University Committee and Faculty Senate Annual Report, 2019-2020

The University Committee (UC) meets weekly (customarily Monday afternoons) during the fall and spring semesters and as needed throughout the summer and during the winter and spring breaks. The Office of the Secretary of the Faculty provides support to the UC. The secretary of the faculty attends all UC meetings and maintains committee records. The chancellor, provost, vice chancellors, and vice provosts are invited to attend open sessions of UC meetings and to keep the committee up-to-date on issues and initiatives.

The last UC annual report was submitted in 2016. The summary of activities below can be considered representative of a typical year. For details on specific topics covered by the UC, see the agendas and minutes: kb.wisc.edu/sof/73567

I. Functions

As the executive committee of the Faculty Senate, the UC has the following functions (as abbreviated from Faculty Policies and Procedures (FPP) 6.54.B.):

- Considers questions concerning the educational interests and policies of the university;
- Advises on procedures and involves the faculty in policy development and decision making;
- Consults with and provides advice to administrative officers on budget matters;
- Prepares the agenda for the faculty senate;
- Makes timely reports to the faculty;
- Appoints and/or advises on the appointment of faculty to committees;
- Serves as the faculty’s grievance committee, except for matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities.

In addition, the UC serves as the board of directors of PROFS, Inc, which is a voluntary, non-profit organization of UW-Madison faculty that advocates before state legislators, the governor, the Board of Regents, members of Congress and the public and represents the interests of the faculty to members of the state legislature and to other officials and state agencies.

II. Issues Addressed

Issues are brought to the UC by members of the faculty, or administration, or by the Academic Staff Executive Committee (ASEC), or the University Staff Central Committee (USCC), or the Associated Students of Madison (ASM), by individuals, or are generated internally within the UC itself. Some of these issues are eventually brought to the senate for action.

The UC reporting year runs from June 1 to May 31. The committee held 40 business meetings in 2019-2020. The UC spent a significant portion of its time on issues related to the following:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has dominated every meeting since mid-March, particularly in regards to the impact in shifting to online instruction, but also testing and other safety protocols. The UC has been holding their meetings online via Blackboard since March 23, 2020.
- The educational interests and policies of the university, including considering questions of policy posed by members of the faculty and administration, communicating with and appointing faculty to committees, and setting the agendas for Faculty Senate meetings.
- The process of joint/shared governance, including representing the interests of the faculty in discussions and follow-through with members of campus and school/college administrations, the UW System Board of Regents and the other campuses of the UW System, the academic staff through
coordination with ASEC, the university staff through coordination with the USCC, and the student body through coordination with ASM.

- **Rule waiver and other requests (see below)** including tenure clock extensions, leaves of absence, grievances, and dual role approvals.
- **Relations with state government**, including responding to and addressing issues related to state legislation and proposals including the biennial budget, the Wisconsin Idea, tenure, shared governance, resource and management flexibilities, tuition revenue generation and caps, out-of-state enrollments, faculty compensation and pay tools. The UC sought input from faculty, staff, students, administration, the UW System Board of Regents, the UW System, and colleagues at other UW campuses concerning the impact of proposed and actual legislative changes.
- **High-level searches (see below)**, including serving on and consulting with search and screen committees for high-level positions.

A. Issues addressed by the Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate business and legislation are summarized below:

- **Reports/policies**
  - In response to audit, clarified that CFRR serves as the impartial hearing officer in dismissal cases (Fac doc 2841)
  - Professor of Practice title approved for academic staff (Fac doc 2870)
  - Approved changes to final grading period to make all grades due 72 hours after the final exam day and provides possibility of an extension for exams during the last three days. (Fac doc 2887 Rev)
  - FPP-specified support for joint appointments (Fac doc 2823)

- **Resolutions, Endorsements, and Support**
  - Supporting the request of ASM to add emergency numbers to Wiscards (Fac doc 2862)
  - Calling for emergency numbers to be added to faculty/staff Wiscards (Fac doc 2880)
  - Objecting to the limited composition of the University of Wisconsin System president search and screen committee (Fac doc 2861),
  - **Our Shared Future**: acknowledging the entwined history of UW-Madison and the Ho-Chunk Nation (Fac doc 2893)
  - Supporting UW-Madison DACA employees (Fac doc 2894)
  - Celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Sifting and Winnowing statement (Fac doc 2853)

- **Academic departmental changes.**
  - Discontinuation of the Department of Engineering Professional Development (Fac doc 2858)
  - Name change for the School of Social Work to the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work (Fac doc 2867)
  - Proposal to Establish the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences and Discontinue the Department of Animal Sciences and the Department of Dairy Science. (Fac Doc 2877)

- **Faculty Policies and Procedures changes to committees:**
  - Campus Diversity and Climate Committee added a postdoctoral fellow (Fac doc 2860)
  - Committee on Women in the University allowing any member of the committee to serve as co-chair (Fac doc 2847)
  - Updated membership of the Committee on Committees (Fac doc 2869)

- **In addition, Faculty Senate heard 25 Memorial Resolutions in tribute to their deceased colleagues, and received 14 regular annual reports from standing committees; two nominations were approved to receive honorary degrees at the spring 2020 commencement (which was subsequently indefinitely postponed)**

- **To reflect on one sentence of the Our Shared Future plaque at each senate meeting.**
B. Other issues studied by the UC

Some issues are resolved by the UC without action by the senate, including:

- Responded to the UW System Restructuring in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts proposal
- Facilitation establishing a graduate student advisory board within the Graduate School

III. Faculty Nominations and Appointments to Committees

As authorized in *FPP*, the UC appoints faculty members as needed to certain committees established under chapter 6 or other faculty legislation, including:

- Athletic Board (subject to approval of the chancellor)
- Commission on Faculty Compensation and Economic Benefits
- Labor Licensing Advisory Committee
- Memorial Library
- PROFS, Inc. Steering Committee
- Search and Screen Committees
  - Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education
  - Dean of Division of Extension
  - Dean of the Law School
  - Dean of Letters and Science
  - Secretary of the Faculty
  - Vice Provost for Teaching & Learning
  - Vice Provost for Faculty & Staff Affairs
  - Vice Provost for Academic Operations
  - Vice Provost for Enrollment Management
- Union Council
- University Research Council
- University Academic Planning Council
- Ad Hoc Committee on Practitioner-Instructor Titles
- Ad Hoc Committee on Promotion to Full

The UC also appointed the chairs of the following committees:

- Co-chairs for the GLBTQ committee
- Athletic Board
- Committee on Honorary Degrees

IV. UC Representation on Committees

UC membership carries with it the additional duty of serving on various other committees, as well as sharing responsibility for and participating in campuswide planning and informational sessions for new faculty and department chairs. Some of primary committees include:

- Big Ten Academic Alliance (formerly the CIC) Faculty Representative
- Committee on Committees (2 members)
- Commission on Faculty Compensation and Economic Benefits
- Faculty Consultative Committee for Financial Emergency (2 members)
- PROFS Steering Committee (3 members)
- PROFS, Inc. Board of Directors (all members)
V. Waivers, Other Personnel Items, and Interpretations

The UC is authorized under FPP to hear requests for waivers such as extensions of the tenure clock, leaves of absence and temporary assignments, and conversion of a probationary faculty appointment to an academic staff appointment. It also serves as the hearing committee for faculty grievances other than those under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities. These personnel matters are of great import to those concerned, and the UC spends considerable time studying, discussing, and resolving these requests. The UC is also charged with clarifying and rendering interpretations of FPP. During the past year, in partnership with the Provost Office, the UC helped formulate the tenure clock extension program for COVID-19.

During 2019-2020, the UC dealt with 6 leave-of-absence requests and 28 tenure clock extension requests. Each year, the UC also considers and deals with a large number of other personnel issues, including track transfers, academic staff dual roles, and grievances. It is difficult to put a specific number on these items for several reasons. For example, in addition to the fact that they commonly bridge years, the distinction between a grievance and a simple request to be heard or to clarify information is not a bright line. Moreover, often the UC chair will meet with faculty members to discuss possible grievances that only materialize as official complaints years later, if at all. A review of the official agendas and minutes of the UC show that there are at least a dozen of these items per year, but an exact count would be nearly impossible.

VI. University Committee Membership, 2019-2020

Terry Warfield, chair (Business)
Steve Ventura (Soil Science)
Paul Campagnola (Biomedical Engineering)
Kirsten Wolf (German, Nordic, Slavic)
Erica Halverson (Curriculum & Instruction)
Eric Sandgren (Pathobiological Sciences)