University Committee Composition and Function
A3.9 University Committee

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. All UC members are automatically Faculty Senators.

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.

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.

b) Vacancies in the University Committee membership are to be filled as soon thereafter as possible. If the vacancy cannot be filled within the regular annual committee elections process as specified in 6.24(1&6), then a special election will be held through preparation of a special slate of
nominees by the Nominations Committee and permitting nominations from the university faculty followed by a mail ballot. If the special slate has more than two nominees for an available position, a final election will be conducted as specified in A3.9(1)(a). 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, 5/17/05; UWM Administration, 08/16/05)
(Document 2560, 2/15/07; UWM Administration, 2/21/07)
(Document 2659, 5/14/09; UWM Administration, 4/6/09)
(Document 2716, 4/15/10; UWM Administration, 4/20/10)

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.

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

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

k) Receive notification within five 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)

Meetings:

The University Committee (UC) met every week on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00pm until approximately 4:30pm during the Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 semesters. During winter break and during the summer, the UC met roughly every other week.

Summary of Actions:

1. The UC met regularly with Interim Provost Britz (about every other week) and Interim Chancellor (after April, Chancellor) Lovell (about every month) during the year in order to keep communication flowing on important campus issues.

2. The UC meet with VC and Graduate Dean Colin Scanes regarding the proposed campus strategic research planning effort during the Fall 2010 semester.

3. UC Chair Schwartz sent a letter to the Journal Sentinel (J-S) Editors, in response to their editorials published in August 2010 regarding faculty governance and the Chancellor Search process. The letter was published in the
J-S, and the Senate unanimously endorsed this letter. The J-S Editorial Board subsequently agreed to meet the UC to further discuss this matter. That meeting (with Ricardo Pimentel and David Haynes) took place on November 9th and was a frank and pleasant exchange. The UC and the J-S Editors plan to continue the dialog with future meetings.

4. After Chancellor Santiago’s resignation announcement in mid-August 2010, UC Chair Schwartz immediately contacted System President Reilly. The UC meet in an emergency session later that week and provided guidance to President Reilly regarding the strengths and weaknesses of potential candidates for interim Chancellor. Subsequently, the UC worked to identify faculty nominees to serve on the Chancellor Search and Screen Committee. Twenty-four faculty names were submitted to President Reilly, and he then selected at least 12 of these to serve on the committee. The Search Committee was announced in October, and UC Chair Schwartz agreed to also be Chair of the Chancellor Search and Screen Committee. President Reilly attended the Faculty Senate meeting in October and participated in a Committee-of-the-Whole discussion of the chancellor search process, position description, and candidate qualifications.

5. The UC provided the interim Provost with faculty nominees to serve on the search and screen committees for the founding Dean of the School of Public Health, and for the Assoc. VC for Diversity and Climate, as well as a UC representative for the EDS Director screening committee.

6. The UC and Secretary of the University hosted a lunch for newly tenured faculty members in Fall 2010. The purpose was to answer their questions about faculty governance and encourage them to be active participants in it.

7. Given widely different practices across campus, as well as conflicting interpretations of the guiding policy, S-51, the UC undertook a process starting in summer 2010 to create a new policy to replace S-51. The UC solicited input from the Academic Deans Council, Academic Staff Committee, the Interim Provost, and Administration budget officers. The proposed new policy was considered and rejected by the Faculty Senate in September 2010. The UC proceeded with the appointment of a special faculty committee to study summer compensation, as per the Senate’s instructions. The special faculty committee (Dick Marcus and Genni McBride served as co-chairs) to study summer compensation fulfilled it charge by delivering a proposal which the Faculty Senate approved (with amendments) in Spring 2011. However, Academic Staff objected to their lack of input, and Academic Deans voiced additional concerns with the version passed by the Faculty Senate. Hence, UC Chair Schwartz led an ad-hoc working group composed of UC members, Academic staff representatives, and Dean representatives during Summer 2011 to consider revisions. A revised draft of the proposed S-51 policy was unanimously agreed to by the work group, and was delivered for consideration by the Faculty Senate, Academic Staff Senate, Dean’s Council, and Policy Advisory Committee in August 2011.
8. UC Chair Schwartz helped organize and moderated several campus-wide forums (with other campus leadership) to address the extraordinary legislative events in February 2011.

9. The UC continued to monitor developments on the State political landscape, as well as reactions by both UW System administration and the UW Board of Regents after mid-February 2011. The University Committee unanimously approved and transmitted a statement on behalf of the Faculty Senate to all faculty in February 2011, responding to Governor Walker’s budget repair proposal. This message was also sent to key legislators and the media, and was included in abbreviated form as a letter to the editor in the Journal-Sentinel. UC Chair Schwartz had a brief discussion with the Editorial page editor, David Haynes, and he subsequently included some supportive comments in the general editorial published that same day. The Faculty Senate endorsed the statement. Subsequently, a joint resolution approved by the UC and the Executive Committee of the MGAA (asserting the value and need to defend academic freedom) was endorsed by the Faculty Senate. Further, the UC approved a statement of behalf of the Faculty Senate on April 25, 2011, and transmitted it to the Governor and key legislators, regarding the need for them to support filling and not freeze vacant faculty positions. This statement was subsequently endorsed by the Faculty Senate.

10. The UC attempted to work with Chancellor Lovell to get a Transportation Task Force (that the UC initially requested be formed in summer 2010 [in consultation with the PEC and Transportation sub-committee]) appointed, but was not successful. The UC has been assured by Chancellor Lovell that he will continue to work with the UC to address this matter in 2011-2012.

11. The UC met with VC Patricia Borger in order to better understand the strategy and individuals involved in campus fund raising. Subsequently, the UC, after consultation with VC for Development Pat Borger, created a new UW-Milwaukee Foundation account, called the “UWM Graduate Assistant Competitive Edge Fund” which is designed to increase private support in an attempt to replace lost state government funding and offer more competitive graduate assistant compensation packages. The UC received the Senate’s endorsement of this funding effort, with some modifications in implementation. The Graduate Assistant Competitive Edge Fund is being implemented. The first distribution (assuming funds are sufficient) is planned for shortly after October 1, 2011.

12. The University Committee (UC) began meeting regularly in mid-March 2011 with a representative of the Milwaukee Graduate Assistant Association (MGAA), in order to ensure that there is clear communication and recognition of joint issues. As a product of that discussion, the UC approved, on behalf of the
Faculty Senate, a joint resolution with the MGAA Executive Committee, which was subsequently endorsed by the Faculty Senate.

13. Given the likelihood of common issues, the UC started regular communication and exchange of ideas with the UW-Madison University Committee in December 2010. UC Chair Schwartz consulted regularly with the UW-Madison UC Chair Prof. Judith Burstyn, given the complex issues facing both of our campuses. In a remarkable (if not unprecedented) display of collegiality, the UW-Madison UC Chair, and several other Madison faculty and staff, traveled to our campus to meet with our UC in mid-March 2011. A wide-range of issues was discussed, related to the “Budget Repair” legislation, and the proposed biennial budget. The group agreed that there are many potential areas where cooperation between our two campus faculties would be beneficial.

14. The UC looked into the possibility of forming an organization to publicly represent the Faculty Senate. Given recent events, the UC was convinced that the time had come to fully explore this avenue of expanding the influence of UW-Milwaukee faculty governance. The Faculty Senate authorized a survey of the entire Faculty on this matter, resulting in 25% of all faculty (approximately 70% of those responding) favoring the formation of such an organization and being willing to financially contribute to it voluntarily. At the May 2011 meeting the Faculty Senate authorized the UC to form a non-profit 501 (c) (6) organization called MORFS (Milwaukee Organization Representing the Faculty Senate) to publicly represent the Faculty Senate, noting that the name and the Charter would be subject to additional review before the organization was actually formed. The organization will not become active unless at least 50% of all UW-Milwaukee Faculty initially agreed to voluntarily support it financially.

15. UC Chair Schwartz agreed to represent the faculty on a “Shared Governance Advisory Committee” which is being created by the Student Association in order to expand policies and procedures for student government.

16. The UC sympathized with UW-System President Reilly, and expressed contempt for the Governor’s proposed “State Employee Recognition” program in an email message that was sent to all faculty, and copied to the Governor and System President in April 2011.

17. The UC met with new Regent President Michael Spector on July 19th and System President Kevin Reilly on August 2nd to discuss on-going concerns regarding the inadequate funding of UW-Milwaukee given its mission as a research and access university. President Reilly agreed with our assessment and agreed to work with us to look for ways to improve the situation and move forward positively.