Minutes
UWC Senate Steering Committee
Meeting #16: WisLine
Friday, May 22, 2015
9:00 a.m.

Present: Greg Ahrenhoerster, Kavita Bhatia, Marcy Dickson, Joe Foy, Margaret Hankenson, Holly Hassel, Ann Herda-Rapp, Evan Kreider, Greg Lampe, Juli McGuire, Graham Pearce, Mark Peterson, Matt Raunio, John Short, Jeff Verona, and Linda Baum

Not Present: Rose Brust and Cathy Sandeen

1. Call to order. The Friday, May 22, 2015 WisLine meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee (SSC) was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by SSC Chair Mark Peterson.

2. Approval of the agenda. The agenda for the meeting was approved after being amended to include a discussion of the possible no confidence vote [Kreider/Dickson].

3. Approval of the Minutes from SSC #15 (2015-05-06). The minutes of the May 5, 2015 WisLine meeting of the SSC were unanimously approved [Dickson/Hassel].

4. Business

   a. Motion to revise IP #101.IV.A to include MAT 109 as a General Education requirement in accordance with IP#405.G.10. SSC Chair Peterson briefly noted the proposed introduction. Holly Hassel stated she liked the change as it related to the possible retention and success rates, but wondered about unintended policy consequences related to transferability. She asked Professor Kavita Bhatia (Mathematics, UW-Marshfield/Wood County) if MAT 109 would transfer as fulfilling core requirements. Professor Bhatia explained that there have been transfer issues with MAT 108 for many years. To try to overcome some of those problems, they added algebra to MAT 108 to create MAT 109 in order to format a course that should transfer easier, meeting the requirements of four-year institutions. They have checked with some four-year institutions to get an idea of how it will transfer, and after the course is approved as a core course, Registrar Larry Graves will take on the task of checking with the various institutions to see how MAT 109 transfers. Professor Bhatia also noted that the course will only be offered on two UWC campuses as a pilot to start. Jeff Verona wondered if MAT 109, five credits, but composed of courses totaling six credits would create a credit shortfall issue with the Associate degree. Professor Bhatia replied that the course was worth enough credits for the degree. She then answered a question from Hassel to note that MAT 109 would have a prerequisite of scoring in the upper end of developmental math. The motion passed by unanimous vote [Ahrenhoerster/Pearce]. Senate Assistant Linda Baum will prepare and send the revised version of IP #101 to the chancellor for her proposed signature, and will circulate/post the policy if signed. The item will be sent to Senate Academic Policy Committee.
5. **Other Business.** SSC Chair Peterson called attention to the referendum initiated by several academic department chairs proposing a vote of no confidence in Chancellor Sandeen. It was first discussed and agreed upon that the chairs’ request to limit the voters to tenured faculty members could not be upheld. UW Colleges Constitution Chapter 2 Section 10 refers to “faculty referendum,” not “tenured faculty referendum.” There was extensive discussion as to whether the faculty could be asked to participate in a vote (by May 29) held after the end of the contract period (May 24). There was also discussion as to whether such a vote, held after the time when many have left campus, would be flawed because those voting might not be able to attend a meeting to discuss the matter and become thoroughly informed prior to voting. One person wondered if campuses can hold such meetings of faculty when not under contract. SGC President Graham Pearce said that it should be determined whether such an action of such potential import was legal for the institution to undertake right now. It was pointed out to him that the vote has no legal standing, to which he replied that there are significant political consequences of which people must be aware. Chair Peterson said that those political implications aside, the committee was working to establish procedures. The fourth point from the chairs dealt with quorum. It was determined that quorum played no role in taking a vote on a referendum. Discussion turned to determining the majority required for passage of the referendum. It was decided that a majority of all UW Colleges faculty would be necessary for the referendum to pass. There was some conversation as to how to determine if the vote was legitimate. It was argued that perhaps waiting and holding the referendum in August after faculty have returned and participation could be guaranteed would be a better option. Ann Herda-Rapp responded that the chairs who initiated the referendum would strenuously object to that plan, saying that their objective was to get out ahead of the decisions and before the implementation stage in order to communicate to the legislators. It was again noted that this could compromise the legitimacy of the vote. Herda-Rapp replied that everything cannot run on someone else’s timeline. Holly Hassel added that she was uncomfortable with the idea of postponing the referendum, saying that people must be able to speak to administrative decisions made when faculty are off contract. It was noted that the majority of Senate committees may be called into duty over the summer, as is also true of other committees. [Associate Vice Chancellor Joe Foy contacted UW System legal after the meeting. It is legal for faculty to conduct governance activities when not on contract.] Chairs’ Rep Greg Ahrenhoerster said that though he would rather have the referendum take place during the academic year, he was okay with it taking place now since it would still require a majority of all faculty. There was discussion as to what should be communication to faculty, what other communication should go out to which groups regarding voting and those procedures, and who the ballot tally should be sent to afterwards. As one of the initiating chairs, Ann Herda-Rapp will email all faculty, campus steering committee chairs, faculty senators, and the dean’s executive assistants; the chairs’ initiation referendum will be included. SSC Chair Mark Peterson will email the same groups with the procedures determined by the Senate Steering Committee for distributing and tallying the ballots. Both emails will copy Senate Assistant Linda Baum. The motion passed by unanimous vote [Hassel/Kreider].

6. **Adjournment.** The May 22, 2015 WisLine meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. when business concluded.
7. Action Items.

a. **Baum** will post the approved minutes of SSC #15 in the appropriate electronic files.
b. **Peterson** will send SSC minutes to senators and campus steering chairs.
c. **Baum** will create and send revised version of IP #101 to Chancellor Sandeen for signature. If/when signed, Baum will post in the appropriate electronic files and circulate as usual.
d. **Peterson** will steer IP #101.IV to SAPC for potential revision—adding MAT 109.
e. **Peterson and Herda-Rapp** will email campus steering committee chairs, dean’s executive assistants, faculty senators, and UWC faculty with the referendum information and procedures for distributing and tallying ballots for the referendum.
   i. This referendum asks for the participation of all faculty.
   ii. Senate Steering tasks Campus Steering Committee chairs (with the assistance of Deans’ Executive Assistants) with convening faculty to vote – in this case, no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 29. Documents should be provided to campus Steering chairs to provide context for the vote.
   iii. Faculty shall vote by secret paper ballots at a convened meeting and be offered the opportunity to vote by proxy, or by absentee ballot, in accordance with campus procedures. Results of the votes (i.e. total number of ayes and nays) shall be sent to the Assistant to the Senate for tallying. The Assistant to the Senate shall then report the result to the Senate Steering Committee.
   iv. Passage requires a majority vote of all faculty.