Members:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Brondino</td>
<td>Assoc</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Reisel</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margo Anderson</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra McLellan</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>Freshwater Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lane Hall</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Schwartz, Chair</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>Geography</td>
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<td>Luc Vanier</td>
<td>Assoc</td>
<td>Dance</td>
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** President pro tem of the Senate
1 Repl C. Walker (2014-E)

Charter:

Functions/ Responsibilities:

University Committee Composition and Function
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. 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)

(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.

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 4:00pm during the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 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 Interim Chancellor (August-December) and then Chancellor (December onward) Mone (about every month) 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 College of Health Sciences Dean Search Committee.

3. When it appeared that the Voter ID law would be reinstated for the November 2014 election, the UC challenged campus administration to make sure that all UW-Milwaukee students had the information (and in some cases new ID cards and other documents) they would need in order to successfully vote. We requested that campus administration provide and staff a Voter ID information booth/table in some prominent location in the Union to help students understand the issues involved, make sure they know where to get their IDs and enrollment verification information, as well as ideally how and where to register and vote. We further requested that email/text messages be sent to all campus explaining this issue, so that all faculty/staff can also be well-informed and serve as resources for students (and other affected individuals) on this matter. However, the U.S. Supreme Court intervened and suspended implementation of the Wisconsin Voter ID law for the November 2014 election.

4. In Fall 2014, the UC continued to push campus and system administration to come up with a plan to improve our non-competitive faculty and staff salaries. In collaboration with the Economic Benefits Committee, we asked Human Resources and VC Robin van Harpen to prepare peer comparison salary numbers by unit across campus, and devise a strategy for moving forward on this crucial issue, with the support of interim Chancellor Mone.

5. In Fall 2014, when the story broke about the questionable recruitment practices at one of UW-Milwaukee’s charter schools, the UC began gathering information about the situation. We met with Milwaukee Teachers’ Education Association President Bob Peterson to hear his perspectives. We also engaged in dialog with the
Director of the Office of Charter Schools, Ms. Adrienne Woods, and Interim Dean of the School of Education Barb Daley. We asked questions about the benefits of charter schools, how quality is ensured, and how much authority UWM has over the actions of the schools it charters. We wanted to know what can be done to avoid future repletion of the embarrassing revelation about the practices at Urban Day School. On that last point, we were assured that the Office of Charter Schools Advisory Committee would directly address this matter.

6. When the TKE fraternity story broke in Fall 2014, the UC was deeply concerned about this incident, and involved in conversations about it and related matters with campus administration. As of Oct. 8, 2014, UWM had revoked recognition of TKE as a UWM affiliated organization, though TKE may appeal this decision after two years. Toxicology and forensic reports were not available due to procedural issues beyond UWM’s control. Allegations regarding the reasons for hand-marking party attendees were clarified, and the rumors of the markings as part of a predatory scheme appeared to be false. Interim Chancellor Mone reviewed with the UC plans for the development of a Chancellor’s Task Force on sexual assault and prevention, and also discussed hopes to build more awareness about student drinking in general, as well as efficacy on both internal and external communications regarding these important social issues.

7. The UC continued to advocate throughout the year for an increase in Teaching Assistant salaries, in keeping with last year’s Senate resolution in support of such action. We viewed this issue as a fundamental component of our campus strategic initiatives, and asked the Academic Planning and Budget Committee to help us move forward on this issue.

8. The UC welcomed David Haynes and Ernie Franzen of the Journal-Sentinel Editorial Board, along with Reporter Karen Herzog at our meeting on November 11th. We had an informative and wide-ranging discussion that included: 1) funding formulas for UW-System campuses and related issues; 2) consequences and outlook for the future regarding Mike Lovell’s move to Marquette; 3) effects of budget cuts to campus and the need for community support; and 4) lack of understanding by legislators and others about the connection of research to overall education, as well as the entire range of contributions that a research university provides to its local community and region.

9. The Chancellor Search Committee met with the Regent’s Special Committee and System President on November 18, 2014, and made recommendation of candidates for the position. The public announcement of the three finalist was made by President Cross on November 19th. As reported by the Journal-Sentinel, two others recommend by our campus search committee withdrew. Campus visits by the finalists took place as follows: (Mark Mone--Monday, November 24th), and the first week of December (Gail Hackett--Monday December 1st and Mike Sherman--Wednesday December 3rd). The UC encouraged all faculty to take advantage of the opportunity to interact with candidates during their visits. Public talks on the days of the visits were given by each candidate, starting at 2pm in the Union Wisconsin Room. These talks were live streamed and recorded for those who couldn’t attend in person. Campus feedback was gathered by web form and reported to the Regent’s Special Committee on December 9th, prior to their interviews of the finalists on December 10th.

10. In December, the UC congratulated Mark Mone on his new appointment as our chancellor. We expressed interest in continuing our collaborative relationship and working together on the many challenging issues confronting UWM.

11. Also in December, the UC met with a faculty member who raised concerns about campus safety in the evening hours, especially noting that staff and faculty cannot take the B.O.S.S. (“Be On the Safe Side”) buses due to how that program is funded. This led us to a broader discussion about “disaggregated budgets” and the need to think through solutions to these types of campus-wide issues more holistically. In this case, we need
“evening safe transit” for all of the UWM community. The UC pushed for resolution of this issue with campus administrators.

12. The UC began to hear rumors in late December about potential changes to shared governance in State Law (Chapter 36), as well as potentially large budget cuts for the entire UW-System. After confirmation of the rumors in late January, and with release of the Governor’s Budget proposal in early February, the UC began working on actions. The UC first issued a statement on the value of shared governance. Next was a 700-word op-ed, which appeared in the Sunday (Feb. 1st 2015) edition of the Journal-Sentinel. We started heavily using our UCNews web page to post statements from other UW-System faculty governance bodies, budget-related news articles, and information about the Budget Proposal and its implication, including a PowerPoint summary.

13. The UC issued a statement on February 24, 2015, affirming our unwavering support for Chapter 36 remaining unaltered in State Statutes, questioning the Public Authority proposal, and opposing the budgets cuts and their brutal impacts. Secondly, we endorsed a UW-Madison Faculty Senate Resolution (FD 2550, approved March 2, 2015) further questioning the Public Authority proposal. The UC also submitted two resolutions for consideration at the March 12th Faculty Senate Meeting. The first stated our opposition to the proposed removal of the protections for Downer Woods and the Downer College buildings. The second resolution was a stronger statement regarding the Public Authority proposal.

14. The University Committee prepared a document on April 8th which chronicled developments since the start of this semester in regards to the Governor’s budget proposal, directed questions regarding our situation to the Board or Regents, and asked for a response. We did receive an acknowledgement of receipt from Regent Vice President Regina Millner, but no other response.

15. The UC conducted an email survey of the faculty in late April regarding the VSIP (Voluntary Separation Incentive Program). We received responses from 276 people (about a third of the faculty), and the results were shared on UCNews.

16. On May 12, 2011 the Faculty Senate authorized the UC to take the necessary steps to create a non-profit [501 (c)(6)] corporation called the Milwaukee Organization Representing the Faculty Senate (MORFS, Inc.), designed to be a sister organization to (and mirror the structure and functions of) the Public Representation Organization of the Faculty Senate (PROFS) at UW-Madison, which has the UC as its Board of Directors, is supported by voluntary contributions from individual faculty, and uses these collected funds to lobby on behalf of faculty interests. The Faculty Senate authorization stipulated that MORFS, Inc. was not to be activated until at least 50% of the UW-Milwaukee faculty voluntarily agreed to contribute at least 0.1% of their nine-month salary in support of it. Further, no funds were to be collected before the organization was created and activated. However, despite the existence of a State government procedure to request that MORFS, Inc. be allowed to use payroll deduction to collect funds from willing faculty, the Governor’s administration has refused repeated efforts over the past four years to seriously discuss the matter with UW-System or UW-Milwaukee administration. Thus, little progress had been made in implementing the MORFS, Inc. plan. However, this spring, the UC decided to move forward to create the corporation, approve the initial by-laws, and secure its non-profit status. These steps were all completed in early June, and will allows MORFS, Inc. to be ready for future use by UW-Milwaukee faculty governance. Next year, the UC and the Faculty Senate may wish to revisit the authorization conditions for activating MORFS, Inc., if it appears advantageous to do so.

17. The UC met with State Senator Chris Larson on April 28th, and State Rep. Jonathan Brostoff on May 12th. We discussed the political dynamics of the budget cuts. Both urged us to continue efforts to get the UW-Milwaukee “message” across to the Legislature, even though it is late in the process, and that we need to start
thinking about and working now to position ourselves for better funding in future budgets, beyond the current biennium.

18. In late May the UC responded to and criticized proposed changes to System policies related to chancellor and other executive searches. These were largely aimed at diminishing the role of faculty within these searches.

19. On June 2nd, the UC held an emergency meeting with the Faculty Senate, in which we put forward resolutions regarding tenure and shared governance in response to recommendations coming from the Wisconsin Legislature’s Joint Finance Committee. We also discussed the general dismembering of higher education.

20. On June 11th, the UC issued a statement on behalf of the UW-Milwaukee Faculty Senate, endorsing UW-Madison Faculty Senate Document 2565, which was approved on June 9, 2015.

21. Starting in mid-June, the Chancellor (acting on direction from UW-System) asked the UC to start working on a document that could serve as a guide for developing tenure policy. A draft was adapted from an AAUP policy document regarding academic freedom and tenure, which resulted in the release of an initial “position paper” on July 14th along with a message sent to all faculty (and posted to UCNews) asking for comments. Based on feedback received from faculty, a revised version of the “position paper” was approved and posted on August 11, 2015. The UC held an open forum regarding tenure policy, starting at 11:00am on Thursday, August 13, 2015 to hear feedback and address questions.