University Committee Annual Report, 2005-06

The University Committee (UC) members have been committed to involving the university community, through shared governance, in the discussions leading to our place as an institution of access and research strength.

Committee Chair and Membership:

The 2005-06 University Committee has been composed of professors Scott Emmons (chair), Thomas Holme, John Johnson, Sharon Keigher, Stephen Meyer, Gail Schneider, and Senate Pro tem, Tomas Lipinski.

Supporting Faculty Governance:

The UC has continued its commitment in faculty governance in many ways during the past year. We began the fall working with Associate Vice Chancellor Venugopalan to develop the Chair’s retreat and Brown-Bag series. Monthly Brown-Bag meetings began in October. In addition, the UC membership presented a session called Active Participation in Faculty Governance for the UWM faculty orientation in late-August.

Consultation with UWM and UWS Administration:

The UC has been in close contact with the Chancellor, Provost, UWS Administration, and other UW-Milwaukee administrators regarding faculty issues during this past year.

Specific issues we have discussed include:

• The UC met with UWS President Kevin Riley to discuss UWM’s funding and compensation. Riley presented his views to the UWM Faculty Senate.
• The UC held a teleconference with UWS Vice President Al Crist to discuss compensation issues throughout the system. We specifically asked about the UWS Compensation Committee, which had not been called to meet for nearly two years. We also discussed UWS rankings with the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC).
• The UC discussed with UWM upper-administration ways of finding funds to use in growing UWM’s research profile. These discussions included the development of the Research Growth Initiative (RGI) and planning related to 101-4 funds.
• The UC has monitored, with UWM administration, the UW-System’s Review of Employment Policies and Practices. These include the Proposed UWS Administrative Code 7 (Procedures for Dismissal of Faculty in Special Cases) and the UWS Policy on Criminal Background Checks. We will continue to monitor these activities, and report on your suggestions, as we attend the October and November Regents meetings.
• The UC met with Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate School Abbas Ournazd to discuss the UWM Distinguished Professor program, reorganization plans for the Graduate School, and revisions to the Research Misconduct Policy.
• The UC met with Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate School Abbas Ourmazd to express concern about the Graduate Faculty Research Awards. We suggested ways that he and the Graduate Faculty Council could continue the program and build a metric that could be used to track the program’s success.
• The UC met with the Provost about Post-tenure review. After examining the current practices, we recommended that Deans and Department Chairs remind Department Executive Committees of their responsibilities.
• The UC forwarded Senate concerns (Fac. Doc. 2521) about UWS compensation practices to UWS System Administration and the Governor.
• The UC reaffirmed Senate Fac. Doc. 2459 concerning the constitutional Amendment Banning Civil Unions and Marriage for Gay and Lesbian Citizens of Wisconsin. A letter explaining our Senate stance was sent to the Governor and Board of Regents.
• The UC met with the Provost to make recommendations for distribution of the pay plan.
• The UC agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Chancellor that ensures that the UC is designated to receive all complaints and that there will be no discipline imposed against faculty without peer (FRRRC) review.
• The UC monitored SB 452 concerning collective bargaining for UWS institutions. Several reports were given to the senate about this topic.
• The UC met with members of the Campus Planning Task Force to discuss plans for future campus development.
• The UC also discussed concerns raised by large open-records requests. The UC worked with Vice Chancellor Tom Luljak to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to address our concerns regarding notification of faculty whose correspondence (primarily emails) are released by the Public Records Custodian due to open records requests.
• The UC discussed the Early (academic) Warning System. The UC will encourage the Administration to use as much technology as possible to implement this system. Such an approach will reduce faculty workload related to reporting information and provide faculty with new resources to enhance teaching.

Academic and Administrative Policy Development and Review:

• The UC worked with the Senate, the Graduate School, the Provost, and IRB members to develop policies and procedures for the IRB. Director of Environmental Health Safety and Risk Management John Krezoski will be presenting draft guidelines in an upcoming Senate meeting.
• The UC worked with Graduate School Administration and Faculty Senate Members to craft and pass the Research Misconduct Policy.
• The UC worked with FRRRC and Senate to pass a revised Discriminatory Conduct policy (SAAP S-47).
• At the request of the Rules Committee, the UC formed an Ad Hoc Committee to review our Divisional Committee structure. Specifically, Professions has become quite large with respect to the other three Divisions which has created workload issues. The Ad Hoc Committee made recommendations to the UC and Senate on items such as: Divisional involvement in promotion to full professor; the propensity of Divisional Committees to conduct de novo reviews of department actions; and potential revisions of the current structure.
UC Liaison/Networking Activities:

- The UC is currently continuing its annual summer and fall activity of staffing committees. Please help in any way you can to convince faculty members of the importance of involvement in governance activities. Wisconsin is rare in that shared governance is the law! We need to do all we can to involve ourselves in this process so that we may work together with our administrators to build UWM into the institution that we all want it to be!