University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

University Committee
2007-2008 Annual Report

Members:

Donald Solomon  Assoc  Mathematical Sci
Cindy Walker  Assoc  Educational Psych
Janet Lilly  Assoc  Dance
Mark Schwartz  Prof  Geography
Erika Sander  Assoc  Human Mov Sci.
John Johnson, Chair  Prof  Communication
Thomas Walker  Assoc  Information Studies

Charter: Functions/Responsibilities:

University Committee Composition and Function
A3.9 University Committee

Membership.
Seven 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 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.

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.

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).

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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.

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 concerning 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;
2007 – 2008 Activities

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.

Supporting Faculty Governance:

The UC continued its commitment to faculty governance during the 2007-2008 AY. The UC gave presentations at the Chair’s retreat and at the new faculty orientation. The UC also developed a comprehensive plan to restore support in the Secretary of the University office for faculty governance committees. These changes were discussed with both the Provost and Chancellor. The Chancellor has agreed to create a small working group to review the issue and formulate a plan to address the problems. 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 2007-2008, DIN II, 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 including four dean search committees and the academic and master planning 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 and the role of academic deans in faculty hiring decision making.
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. Revision of Academic Approval Matrix to reflect faculty and administrative concerns regarding various committee participation/review and timeliness of the review process.

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. Resolution regarding changes to UWS Fringe Benefits Advisory Committee concerning Changes to UW System sick leave policy.


7. Changes to UWM Policies and Procedures subsection 6.27 Faculty Standing Subcommittee and Limited Term Subcommittee Membership.

8. Changes to present policy of on rendering decisions on tenure by departmental executive committees.

9. Changes and clarification to policies related to handling complaints against faculty and executive committees. Creation of policy on “Managing Complaints Against Faculty”. The UC distributed this document to all department chairs at the retreat in late August.

10. Changes and clarification to policies related to promotion to Full Professor. The UC will seek Faculty Senate approval of this document during the 2008-2009 AY.

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


7. Establishment of academic programs within proposed Schools of Public Health and Freshwater Sciences.

8. Athletic Board charter and by-laws

9. Cluster Hires and Undergraduate Research Experiences

10. UW Milwaukee collective bargaining resolution/statement.

**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.

**Meetings:**

The UC met weekly on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. during the academic year (August 13, 2007 to May 27, 2008). During the summer (June 10 through August 5th, 2008) biweekly meetings were held.