limited term appointments, making them ineligible to take part. He noted that the chair of the Academic Staff Nominations and Elections Committee (ASNEC) has been doing a great job, but it is an issue of which to be aware.

f. **Classified Staff Lead Senator Rose Brust** deferred her comments until the meeting of the full Senate.

g. **SGC President Graham Pearce** noted that the resolution unanimously passed by SGC in support of investigating possible campus status for UW Colleges Online had not been included with his report to the Senate. He said he would hand out copies, and pointed out that it had been circulated to the Senate via email.

5. Business

a. **Nomination for UWC Colloquium Planning Committee.** Alternate Chair Ahrenhoerster pointed out the nominee for the UW Colleges Colloquium Planning Committee. Associate Vice Chancellor Foy noted that the committee has begun their work. A former member said that the committee always needs more help, and Assistant to the Senate Linda Baum stated that the committee has not yet met full membership. Jamie Douglas (Assistant Professor, CSEPA, UW-Fox Valley) was appointed by unanimous vote [Raunio/Kreider].

b. **Amendment to Constitution 3.01 with regard to Collegium membership requirements.** The written materials were reviewed. It was asked why an actual proposal was not included; the brief suggestion from SSC Chair Peterson at the last meeting was noted, as was the charge for the committee to be prepared to discuss the issue. Committee members talked about qualifiers denoting how the membership must be changed in order to be comprehensive. It was also pointed out that there were such qualifiers in place (faculty, academic staff, classified staff, and students). Due to the general perception that the section did not need amendment, the question was dropped by consensus.

c. **Correspondence Committee draft UW Colleges Statement (resolution) to Board of Regents/Legislature.** The draft resolution from the Senate Correspondence Committee (SCoC) was distributed. The Steering Committee made some edits before unanimously approving the resolution to proceed to the Senate agenda [Pearce/Kreider].

6. Other Business

a. **Discussion of UW Colleges Governance Assessment survey.** Margaret Hankenson summarized the responses to the Senate Governance survey. In response to the first question (impressions of governance activity, what role should Senate play in UWC, how
well does Senate function): Responses held that the Senate works well and plays an important role for the UW Colleges. However, there were also those who felt it was low-impact, slow-moving, and had had their role circumvented by task forces. There was also a sense of being disconnected from what the Senate does, and not knowing what the Senate accomplishes. Responses to the second question (if you have previously participated, why, impressions, would you again): Respondents had more positive than negative impressions and felt that they had a positive impact and made important contributions. Those who reported a negative experience felt it was a waste of time. People responded to the third question (if you haven’t participated, why) by noting the time-consuming nature of governance and the difficulty of scheduling everything. It was also pointed out that time spent on governance was not compensated financially or through merit. Instructional academic staff reported feeling excluded, with little time or incentive to participate in governance. The presence of Central Office administration at Senate meetings (question 4) was reported by the majority as either a positive or neutral presence. They cited the importance of collegiality and inclusiveness, and that it was important for administrators to hear everyone’s voices. Those who stated that it was a negative to have administration present said that their presence made them unwilling to speak freely. The response that came up frequently from question five (other thoughts about participation) was that classified staff are glad to be able to participate in shared governance, felt welcome, and are learning. In conclusion, Hankenson noted a need for increased communication, possibly standardized, from senators to collegium and the SSC Chair, a Senate 101 for new senators to help them learn their role, clarifying the role of the Senate in setting institutional priorities, and that the presence of administration be considered at Senate. Hankenson then asked for comments or suggestions regarding the recommendations. Alternate Presiding Chair Ahrenhoerster said that while of course the meeting minutes are valuable, a “mini-highlights” version that could be easily absorbed would be helpful to send out shortly after the meeting. It could list the major topics discussed, the items adopted, and the introductions. Chancellor Sandeen noted that one of the UW-Extension governance groups has a Top 3 sent out by the chair. It was suggested that to learn about their role as a senator, the newly elected could talk to the outgoing senator on their campus. It was added that there is some information that could apply to all in the Senate Leaders Handbook. Linda Baum offered that the April meeting, attended by both incoming and outgoing senators, might be a good time to offer Senate 101. It was noted that governance information has been added to the onboarding process, and Chancellor Sandeen related that Assistant Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Jason Beier is examining those processes. Marcy Dickson suggested incentivizing governance participation for academic and classified staff by recognizing it as a leadership tool, making it an opportunity instead of a waste of time. It was agreed that the barriers to IAS participation must be addressed. IAS are not awarded merit for their service. Their contracts tell them they may not be employed for long. It all leads to a climate of exclusion for IAS, rather than inclusion. The consensus of the Steering Committee was to steer IP #320 to Faculty Professional Standards Committee (FPSC) for them to look at IAS merit with an eye to reward for service; clarify the Activity Report and how it will be judged, determining whether the policy needs updating. Hankenson and Holly Hassel will share the survey results via email with the Senate. If possible, time at the April Senate meeting will be reserved for a Senate 101 presentation.
7. **Adjournment.** The March 20, 2015 meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee held at UW-Fond du Lac was adjourned at 11:37 a.m. when all business was concluded.

8. **Action Items**

   a. **Baum** will post the approved minutes of SSC #11 in the appropriate electronic files.
   
   b. **Peterson** will send SSC minutes and chair report to senators and campus steering chairs.
   
   c. **Peterson** will inform Jamie Douglas of placement on Colloquium Committee (cc Foy).
      
      **Baum** will place Douglas on email list.
   
   d. **Baum** will retype SCoC resolution and circulate to Senate.
   
   e. **Peterson** will steer IP #320 to FPSC, asking them to look at IAS merit regarding service, clarify the Activity Report and how it will be judged, and to determine if the policy needs updating.
   
   f. **Peterson and Baum** will reserve time on the April Senate schedule if possible for a Senate 101 presentation.