University Committee Annual Report, 2006-07

The University Committee (UC) continued its long standing tradition of involving the university community, through shared governance, in the discussions and decision making designed to strengthen the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee’s instructional, research and service missions. The UC met weekly on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. during the academic year; during the summer (June 22 through August 7th, 2007) biweekly meetings were held.

Committee Chair and Membership:

The 2006-07 University Committee was composed of Professors, John (Jack) Johnson (Chair), Janet Lilly, Stephen Meyer, Erika Sander (replaced Scott Emmons), Mark Schwartz, Cindy Walker (replaced Gail Schneider) and Senate Pro tem, John Ndon.

Supporting Faculty Governance:

The UC continued its commitment to faculty governance during the 2006-2007 AY. The UC gave presentations at the Chair’s retreat, new faculty orientation and at the Academic Staff sponsored in service on Evaluation Workshop for Supervisors - Assessing Academic Staff. The UC also developed a comprehensive plan to restore support in the Secretary of the University office for faculty governance committees. These changes were agreed to by the Provost’s office, but implementation has been suspended due to budgetary concerns. This remains a critical governance issue and the UC will continue to advocate increased financial support so as to ensure faculty governance. The UC consulted with a number of Deans, Department Chairs, and regular faculty members regarding personnel matters during the year.

Consultation with UWM and UWS Administration:

The UC remained in close communication with the Chancellor, Provost, UWS Administration, and other UW-Milwaukee administrators regarding faculty issues during this past year. The UC met with the Provost every two weeks (the Chair met with the Provost during alternate weeks), and with the Chancellor monthly during the academic year.

Specific issues discussed:

1. The UC consulted with campus administration and various faculty committees to reach agreement on pay plan guidelines for 2007-2009, a revised workload policy, and the 2007-2008 sabbatical program guidelines.
2. The UC worked closely with the Chancellor and Provost to recommend faculty to serve on various university wide committees.
3. The UC met several times with various faculty, executive committees and members of campus legal affairs, to discuss faculty rights and responsibilities.
4. The UC met with various campus administrators and committees on issues surrounding the realignment of various graduate curriculum committees into faculty standing committees.
Academic and Administrative Policy Development, Review and Discussion:

The UC worked with various faculty committees, the Faculty Senate, and various administrators on the creation of numerous policy and procedural documents. Highlights include:

1. Resolution on Proposed UWS Administrative Code Chapter 7 (Procedures for Dismissal of Faculty in Special Cases).
2. Changes to Freshman Admission Policy Statement. Admissions & Records Policy
3. Creation of Faculty Senate Resolution on Proposed UWS Policy Statement on Establishing and Implementing Criminal Background Check Policies and practices.
4. Changes to UW System sick leave policy.
5. Changes to Faculty Workload Policy.
6. Revisions to UWM Policies and Procedures regarding Graduate Faculty Committees.
8. Changes to UWM Policies and Procedures subsection 6.27 Faculty Standing Subcommittee and Limited Term Subcommittee Membership.
9. Establishment of policy of on rendering decisions on tenure by departmental executive committees.

The UC in addition to creating, proposing and advocating numerous faculty policy and procedural changes also supported open and candid discussions on an array of issues. Highlights of these discussion topics include:

1. UWS Administrative Code Chapter 7 (Procedures for Dismissal of Faculty in Special Cases) and Chapter 11.
2. Criminal Background Check Policy.
3. Distinguished Professorships at UW-Milwaukee.
4. Campus Research Funding
5. Master and Academic Planning Exercises
6. Procedural changes to the IRB.
UC Liaison/Networking Activities:

The UC is currently continuing the annual exercise of staffing committees. The UC urges all faculty to be involved in governance activities. As a campus and a university system we are fortunate that faculty governance is guaranteed by our state constitution. All faculty need to actively support and encourage faculty governance at the campus and system levels.