Minutes
UWC Senate Steering Committee
Meeting #9: WisLine
Monday, December 14, 2015
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Present: Greg Ahrenhoerster, Julianna Alitto, Joe Foy, Caroline Geary, Mike Gorman (Jeff Verona), Holly Hassel, Troy Kozma, Greg Lampe, Juli McGuire, Graham Pearce, Mark Peterson, Matt Raunio, Cathy Sandeen, and Linda Baum

Not Present: Luke Dock, John Short, Jeff Verona, and Brad Wilson

1. Call to order. The December 14, 2015 WisLine meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee (SSC) was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by SSC Chair Holly Hassel.

2. Approval of the agenda. The meeting agenda was approved by unanimous vote [Kozma/Raunio].

3. Approval of Minutes: SSC #8 Draft Minutes (2015-12-02). The minutes of the December 2, 2015 WisLine meeting of the SSC were unanimously approved [Kozma/Ahrenhoerster].

4. Reports
   
a. Chancellor Cathy Sandeen thanked the committee for their work, especially during this very busy time of the year. While acknowledging that the institution is going through a difficult time, she said she wanted to take time to point out some of the positive things that are happening, too. The Board of Regents approved the mission change for UW-Extension allowing UWEX to grant business and management certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor degrees in the Flexible Option format. Chancellor Sandeen stated that her decisions and reactions to the recommendations of the Virtual Campus Investigation Committee would be sent out this week, noting that most of the recommendations would be included. Online will be seen as a campus-like entity, with the same rights and responsibilities as other campuses. She was pleased with what that would mean as far as faculty, staff, and student access to governance, scholarships, professional development, and activities. The Curriculum Reimagining Project is progressing well. The UW Colleges and UW-Extension are taking part in a Lumina Foundation funded project around transcripts that better show the knowledge and capability of students. Chancellor Sandeen concluded by mentioning she had recently spoken with SSC Chair Hassel about the possibility of doing an open educational resources pilot. Textbook affordability is a problem; discussing the option of piloting OER for some courses and looking into some funding to get it started is a positive step.

b. Provost/Vice Chancellor Greg Lampe, too, thanked the members of SSC for their work on the Senate Steering Committee and with students during this very busy time of the year. He reported that he has spent much of his time on regionalization work the past week. Training for solution center personnel will be taking place two days this week in...
Rothschild, outside of Wausau. The hiring process is coming close to completion for the regional directors of both continuing education and communications. Last week, the search committee for the regional facilities directors was charged, and those positions should be in place by mid-January. A two-day meeting near the end of January 2016 will be held for all regional leaders; they will all meet together, as operational groups, and as regional teams. Interviews of three finalists for the director of institutional research, assessment, and effectiveness will be held shortly, and Provost Lampe said the successful candidate should be announced in early January.

c. **Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joe Foy** stated he had nothing to add to the provost’s report. There were no implementation related questions for him at that time.

d. **Senate Steering Committee Chair Holly Hassel** had sent her report electronically the day prior to the meeting. She noted that she had included the progress of the UWS Tenure Task Force, highlighting the two areas of contention, criteria for layoff of tenured faculty and language for the appeals process for a faculty member found deficient in the post tenure review. A resolution titled “University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents’ 2015 Statement Reiterating the Board’s Commitment to Academic Freedom and Affirming its Commitment to Freedom of Expression” had been passed by the Board of Regents with two dissenting votes after being added to the agenda just two days before the meeting. The general support of academic freedom and freedom of expression was seen as a good thing. However, there was some debate about reaffirming the Board’s previous statement, citing the short timeline, little vetting of the resolution, and that it had not gone through shared governance on its way to the Board. Students who had not been allowed to be added to the agenda and speak about potential implications of the resolution (possibly protecting hate speech) held a silent protest. Hassel said that some of the faculty reps held similar concerns. Provost Lampe stated that various Regents had asked why this was coming forward now and why it had not been completely vetted through shared governance. Faculty Rep Hassel concluded that academic freedom is not necessarily equal to freedom of expression; she will remain in contact with the other faculty reps on the topic.

e. **Academic Staff Lead Senator Jeff Verona** was not in attendance. Alternate Mike Gorman had nothing to report in Verona’s stead.

f. **University Staff Lead Senator Juli McGuire** reported that some University Staff Council committee meetings had to be canceled due to the loss of positions. The University Staff Professional Development Committee had sent out a survey to all university staff asking questions related to interest, current professional development activities and existing support, and what role a committee might play. McGuire said that the Council had had another meeting around position reductions with HR and the AS Council; the Council wants to track position counts, reductions, and duties in view of their interest in potential position reinstatement for university staff personnel. She said she would like to know the starting numbers of positions affected by cuts reported, not the number at the time of layoff notices. Associate Vice Chancellor Foy stated that the
task group reports had collected that information and it could be provided in terms of FTE. US Lead Senator McGuire was also concerned that employees be notified prior to the posting of the campus administrative specialist position that their position is at risk, rather than have them try to interpret that by reading the position description. Finally, McGuire asked that the Senate Steering Committee help the University Staff Council note any repercussions to university staff who are working for shared governance. She asked that SSC be aware of and sensitive to any issues and point them out so the Council can help resolve them before major problems are caused for any individual employees because of their role attending meetings or in promoting policies.

g. **SGC President Graham Pearce** reported that UW System Student Reps had been asked to appoint a student rep from a two-year institution to the UW System Seg Fee Work Group and he had been selected. Student Reps has planned a trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with legislators; he and SGC Vice President Martin Sandberg will be attending. The SGC is still looking for an advisor; a determination was made to wait until the solution center positions were in place as they form a major pool to draw from. The Council is expecting the Financial Director to resign and will hold an election for that position when appropriate. SGC President Pearce stated that he had not attended this Board of Regents meeting, but had spoken with Regents about the academic freedom and freedom of expression resolution at a previous time. The basic content seems OK on the surface, but the context, he said, invites some concerns and backlash. He noted that Lamonte Moore, UW-Fond du Lac, a member of the United Council, was one of the student protesters. Pearce will be meeting with Moore to discuss their specific concerns.

h. **UWC Associate Degree and Curricular Reimaging Project Faculty Coordinator Caroline Geary** related that the project is in round two of determining depth requirements. Criteria have been reworked and sent back to departments for feedback; some of which have already responded. She told the committee she has time set aside the next day for department chairs or their designees to contact her for information or to provide feedback. Librarians have created an ad hoc work group to look at the information literacy component of degree reimagining; Geary will be meeting with them tomorrow. Over break a meeting will be held with Senate Assessment Committee to connect the various pieces of assessment. Chair Hassel asked if the project was still following the proposed timeline, and would be bringing a proposal to the Senate in Spring. Faculty Coordinator Geary replied that she had recently discovered an earlier plan to bring the project to the Senate in the Fall. The reimagining group plans to attend various related meetings this spring and summer, including an AAC&U one at the same time as the spring Senate meeting. Since they feel those meetings will shape their work, the Fall timeline would work better. Matt Raunio expressed that it is too important of a project to rush. Chair Hassel stated that the Senate has a lot going on with regionalization, and the Reimaginging Project needs time to be completed. Provost Lampe agreed with the change, saying that the project needs time to ensure good planning and that they are in the best place possible for introducing changes. There was consensus that the UWC Associate Degree and Curricular Reimaging Project will be on the Senate agenda in the Fall.

5. **Business**
a. **Academic calendar/Spring meeting day.** Chairs’ Rep Greg Ahrenhoerster reminded the committee that the question was about scheduling a non-class day in the Spring semester to be used for academic department meetings. Several academic departments have agreed to a test run of a single day meeting March 11 at UW-Fond du Lac; Provost Lampe has asked Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Colleen Godfriaux and Director of Budget and Planning Teague Mawer to help determine how much the change saves. Julianna Alitto asked if department chairs should be surveyed to ensure enough work could be accomplished in a single day. Ahrenhoerster reminded the SSC that it was the chairs who had proposed the one-day meeting as a cost saving measure estimated to save $30,000. Work that must be done face to face would be prioritized for that day, with other items being dealt with utilizing technology. The Chairs’ Rep and SSC Chair will look at the 2017-2018 proposed academic calendar and try to find an option for the meeting to bring back to SSC.

b. **Regionalization and assessment synthesis/survey.** SSC Chair Holly Hassel explained that all campuses had held a forum to discuss concerns regarding regionalization and consolidation and documented those concerns. Associate Vice Chancellor Foy, Institutional Assessment Coordinator Valerie Murrenus Pilmaier, and SSC Chair Hassel had generated a summary of that information and were pulling out themes to create questions for a Qualtrix survey. There will be questions specific to campuses and categories, said Hassel, and the survey will be out this week.

c. **SSI Working Group membership.** Jennifer Heinert, Virtual Teaching and Learning Center Director, and Jessica Van Slooten, Gender Equity Coordinator, were noted as being ex-officio members of the working group. There was some discussion of potential members, the size of the committee, and the official charge. Joining Heinert and Van Slooten as ex-officio members are AAS Assessment Coordinator Valerie Murrenus Pilmaier, Academic Department Chairs’ Rep Tricia Clasen, and Thomas Arendalkowski, Learning Designer from CITS who coordinates the implementation of the SSI. Other appointed working group members are Jill Rinzel (Associate Professor, Psychology/Education, UW-Waukesha), Kristin Plessel (Assistant Professor, Chemistry, UW-Rock County), George Waller (Assistant Professor, Political Science, UW-Fox Valley), Gwen Blume (Senior Lecturer, English, UW-Marathon County), and John Hollenbeck (Instructional Designer, UW Colleges Online). The motion to name the slate carried unanimously [Alitto/Raunio]. The SSC also held conversation around the charge for the group, noting that part of the charge should be geared specifically towards Online issues such as SSI return rates, concerns of instructors who are not “lead” instructors, and others noted in the Virtual Campus Investigation Committee recommendations. Hassel will share the charge with SSC for feedback prior to sending it out.

d. **Discuss proposed revision of Senate Bylaws: SSC Chair term begin in June?** Chair Hassel related that it seemed odd to her that the incoming Steering chair did not start their term in June like the academic department chairs. The outgoing SSC chair worked on planning the upcoming year. Former chair Mark Peterson pointed out that the chair does
not receive a stipend over the summer. Hassel and Peterson will create a list of pros and cons and present it to Steering.

e. **Approve 2017-2018 Academic Year Calendar.** A motion to delay consideration on the 2017-2018 academic year calendar until Ahrenhoerster and Hassel put together a proposal regarding a Spring academic department meeting passed unanimously [Peterson/Alitto].

f. **Discuss proposed revision of Senate Bylaws: Allow proxy vote?** SSC Chair Hassel noted that at the last meeting of the UWC Faculty Council two campuses had gone unrepresented in Faculty Council votes. Senate Assistant Linda Baum had later provided Hassel with the information that proxy votes are not allowed in Senate votes, which Hassel said seemed strange when they were used all the time by collegium. Several Steering Committee members related that proxy votes were not used or not allowed for their campus collegiums. Julianna Alitto expressed the fear that allowing proxies could devolve into “phoning it in.” It was noted that voting at Senate and in Council meetings was important, but so was expressing both your view and that of your constituency. Mark Peterson said that the Bylaws were possibly written to articulate that the presence of a senator or their duly recognized alternate, their voice, was more important than a vote. He suggested a quick poll be done to see if the current Senate has a strong opinion. SSC Chair Hassel agreed and will send out a poll to see what the Senate thinks.

6. **Other Business.** There was no other business for the SSC to discuss.

7. **Adjournment.** The December 14, 2015 meeting of the UW Colleges Senate Steering Committee was adjourned by SSC Chair Holly Hassel at 10:16 a.m. when business was concluded.

8. **Action Items**

   a. **Baum** will post the approved minutes of SSC #8 in appropriate electronic files.

   b. **Hassel** will send SSC #8 minutes and chair report #9 to senators and campus steering chairs.

   c. **Hassel** and **Ahrenhoerster** will examine proposed 2017-2018 for possible Spring department meeting date to bring to SSC.

   d. **Hassel** will complete language for SSI Working Group charge and circulate to SSC for feedback. **Hassel** will then inform new members of appointments to working group. **Baum** will populate email distribution list.

   e. **Hassel** and **Peterson** will create pros/cons list regarding June SSC Chair start date for next SSC.

   f. **Hassel** and **Baum** will place approving 2017-2018 AY calendar on upcoming SSC agenda.

   g. **Hassel** will poll Senate regarding use of proxy vote.