University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

University Committee
2013-2014 Annual Report

Members:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Margo Anderson</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lane Hall</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra McLellan ³</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>Freshwater Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devendra Misra ²</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>Electrical Engineering</td>
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<td>Marcia Parsons ¹</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Reisel **</td>
<td>Assoc</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark D. Schwartz, Chair</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>Geography</td>
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** President pro tem of the Senate
¹ Repl W. Holahan (2014-E)
² Repl C. Walker (2014-E)
³ Repl C. Walker (2016-E)

Charter:
Functions/ Responsibilities:

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 2013 and Spring 2014 semesters. During winter break and during the summer, the UC met roughly every other week.

Summary of Actions:

1. The UC met regularly with Provost Britz (about every other week) and Chancellor Lovell (about every month) through May and then with Interim Chancellor Mone from May-August during the year in order to keep communication flowing on important campus issues.

2. The UC consulted with the Provost on faculty nominees to serve on the reconstituted School of Information Studies (SOIS) Dean, the School of Education Dean and the Vice Provost for Research Search Committees.

3. UC members had a useful discussion with the Journal Sentinel Editorial Board and Karen Herzog-Daykin (the reporter assigned to higher education issues) at their offices
on Tuesday afternoon, November 12, 2013. All agreed that a better job could be done in telling the story of the positive impacts that UW-Milwaukee has on Southeastern Wisconsin and the entire State. The UC continued to press the Journal Sentinel staff to take action on this issue.

4. The UW-System Board of Regents held a series of panel discussions during their meeting on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 5th, in Madison. Members of the UC were present at that meeting and heard a number of pointed comments from many of the invited legislators. While covering a variety of university operational issues, the most disturbing comments indicated their apparent misunderstanding of the positive role our shared governance system has played historically and in the on-going building of the UW-System. In response to these comments, UW-System administrators gathered concrete examples of the positive impacts of our shared governance system from all campuses. However, they hesitated to issue any internal comments about the situation. Given this silence, the UC felt it crucial to communicate quickly to our campus. Thus, the UC worked collaboratively with both the Academic Staff Committee and the Chancellor to send our campus a joint message on Thursday Sept. 19th, clearly stating our mutual commitments to, and value of, shared governance as we practice it here.

5. Several Senators provided feedback to a draft “Statement on Shared Governance” initially presented by the UC at the October Senate meeting. The Senate endorsed the revised statement at the November Senate meeting.

6. In November, the Legislative Audit Bureau completed a report on the “Level of Commitment for University of Wisconsin System Program Revenue Balances” as a consequence of the carry-over balance debacle from last spring. Despite the very negative headline and tone of the article about this audit that appeared in the Journal-Sentinel (“Audit finds no documented uses for 19% of UW cash balances”, from November 15, 2013), this report was in fact very positive and in many ways, possibly even vindicating. The UC underscored for faculty senators the contrast between what was in the J-S article and what was in the actual report. First, indeed, $142.2m (18.8% of $755.4m) of the program revenue balances were “undocumented”, and only 35.8m (4.7%) were designated as “reserves”. However, of this $142.2m, $122.6m of these so-called “undocumented” balances are in fact Federal Indirect Cost Reimbursements, which are provided by the federal government to support university infrastructure to carry out projects funded by grants. Further, of the $122.6m, UW-Madison had $97.9m (80%) of this. Only $19.6m of these “undocumented” funds are from student fees System-wide. One could reasonably argue that all indirect cost funds are actually reserves designed to support/insure university infrastructure, and moreover that they come to the campuses because of the positive reputation of our faculty and staff. Another thing that the J-S story did not do was highlight how the UW-Milwaukee “story” in regard to these revenue balances is quite strikingly different. First, of the $88.6m in Program Revenue balances at UW-Milwaukee, $2.5m (2.8%) were “reserves” and $6.3m (7.1%) were “undocumented”. However, for UW-Milwaukee, all of this $6.3m was Federal Indirect Cost Reimbursements, i.e. NONE came from student fees. Finally, the report also showed that UW-Milwaukee’s program revenue balance actually DECLINED by 2.5%
from June 30, 2012 to June 30, 2013. So this audit further documents the precarious state of financial support for the entire UW-System, but especially for our campus.

7. UC members had a useful exchange with Journal Sentinel reporter Karen Herzog-Daykin (the reporter assigned to higher education issues) prior to the release of an article she co-authored on December 5, 2013, entitled “UW, UWM scramble to ward off suitors for top professors.” The UC appears to have had a positive impact on the final form of the story, which did a good job of accurately characterizing some aspects of the financial difficulties our campus faces when dealing with outside offers to faculty, both overall and in comparison to UW-Madison. The J-S article also appeared to stimulate several other news articles that ran over the past weeks across the State and further reinforced the message that UW-System faculty salaries are far below national averages.

8. In December the UC’s new web page “www.ucnews.uwm.edu” went live, with the goal of improving the UC’s ability to communicate with and provide timely information to the entire faculty.

9. Throughout the year, the UC continually communicated our deep concern about the continued steep decline in overall campus enrollment, the lack of detailed information and analyses about it, and the critical need for a coordinated strategy to stabilize the situation to campus administration.

10. Mark Harris (Interim Vice Provost for Research) met with the UC in February, and we talked about the lack of movement on the recommended increases in TA and PA support. Our campus pay rates are not competitive with our peer institutions at this point. Providing competitive graduate stipend rates is one of our big challenges for both top tier research as well as undergraduate teaching. The UC also asked how we can clarify budgetary procedures in order to stabilize graduate enrollment. We estimate that there are over 1,000 TAs on campus, so this is clearly a significant issue.

11. Also in February we had a very productive discussion about physical plant concerns with Greg Adams, Director of Facility Services, starting with the multiple issues confronting occupants in Bolton Hall. It is clear that State protocols and project scheduling are extremely complex, and typically not designed nor scheduled from the user point of view. Greg emphasized that his unit is committed to resolving issues as quickly as possible and encouraged persons with concerns to contact him or his staff directly. We also discussed issues of physical plant staffing, moves towards more use of “green” cleaning products and concern about the general cleanliness of campus and buildings.

12. The UC continued to discuss concerns related to UW-Milwaukee's status as an underfunded campus and enrollment management throughout the year with campus administrators. We seem to be funded as if we were a research university with only about 16,000 students. Faculty retention is a major problem and a number of highly productive faculty were aggressively recruited to leave us for other universities during the year. On the enrollment front, the campus created an “admitted student team” which appeared to help with our yield of students. We also discussed the “tuition plateau,”
meaning the amount of credits one is able to take as a full time student. A model where credits all cost the same amount as opposed to the current system of categories seems worth exploring.

13. The UC worked with Graduate Assistants in creating a resolution that speaks to our mutual concerns about their low compensation levels. That resolution was approved by the Faculty Senate in March.

14. We met with Senate Minority Leader Chris Larson in March and discussed flexibility regarding resources and resource allocation and how to better relate understanding of UW-Milwaukee's situation to the Legislature. We also talked about a “Higher Ed, Lower Debt” campaign regarding financing student loans that Senate Democrats are putting forward.

15. The UC met with Vice Chancellor Robin Van Harpen and Associate Vice Chancellor Jerry Tarrer in late March and had a tutorial and discussion about UW-Milwaukee's fiscal status and outlook.

16. In late March, Michael Lovell announced that he would resign as Chancellor of UW-Milwaukee in order to accept appointment as President of Marquette University. In response, the UC issued several statements to the campus (these can be found on the UCNews web page). The UC remained committed to finding ways to move forward, and to continue working to get the true story of our campus accomplishments and fiscal challenges across to state government leaders and the public. An editorial by the Journal-Sentinel on Sunday, April 5th was probably the best and most complete description and expression of support for our situation to appear in the press over the past few years.

17. In April, Governor Walker called for another biennium extension of the tuition freeze. The UC discussed that call and all of its related issues with recently appointed UW-System President Cross.

18. The UC corresponded with President Cross regarding both appointment of an interim Chancellor, and nominations for faculty to serve on the new chancellor search committee. The announcement of Mark Mone as interim chancellor was made by President Cross on Tuesday, April 22nd at 2:00pm in the Union Fireside Lounge. The UC put out a general call for nominations of faculty willing to serve on the chancellor search committee. President Cross asked the UC to forward twenty-eight names of faculty who would best represent the campus and reflect all levels of its diversity, by Tuesday, April 29th. He then announced his selection of fourteen faculty to serve on the committee, along with thirteen other individuals from various groups on May 5th. UC Chair Schwartz agreed to Chair this committee. The search committee did some logistical work during the summer, but the bulk of the work will be done in the fall 2014 semester, with the goal of making recommendations of candidates to the Regents Special Committee by mid-December 2014.

19. President Cross addressed and answered questions from the Faculty Senate at the May 8th meeting.
20. The UC released a statement on Saturday May 3rd on our UCNews web page regarding the campus transition in leadership and desperate need for funding at a level commensurate with our size and mission, entitled “UW-Milwaukee: Securing the Present Allows Reaching for the Future.” We sent a message announcing this statement to all campus faculty encouraging them to visit the web page to read the statement, use it as a resource, and let others know about it. We also sent notice of it to President Cross and Regent President Falbo, as well as UWM administration. The Journal-Sentinel published the statement as an opinion piece on May 17th entitled “UWM Need Fair Balance of Resources”.

21. Over the summer the UC hosted two “Town Hall Meetings” (one on June 3rd and the other on July 30th) in order to hear from faculty, staff, and students, as well as provide updates and information about the campus strategic situation, and discuss external communication strategy. Transcripts and other documents related to these meeting are posted on the UCNews web page.