Minutes
UWC Senate Steering Committee
Meeting #9: WisLine
Wednesday, February 4, 2015
4:00 p.m.

Present: Greg Ahrenhoerster, Rose Brust, Marcy Dickson, Joe Foy, Renee Gralewicz, Margaret Hankenson, Holly Hassel, Ann Herda-Rapp, Christa James-Byrnes, Evan Kreider, Greg Lampe, Juli McGuire, Graham Pearce, Mark Peterson, Matt Raunio, Cathy Sandeen, Jeff Verona, and Linda Baum

Not Present: John Short

1. Call to order. The February 4, 2015 WisLine meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee (SSC) was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by SSC Chair Mark Peterson.

2. Approval of the agenda. The agenda for the meeting was approved by unanimous voice vote [Raunio/Dicks on].

3. Approval of Minutes for SSC #8 (2015-01-22). The minutes of the January 22, 2015 meeting held at UW-Washington County were unanimously approved [Ahrenhoerster/Verona].

4. Reports

a. Chancellor Cathy Sandeen was welcomed to her first SSC meeting by Chair Mark Peterson. Chancellor Sandeen replied that she was happy to be there and engage with the committee. The chancellor first informed the SSC that she has a strong belief in shared governance; shared governance is an important cornerstone of U.S. higher education. In the future Chancellor Sandeen plans to join the Steering Committee and give her update, but generally will not stay for the entire meeting unless she is asked for input on an agenda item; she may occasionally ask for an item to be placed on the agenda, too. Between UW Colleges and UW-Extension she has many governance groups to interact with and she hopes this plan is appropriate. Finally, as to the budget situation, as the proposal stands, there will be cuts of $150 million in each of the two years for a total of $300 million. All attempts will be made to mitigate those cuts. Another part of the budget proposal is to create a public authority and greater flexibility under the authority of a board. Many details are being worked out and will be communicated. A third part of the budget proposal includes guaranteed revenue for the UW System via a block grant that would increase, based on the consumer price index. The chancellor cautioned these are proposals at this time and that the legislature is not bound to continue a plan from one year to the next. Guaranteed and more predictable revenue and flexibilities may be good for us in the long term. She reminded the committee of the Town Hall meeting next Monday, and informed them she will meet with the deans next week. Chancellor Sandeen said various units should begin to compile updated advocacy network contact
lists and lists of the potential negative effects of budget reductions as well as lost opportunities due to reductions.

Mark Peterson said that faculty have contacted him asking if there is a strategic plan to re-engage the people of Wisconsin to advocate on behalf of UW Colleges. He noted that the Wisconsin Idea is proposed to be cut, and wondered if Wisconsin citizens might be rallied by asking them what they see as the purpose of UW System or UW Colleges. Chancellor Sandeen replied that she would like to have a searchable database of measurable impacts and current issues for each campus, things that could easily be communicated in one sheet. She also noted that UW System President Ray Cross had issued a statement in support of the Wisconsin Idea. Evan Kreider said that the chancellor had stated the public authority would be overseen by a board. He asked if it would be different from the Board of Regents, and of whom the membership might be composed. Chancellor Sandeen answered that the current Board of Regents would continue as the governing board. The election process and term limits would seemingly remain as they are, but they would be more hands on, and a different skill set may be necessary over time. They would function the same, but would have different authority, concluded Kreider. Chancellor Sandeen then thanked the committee for their service to UW Colleges and left the meeting.

b. **Provost and Vice Chancellor Greg Lampe** reported that although he regretted missing the January Senate meeting, he had been compelled to attend the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) conference in Washington, D.C. Many of this year’s conference sessions focused on curriculum reform. The UW Colleges will be undertaking the revision of the Associate of Arts and Science degree and curricular reform this spring semester. The call for a faculty coordinator to lead these efforts has been sent out and seven submissions received to date. Because the call for nominations coincided with the first week of spring semester classes, the deadline for nominations and self-nominations has been extended until Friday, February 6. Provost Lampe will consult with Chancellor Cathy Sandeen and Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joe Foy to determine who will serve as the faculty coordinator. Provost Lampe reminded the SSC that in Spring of 2013 UW Colleges had submitted a substantive change request form to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for the UW Flexible Option. The HLC will conduct a site visit March 16-17, 2015. Kim Kostka is coordinating visit logistics and other details. The site visit report has been submitted to the HLC; a document library is being created on a SharePoint site to which the peer evaluators have been given access so they can review documents prior to their visit. Last Friday Provost Lampe met with representatives from UW System Administration, UW System Legal, UW-Oshkosh, and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to discuss Course Options. UW System wants Course Options removed from state statutes; however, the DPI wants it to remain in statutes. The DPI will, however, work with public school districts and higher education institutions offering Course Options to try to make it a more feasible option for high school students.

c. **Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joe Foy** announced that Rachel Knighten (Associate Professor & Chair, World Languages, UW-Fox Valley) is working
to set the first meeting of the ESL Task Force. Professor Knighten has graciously agreed to chair that committee, and their work will begin soon with recommendations scheduled to be delivered to the Provost this summer. Foy also noted that a meeting is set for Friday, February 6 related to BAAS assessment work. This meeting is sponsored by the Senate BAAS Assessment Committee (SBAC), and will focus on course and program assessment models and work incorporating the AAC&U VALUE Rubrics into the assessment plan being adopted by the SBAC. The meeting will be archived for those who are unable to attend or who may be teaching BAAS courses in the future. Associate Vice Chancellor Foy reported that he and SSC Chair Peterson had met with Paige Reed from UW System Legal regarding the question that arose during discussions at the January 22 Steering meeting around incorporating classified staff into campus collegia and whether possibly losing faculty majority would violate Chapter 36. According to UW System Legal, the UW Colleges Senate is the primary governance body for UW Colleges, and thus the faculty majority requirement applies only to the Senate. Campus collegia can organize themselves however they see fit, with the full incorporation of academic and classified staff, even when it causes the loss of faculty majority, without violating Chapter 36.

d. Senate Steering Committee Chair Mark Peterson said the faculty reps had gotten a sneak peek of the budget prior to its release; he reminded everyone it is a proposal at this time, nothing is final. He related that the Board of Regents had said that if Chapter 36 was removed from State statutes, they would place it in Regent’s policy, noting that faculty and staff rights and responsibilities would then be at the goodwill of the Board of Regents. Evan Kreider asked if it was known whether any policy drafting was taking place and if any such policies could be viewed. Chair Peterson replied that the Board of Regents had talked like they were working on policies, but he would find out at the Board meeting the next day. Provost Lampe added that he knew UW System Legal was working on policies on behalf of the Board of Regents, but he did not know how far they had gotten or what policies might be included; he will look into the matter while attending the Board of Regents meeting, too.

e. Academic Staff Lead Senator Jeff Verona referred to the survey on shared governance sent out by Steering and noted that a version for academic staff will be sent out shortly. Marcy Dickson added that she will draft the email and send it to him with the survey link. Verona said the Academic Staff Council of Senators had held a meeting with Provost Lampe to discuss the proposed ASPP #708. They hope to have it ready for Council approval and then forward it to the chancellor following the March meeting.

f. Classified Staff Lead Senator Rose Brust reported that the University Staff Council (USC) had met January 15. The grievance policy was approved and forwarded to David Prucha, but they have not heard back. Provost Lampe said he will follow up with HR Director Prucha. The senators and several classified staff guests had attended the January 22 Senate meetings. The Council was continuing to work on layoff and personnel management policies. Terms of Council members and various structure issues that would help the Council fit in better with the Senate were also being discussed. The USC was wondering if David Prucha was still their liaison to the Central Office; Provost Lampe
replied that Prucha is the liaison through Friday, February 13 (Jason Beier begins the position Monday, February 16), and they will be advised after that whom to consult. CS Lead Senator Brust continued, saying that the governance survey has been sent to classified staff; she also related that many CS are sharing concerns regarding the budget, such as how it might affect UPS.

g. **SGC President Graham Pearce** informed the SSC that he is working to continue with regular business. SGC meetings have been scheduled for the semester, and they are discussing possible changes to the SGC Constitution to fix potential issues, such as what to do when unsuccessful in electing an executive board. One focus is trying to get larger scale student involvement, for example, with the budget response. The student reps organized a call with UW System President Cross to discuss the budget. President Cross told the student reps that for the last couple of years there has been a group at the capitol working on changes to Chapter 36 that would have been disastrous; the proposed change is better. SGC President Pearce expressed that student rights need to be maintained and it must be ensured that student voices are heard.

5. **Business**

a. **Nominations of community member for IRB.** Dr. Steven Ziemba (of the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation) was nominated by Dean Patricia Stuhr. The motion carried by unanimous vote [Verona/Ahrenhoerster].

b. **A UW Colleges’ Senate endorsement to explore “campus status” for the UW Colleges Online program.** SSC Chair Mark Peterson briefly explained that this item was the next step in the discussion that had been started at the last Steering meeting and then continued at the Senate meeting. The following statement was moved and seconded for discussion: “The UW Colleges Senate endorses exploring ‘campus status’ for the UW Colleges Online program.” Holly Hassel expressed that there were a series of problems enumerated, but wondered why only one option, an online campus, was offered to address them. She said there might be other proposals which might not have so many possible unseen repercussions. Matt Raunio said there is a level of anxiety at the campus level with finances and the continuation of the online funding stream. Peterson said that is the sort of thing that could be written into any proposal and addressed if it goes forward. Chair of Chairs Greg Ahrenhoerster stated that funding streams could change independent of the status of Online, it is not connected to status in any way. Peterson said there are upsides for small campuses with possible split Online appointments. Interim Dean of UW Colleges Online and Distance Education Christa James-Byrnes said an endorsement allows UW Colleges to investigate what is best for UW Colleges. An endorsement would go to UW System and the Board of Regents and ask for permission to see what is best for faculty, staff, and students. There are Constitutional violations going on, she noted, and problems need to be addressed and written into policy. Provost Lampe added that the funding formula is set by the institution, not by Online, and that they are committed to continuing the revenue stream to campuses and departments. Raunio said it would be good if that could be worked into the proposal, but Chair Peterson said that kind of potential work is on the other end. Provost Lampe related that
the endorsement is about a conversation and permission to plan. If permission is granted, UW Colleges sets the terms of what they want. Peterson said that with permission, maybe a virtual campus would be decided on or perhaps all the issues would be examined and it would be determined to make policy changes; the endorsement is simply permission to talk about the issue. The endorsement will be voted on by Steering, and if it passes go to collegiums for a vote by the Senate at the March meeting. Hassel again argued against the endorsement saying an endorsement seemed to advance only one idea, virtual campus status. She suggested creating a task force to delineate the problems of and the possible solutions for UW Colleges Online. It could then be determined if an online campus was the best solution to the majority of those problems, rather than rushing to an online campus idea. SSC Chair Mark Peterson shared that he had asked Senate Online Program Committee for reform ideas several years ago without a single response; further, if the Board of Regents takes an endorsement up in June, this will be something UW Colleges will potentially be examining all of next year, which is not rushing. Creating the plan before asking for permission to plan, he said, does not make sense. Hassel insisted that options must be investigated; do not presume the outcome, she said. Determine if policies can be reviewed first. It is not planning, she said, but evaluating. Interim Dean James-Byrnes concluded the conversation saying that if an endorsement of the idea is received, the issues of UW Colleges Online will be examined and options of how they might be fixed noted; however, UW Colleges cannot begin looking until after the Board of Regents grants permission to do so. Chair Peterson called for the vote; the motion passed with one dissenting vote [Peterson/Dickson].

c. Revisiting the question of the membership criterion for instructors in the AIS program, currently extended to those teaching AIS cross listed courses in the previous 3 academic years. Chair Peterson reminded the SSC that the membership for AIS had been set at the last meeting as an instructor who has taught at least one AIS course within the last three academic years. Professor Carolyn Polodna was asking that the definition be clarified and broadened. Professor Carolyn Polodna was asking that the definition be clarified and broadened. Ann Herda-Rapp expressed that what Polodna’s request was based on was information from the inception of AIS that had never materialized. She expressed that sticking with the concrete information from the catalog on who was teaching AIS courses was a better method of determining membership. Renee Gralewicz continued, noting that Polodna listed ES courses that were not cross listed. She offered that such instructors could be included in the bylaws meetings, but that they should not be allowed a vote. Margaret Hankenson questioned why, if ES courses were necessary for the AIS certificate, the instructors should not get a vote. Gralewicz replied that some courses are listed as satisfying the certificate, but the certificate has never been applied for or earned because a student has no means to do so; there is no means set for the process. Hankenson clarified that ES courses are listed but are not examined for content; Gralewicz confirmed, saying that AIS is not necessarily a subject instructors are well versed in. Peterson said that a bit of AIS content does not make someone an instructor of AIS. Professor Hankenson agreed, saying if one is teaching a course that contributes AIS content, then that person should be able to contribute a vote. The motion to revisit the question of membership criterion failed with just one supporting vote [Raunio/Dickson].
d. Splitting the Faculty Rep position from the Steering Chair position. In the interest of time, this item was held for the next SSC meeting.

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

7. Adjournment. The February 4, 2015 WisLine meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee was adjourned at 5:28 p.m. by unanimous voice vote [Dickson/Kreider].

8. Action Items

a. **Baum** will post the approved minutes of SSC #8 in appropriate electronic files.
b. **Peterson** will send SSC minutes and chair report to senators and campus steering chairs.
c. **Peterson and Lampe** will determine status of possible policy revision by System (Ch 36 to BOR policy).
d. **Lampe** will follow up with Prucha on the grievance policy sent by the University Staff Council.
e. **Peterson** will inform Steven Ziemba of his appointment to the IRB. **Baum** will place him on all appropriate lists.
f. **Peterson** will circulate exploring “campus status” endorsement language to senators for collegiums discussions. **Peterson and Baum** will place on March Senate agenda.
g. **Peterson** will inform Polodna that no changes to the AIS membership criterion will be made.