Minutes
UWC Senate Steering Committee
Meeting #8: UW-Washington County
Thursday, January 22, 2015
9:30 a.m.

Present: Greg Ahrenhoerster, Rose Brust, Clif Cavanaugh, Marcy Dickson, Joe Foy, Renee Gralewicz, Margaret Hankenson, Marly Harmeling, Holly Hassel, Ann Herda-Rapp, Evan Kreider, Tammy Ladwig, Christi Larson, Justeen Mallo, Ruth Maschmeier, Graham Pearce, Mark Peterson, Paul Price (John Short), Matt Raunio, Bethany Reilly, Mark Schmitz, Melissa Smiley, Roseann Stenstrup, Jeff Verona, Steve Wildeck, and Linda Baum. Glen Temple (Lync)

Not Present: Greg Lampe, Cathy Sandeen, John Short.

1. Call to order. The January 22, 2015 meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee (SSC) was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by SSC Chair Mark Peterson.

2. Approval of the agenda. The agenda for the meeting was approved by unanimous vote [Verona/Hassel].

3. Approval of Minutes: Draft Minutes of SSC #7 (2014-12-11). The minutes of the December 11, 2014 WisLine meeting were approved unanimously [Hankenson/Dickson].

4. Reports

   a. Chancellor Cathy Sandeen was attending a conference in Washington, D.C. Associate Vice Chancellor Foy asked that everyone watch her short video address in which she informed people as to the plans for hosting the Board of Regents meeting in April at UW-Waukesha. She also asked people to remain calm regarding the budget situation and lack of firm information, and noted that a holding pattern is in play until after the governor announces his budget plan. She will continue to communicate as the situation evolves. Several senators asked that text be provided rather than video, or in addition to video, for future messages, if possible.

   b. Provost and Vice Chancellor Greg Lampe was also in Washington, D.C. attending the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Conference which was centered around curriculum reform this year. Provost Lampe had asked Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joe Foy to update the committee on his behalf. The two have started working on the UW Colleges’ Associate of Arts and Science (AAS) degree and curriculum reform projects, said Foy, and a call has been put together for a lead faculty member to coordinate our AAS and curricular reform efforts, and sent to SSC Chair Peterson. Foy noted that the person would need certain strong characteristics similar to those of the faculty members who co-led the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) self-study process, and that he and Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Rich Barnhouse will be involved in the project. Chair Peterson said he will send the call out soon to faculty members. Associate Vice
Chancellor Foy announced that Jason Beier has been named the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Human Resources for UW Colleges and UW-Extension.

Glena Temple, Dean of UW Colleges Online and Distance Education (joining via Lync), reminded the Steering Committee that when she and Provost Lampe had met with the SSC in November and discussed the idea of UW Colleges Online seeking virtual campus status, Steering members had asked if Chapter 36 allowed that option. Dean Temple and Provost Greg Lampe then had a conference call with UW System Associate Vice President for Academic, Faculty, and Global Programs Stephen Kolison, Senior UW System Legal Counsel Anne Bilder, and Director of Undergraduate Education, Office of Academic and Student Affairs Diane Tries-Rusk in which it was determined that Wisconsin Statute Chapter 36.09 did not apply to the situation; it was determined, though, that ACIS (Academic Information Series) 1.05 that notes the process for establishing an entity existing between the department and institutional levels might apply (which would require UW System approval) so research into that had to be completed prior to any further planning. Another conference call with Associate Vice President Kolison, Director of Undergraduate Education Tries-Rusk, David Ward, Interim Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Provost Lampe, and Dean Temple was held on January 20 in which support for seeking a campus designation for UW Colleges Online was given. Further, legislative support is not expected to be necessary, but approval from the Board of Regents would be required. The information requested by UW System will be mapped out as soon as possible—a memo with the rationale, an organizational chart, and infrastructure needs. Dean Temple informed the SSC that an endorsement from shared governance of the proposal has also been requested so the conversation can continue with UW System and ultimately pass to the Board of Regents. The endorsement would go from the Senate to the chancellor, and when supported by Chancellor Sandeen, go on to UW System. Following approval by the Board of Regents, UW Colleges would have the autonomy to discuss, plan, and construct changes (including a timeline and policy language) as they see fit through the UWC Senate’s normal governance processes.

There was a brief discussion as to when an endorsement or resolution should be crafted for and voted on by the Senate. Several Steering members expressed that it was an important and complex issue that should not be rushed. Dean Glena Temple answered Peterson’s question as to a timeline: in order to have the item on the June Board of Regents agenda, and to allow time for it to move through UW System processes prior to that, a vote on an endorsement at the March Senate meeting would be fine. Dean Temple will send Peterson the summary of the proposal. Peterson will circulate the proposal and possible wording for an endorsement to Steering for discussion before circulation to the Senate.

c. **Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joe Foy** highlighted the recent announcement of members to the ESL Task Force. It is a group with a lot of expertise and experience in terms of ESL and working with international students. The goal is to have recommendations to the provost by July in order to see what is needed to further
develop a very strong ESL program. Associate Vice Chancellor Foy encouraged everyone who has the opportunity to take one of the Multicultural Awareness Programs.

d. **Senate Steering Committee Chair Mark Peterson** deferred his report until later in the day.

e. **Academic Staff Lead Senator Jeff Verona** referred to his written report.

f. **Classified Staff Lead Senator Rose Brust** noted that her report was in the written Senate materials.

g. **SGC President Graham Pearce** said his report was in the materials and deferred until later. SSC Chair Peterson thanked him for getting all student member positions on Senate committees filled. SGC President Pearce introduced SGC Executive Director Marly Harmeling.

5. Business

a. **How and whether to proceed with a request to move the home department of American Indian Studies from POL to ANT/SOC.** Chair Peterson explained that Dylan Bennett, the Political Science department chair, and Ann Herda-Rapp, the Anthropology-Sociology department chair, had met with Provost Greg Lampe to discuss the possibility of moving the American Indian Studies (AIS) program from Political Science to Anthropology-Sociology. Provost Lampe had advised that the matter be taken to the Senate Steering Committee and examined in light of Chapter 11 of the UWC Constitution. Ann Herda-Rapp corrected Peterson’s original phrasing, noting that they had not asked that AIS be moved, only that it be brought under the conditions specified in Chapter 11. Renee Garelewicz explained that AIS is not coordinated or cohesive; they want to activate the members, ask them about AIS, get them involved, hold meetings, and have them decide on the future of AIS. It is not about “stealing” a program as had been charged, it is about moving AIS forward. Herda-Rapp continued that how to define the membership criteria is a stumbling block because there are not any bylaws at this point; this is where Steering could help and create a short-term membership definition for the initial meeting. Holly Hassel expressed that it was a chicken and egg situation—AIS is not freestanding so it does not have bylaws, but it cannot create bylaws if it does not have a defined membership to meet and do so. She agreed Steering should define AIS membership for that purpose. Chair of Chairs Greg Ahrendoerster made the motion that for the purpose of the initial bylaws meeting, membership be defined as instructors who have taught at least one AIS course within the last three years. The motion was amended by alternate Deans’ Rep Paul Price’s suggestion to be “academic years.” Holly Hassel seconded the motion. Ann Herda-Rapp noted that since there is a problem with not all of the courses being correctly cross-listed, there is a concern that not all instructors will be properly contacted. Ahrendoerster said he will contact department chairs to help ensure all are located. There was brief conversation as to what funding would be used to cover the initial meeting costs; it was determined that department resources should be used. Jeff Verona expressed the concern that there would be a very limited Political Science
voice at the bylaws meeting. Gralewicz replied that no one would be excluded from the meeting. Margaret Hankenson agreed that it is not about excluding anyone; it is about empowering AIS instructors to make choices for the future of AIS. Ann Herda-Rapp stated that Anthropology-Sociology has been interested in AIS for a long time because of a certain dovetailing of courses, but if AIS chooses to be freestanding, she will support them in that movement. The motion passed unanimously [Ahrenhoerster/Hassel], and Peterson will inform interested parties.

b. **Process for waiving the number of credits transferable from another school for a “credit certificate” under IP #103.II.A.2.** Chair Peterson explained that the policy notes that two credits may be transferred. Situations have arisen lately asking for six credits to be transferred, or other exceptions around a certificate. Campus academic action committees make waivers around IP #101, and he feels departments can waive IP #103 on a case by case basis. Chair of Chairs Ahrenhoerster agreed, saying that departments should be the ones making waivers related to IP #103. SSC Chair Peterson will compose introduction materials to note departments can grant exceptions for the March Senate meeting.

c. **Move the January 4th due date (for both merit and tenure) until later in the month?** Chair Peterson said the question had been raised and asked for opinions. It was expressed that just because the due date is January 4 does not mean people need to wait until after the holidays to start. Department executive committees and campus merit committees meet and work over Winterim to complete these tasks. Chairs’ Rep Ahrenhoerster expressed that the chairs were very opposed to the idea of changing the due date. Academic Staff Lead Senator Jeff Verona noted that instructional academic staff who teach only in the spring fall through the cracks and should be encouraged to fill out the activity reports. Peterson asked Associate Vice Chancellor Foy to note that deans and associate deans be reminded to follow the policy and encourage the IAS who teach only in spring to fill out activity reports. The Steering Committee feels that no change to the January 4 due date is advisable.

d. **Possible Amendment of UWC Constitution Chapter 3.** Classified Staff Lead Senator Rose Brust explained that the UWC Constitution allows LTEs and others to participate in Senate level governance, but they are not allowed to vote in campus collegiums. All members of the UW Colleges community should be able to participate in the different levels of governance or it is not truly inclusive shared governance. AS Lead Senator Verona appreciates the spirit of the introduction, but said including more would make quorum impossible. Brust replied that there were certainly ways to count quorum that would allow for classified staff. Roseann Stenstrup said that classified staff do not count towards quorum at UW-Marinette. Chairs’ Rep Ahrenhoerster related that if the number of students whose votes count towards quorum is defined, something similar could be done for classified staff so the total number attending would not detract from the faculty majority of quorum. It was acknowledged that there may be implications for the faculty majority, but also noted that the faculty majority might already be non-existent at many campuses. It was also stated that it is important to have the knowledge and background of classified staff members who are willing to attend and be involved. It was determined
that the proposed Constitutional amendment language was fine, and that campuses will need to make quorum determinations for their campus constitutions. The motion passed with one abstention; the amendment will be on the March Senate agenda.

e. **Review of redundant and moribund committees? Do we need Budget? SIEC? SOPC?** Chair Peterson related that there seem to be committees that exist but do nothing; they are just something that is listed on an activity report. The annual reports of those committees are basically blank. On the other hand, there are some extremely hard working committees that the Senate only hears from in annual reports, too, such as the Senate Curriculum Committee, but for which the Senate still only sees the report at the end of the year. He has learned that the Senate Professional Development Committee is going to be working on some questions sent to it by a member of the institution, and it would be nice for the Senate to know that, he continued. SSC Chair Peterson also wondered why Senate committees are not utilized when questions/issues arise and a task force is created instead; why was the Senate Budget Committee not used to examine the faculty compensation issue, for example, when shared governance should have been involved. The Senate is the “deliberative and legislative body” of UW Colleges, so it seems, Peterson concluded, that there needs to be changes made in how the committees work to ensure the Senate has more oversight. He suggests having either SSC or Senate Academic Policy Committee (SAPC) review the descriptions of all committees (standing, elected, and appointed) and making some recommendations regarding whether they seem to be necessary: Are they working? Might they be wrapped into another committee? Margaret Hankenson clarified that there are two issues: first, that existing Senate committees are not utilized and ad hocs created instead; and second, some committees may not need to exist any longer. Ahrenhoerster said that task forces are good once in a while, and perhaps there should be a definition in place of when to use them or how they should be constructed. He noted a perceived nervousness around task forces when they are created by administration. Holly Hassel noted that groups often need representation from those with a certain skill set. She agreed that it would be good to review the committees as suggested, and suggested that a subset of Steering be brought together to do so. Peterson will email a request for several volunteers for the task, and the group can be finalized at the next SSC meeting.

6. **Other Business**

   a. **Discussion of Culture climate questions and the end of shared governance.** The culture climate questions will be discussed at the Senate meeting later today and should be distributed to the Senate afterwards. It was noted that the UW Colleges shared governance situation is completely unique in structure and practice. It was suggested that all other examples be ignored.

   b. **Update on current budget situation.** Steve Wildeck, Vice Chancellor for Administrative and Financial Services, reminded the SSC of the Wisconsin budget process. The governor is to give his budget address on February 3 to a joint session. It contains fiscal appropriations and statutory language changes. The Joint Finance Committee (8 senators, 8 assemblymen; 12 Republicans, 4 Democrats) will hold listening
sessions. In March or April the budget will go to the two houses. Both must pass identical versions. Note the governor has the line item veto. A signed budget is due by the end of June. Wildeck warned there will be all kinds of political banter all through the process.

Jeff Verona asked about the current estimate of the budget deficit. Vice Chancellor Wildeck replied that it was anywhere from $800 million to $2.2 billion. The first was a very conservative number and the second an inflated number. He does believe that the UW System will be allocated a reduction of some sort and that tuition will be frozen for the next two years again. He cautioned that the story of revenue balances hurt UW System. Continuing, he related that there are conversations of treating the UW System as a public authority of some sort in order to grant System more flexibility. The budget situation will be actively monitored and lobbying the legislature will begin when it gets to that point in the process. Juesteen Mallo asked what kind of savings were to be had from autonomy. The vice chancellor said the UW Hospital is one example of a public authority, but there are many examples, and that multiple things could be addressed from still being a part of the WRS to not serving green beans on Thursdays in the cafeterias. The details can be astounding. Mallo asked if the governing board would be the Board of Regents; Wildeck replied that the Board of Regents is an 18 member Board appointed by the governor. It could be left as is or changed. As to the amount of savings, it would be difficult to tell, but the majority would have to be from something large. SSC Chair Peterson said that from the faculty representatives meeting, his understanding was that the Board of Regents is prepared to take Chapter 36 and turn it into Regent policy if that situation comes to pass.

7. **Adjournment.** The January 22, 2015 meeting of the UWC Senate Steering Committee was adjourned at 11.45 a.m. at the conclusion of the agenda.

8. **Action Items**
   a. Baum will post the approved minutes of SSC #7 in appropriate electronic files.
   b. Peterson will send SSC minutes and chair report to senators and campus steering chairs.
   c. Peterson will put out call for lead faculty member for the curriculum reform committee.
   d. Peterson will send email to interested parties noting that for purpose of initial bylaw meeting, membership is defined as instructors who have taught at least one AIS course within the last three academic years.
   e. Ahrenhoerster will check with chairs to ensure all American Indian Studies instructors are located.
   f. Peterson will write an introduction for IP #103 saying departments can grant exceptions for the March Senate meeting.
   g. Foy will make a note to remind deans and associate deans to encourage IAS who teach only in spring to fill out activity reports.
   h. Peterson and Baum will place the amendment of UWC Constitution Chapter 3 on the March Senate agenda.
   i. Peterson will question the committee via email regarding membership (three) on a task force to discuss underutilized and/or unnecessary Senate committees. To be decided during next SSC meeting (February 4).