Recommendation of the University Committee to Revise UWM Policies and Procedures A3.9 University Committee.

RATIONALE:

Present UWM Faculty Policies and Procedures does not preclude a non-tenured faculty member from being elected to the University Committee. One of the major functions of the University Committee is the executive committee of the faculty senate and consequently its members are asked to render personnel decisions.

A non-tenured university committee member would need to recuse him or herself from any and all personnel issues addressed by the University Committee.

In addition, the present policy is ambiguous insofar as to whether all elections, including regular and special elections of University Committee members must include a primary election. This ambiguity in language has resulted in different interpretations and procedures being used in University Committee member elections.

Given that time is often of the essence in special elections, the need for a primary election for special elections was not specified.

Therefore the University Committee offers the following proposed changes.

A3.9 University Committee

(1) Membership.

a) Seven tenured faculty members as follows: six elected faculty members and the President pro tem of the Senate. No more than three of the members shall be from a single school, college, or equivalent academic unit. No more than one member shall be from a single department in a departmentalized school or college.

For all regular elections of members to the University Committee, a primary election shall be held. The final election ballot will contain twice as many nominees as there are individuals to be elected, such nominees to be chosen in descending order from the one who received the greatest number of votes in the primary election. The provisions above concerning membership distribution shall be honored. Vacancies in the University Committee membership are to be filled as soon thereafter as possible, by special election, through preparation of a special slate of nominees prepared by the Nominations Committee and permitting nominations from the university faculty followed by a mail ballot. The membership that results from the filling of this vacancy will follow the
membership composition restrictions of the University Committee with respect to school/college and departmental affiliation as cited in A3.9 (1) (a). 

The Committee annually elects a chairperson-elect from those having at least one more year to serve as a Committee member. The chairperson-elect serves as chairperson the year following his/her election.

(Document 2477, 05/17/05; UWM Administration, 08/16/05) 

(2) Functions.

a) Serves as the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and in that capacity performs those functions which may be delegated to it by the Senate. Takes action representing faculty interests and prerogatives within the jurisdiction of the Senate when the Senate is not in session. Such actions are reported to the Senate at its next regular meeting for ratification or other appropriate action.

b) Examines any actions taken respecting the UWM campus by the Board of Regents, the various faculties or faculty committees, or by other bodies or individuals related to the university faculty, and makes recommendation as appropriate.

c) On its own initiative, studies educational policy matters which are within the jurisdiction of the university faculty and makes recommendations to the Faculty thereon. To the extent feasible, the committee performs this function in consultation with other appropriate faculty committees.

d) On its own initiative, or upon request, advises the Administration on the implementation of faculty action.

e) Consults with appropriate administrative officers at campus level or above on budget matters and reports thereon to the faculty.

f) In consultation with the Rules Committee prepares the agenda for committee of the whole discussions concerning matters of general interest to the university faculty.

g) Makes an annual report at the Faculty Senate=s first regular meeting of the academic year, and regularly submits to the Secretary of the University its minutes on all matters except those matters considered in closed session as permitted by 19.85, Wis. Stats.

h) Advises the Chancellor on the membership on any campus search and screen committee which involves the faculty in making nominations for appointments
to major university administrative positions as specified in 6.05, and represents
the faculty on any system wide search and screen procedures.

Advises the faculty and the administration on those questions
congering the operation of faculty governance which are within the jurisdiction
of the university faculty.

Receives grievances and complaints by or against members of the
faculty and refers these grievances or complaints to the appropriate faculty
standing committee.

Receive notification within five (5) working days from administrators when
they, after conducting preliminary investigations, have grievances or complaints
against faculty member(s) that may lead to discipline.

(Document 1016, 3/17/77; UWM Administration approval, 3/30/77)
(Document 1076, 3/21/76; UWM Administration approval, 3/28/78)
(Editorially revised, 5/13/92)
(Document 2424), 4/15/04; UWM Administration approval, 4/26/04) (Document
2477), 3/17/05; UWM Administration, 08/16/05)