Minutes
UWC Senate Steering Committee
Meeting #7: UW-Marathon County
Friday, November 13, 2015
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.


Not Present: Cathy Sandeen and John Short

1. Call to order. The November 13, 2015 meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee (SSC) was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by SSC Chair Holly Hassel.

2. Approval of the agenda. The agenda for the meeting held at UW-Marathon County was approved by unanimous voice vote [Raunio/Kozma].

3. Approval of Minutes: SSC #6 Draft Minutes (2015-10-26). The minutes of the October 26, 2015 meeting of the SSC were unanimously approved [Kozma/Raunio].

4. Reports

a. Provost/Vice Chancellor Greg Lampe announced that he and Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Steve Wildeck will visit all UW Colleges campuses early in the spring semester. In the planning stages now, the trip will start in early February and continue through March. The visits will focus on how regional and consolidated activities are being viewed and experienced by people on the campuses.

b. Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joe Foy deferred his report until the meeting of the full Senate.

c. Senate Steering Committee Chair Holly Hassel reported that the Senate Leaders’ Retreat, traditionally an overnight and Saturday morning as part of the first Senate meeting, had been held via Skype on October 30. Senators and committee chairs had been invited and good conversations were held. Her written report included a summary of the topics and the action items that came out of the discussions. The impact of regional structures on governance at every level is a concern. There were many ideas on how to work together to make sure things do not fall through the cracks, such as the SSC Chair and Chairs’ Rep developing a list of deadlines around retention and tenure and making sure they are communicated in the Spring 2016 transition semester. Provost Lampe noted that the Office of Academic and Student Affairs will be sending reminders, too. A concern that many faculty expressed, said Hassel, was that with no associate dean for academic affairs the campus steering committee chair would be taking on more responsibilities. Provost Lampe stated that that is part of the reason he and Vice
Chancellor Wildeck will be visiting the campuses—to find out about any issues that might crop up during the implementation phase. He reminded the group that there will be a campus administrator on each campus; further, while the chain of command is something that is being worked on and will not be standardized across the campuses, the provost said they are not looking at campus steering chairs. Associate Vice Chancellor Rich Barnhouse added that all of the regional associate deans will know the basics of how to handle a crisis, how to triage, who to contact, and when to drop the plans at the campus they are based on and drive to where they are needed to handle something urgent. SSC Chair Hassel next reported that faculty retention had been a topic at the faculty reps meeting. She is working with UW-Whitewater rep James Hartwick and UW System Vice President for Administration & Fiscal Affairs David Miller to create a study looking at faculty members’ reasons for staying or leaving. Chair Hassel concluded by saying that the update the reps were given on the concealed carry legislation said that it does not seem to be getting a lot of traction. Provost Lampe added that it seems it will probably be delayed until the next session of the legislature, which will give the UW Colleges time to move forward with mobilizing local law enforcement to lobby against the proposal.

d. Academic Staff Lead Senator Jeff Verona related that there is a great deal of concern around the regional associate deans for academic affairs. Schedules for IAS are set by the associate dean; with one person in charge of three or four campuses, there are a lot of IAS probably unknown to that associate dean who will be impacted. Verona suggested that campuses might move to full year contracts, instead of semester contracts, for greater stability and as some campuses have already done. Associate Vice Chancellor Joe Foy will be meeting with the regional associate deans for academic affairs and will raise the issue with them. It was noted that benefits should also be discussed, to which Foy agreed and added that HR staff have expressed ideas on the tripwire issue.

e. University Staff Lead Senator Juli McGuire said that the University Staff Council would like a better understanding of what determines if the new Phase 1 and Phase 2 positions are university staff or academic staff positions. Associate Vice Chancellor Barnhouse stated that HR determines how positions are classified by looking at the needs of the new positions and evaluating the position descriptions according to state guidelines. Provost Lampe agreed that the process is completely driven by the position descriptions and state guidelines.

f. SGC President Graham Pearce noted the location of his report in the Senate binder, but deferred reporting until the Senate meeting.

5. Business

a. FAGC Appointment: Natural Science/Math member. Gail Hoffman (Professor, HESA, UW-Richland) had sent a nomination; she was unanimously appointed [Alitto/Kozma].

b. Senate Process. SSC Chair Hassel explained that how the Senate works, how policy is created, is not apparent to people outside of the Senate. Some have expressed that there is
not enough opportunity for feedback from campuses before an adoption vote. When policy changes are introduced there has been relatively little conversation lately so the introductions go to collegiums and sometimes issues come up there that could lead to an adoption failing because it was not adequately explained; perhaps the item would have benefited from additional modifications before going out to collegium. Hassel has been told that robust discussions around introductions and revising introductions following those conversations and before sending them out was also not uncommon. Even longer ago, the Senate had three meetings to move an item from introduction to adoption. A return to that format would obviously take longer to move changes through the system. The possibility of the Senate determining whether an introduction should go through the normal two meeting process or require a third was discussed; it was noted that such a change would likely require policy amendment. It was pointed out that Senate materials are sent out in advance of meetings and could be discussed with colleagues, but with the variance in scheduling collegium meetings and how they line up with Senate meetings, that does not seem to happen. Provost Lampe said that committees could certainly share potential introductions with collegia for feedback before they ever go to the Senate. Hassel related that she had sent out a survey asking when collegium meetings are, and will be meeting with incoming Regional Executive Officer Keith Montgomery to discuss the possible coordination of collegium meetings. Having the committees making the introductions vet them prior to introduction was noted as an option, and the possible policy change to allow for sometimes utilizing a three-meeting format will be examined. It was determined that more dialogue at introductions would be encouraged, as senators should have an idea of what their colleagues might question or be concerned about, and that SSC Chair Hassel should continue working with other campuses and REOs to try and coordinate collegiums.

c. AIS Program Status: Committee Feedback. Chair Hassel pointed out the information in the Steering materials and asked that the AIS petition be forwarded to the Senate as the next step in the process [Hassel/Alitto]. It was asked if the Senate Academic Policy Committee (SAPC) had answered the questions sent to them around jurisdiction in Chapter 11 of the UWC Constitution. Following an explanation of what some see as programs being forced to become freestanding because of conflicting views of the definition of jurisdiction in Chapter 11 and the answer that SAPC had not replied on the question yet, several committee members did not feel comfortable moving the petition ahead. Others, though, felt that the program had come together well, written good bylaws, and positioned themselves to grow instead of remain stagnant while housed in a department that was neglecting their duties to the program. The petition was a good faith effort to follow the course prescribed by the Senate. It was determined that the SSC would wait until they hear back from SAPC on Chapter 11, and the motion was withdrawn.

d. Tenure-track, promotion, post-tenure review visual table format options. The committee examined the tables sent by FPSC and made the unanimous recommendation that tables 2 and 3 in portrait version are their preference [Peterson/Raunio].
e. Report regarding FPP #501 and 603. SSC Chair Hassel noted that the Virtual Campus Investigative Committee will ask that FPP #501 be reviewed in light of appointments split between campuses. Therefore, since there is no push to regionalize faculty right now, she suggested that FPP #603 be reviewed to see if language around inter-campus reassignment should be modified in view of the regional model. Motion carried unanimously to send FPP #603 to Faculty Professional Standards Committee (FPSC) [Hassel/Peterson].

6. Other Business. There was no further business on the SSC agenda.

7. Adjournment. The November 13, 2015 meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee was adjourned by SSC Chair Holly Hassel at 11:05 a.m. at the conclusion of the agenda.

8. Action Items

   a. Baum will post the approved minutes of SSC #6 in appropriate electronic files.
   b. Hassel will send SSC #6 minutes and chair report #7 to senators and campus steering chairs.
   c. Hassel will inform Hoffman of committee appointment. Baum will update all listings as appropriate.
   d. Hassel will encourage Senate discussion of introductions and continue to work on coordinating collegiums.
   e. Hassel and Baum will place AIS Petition on SSC #8 agenda, holding for SAPC response on Ch. 11 jurisdiction question.
   f. Hassel will inform FPSC of SSC preference for table format.
   g. Hassel will steer FPP #603 to FPSC to review language around inter-campus reassignment in view of regionalization.