University Committee and Faculty Senate Annual Report for 2020-2021

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 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](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 45 business meetings in 2020-2021. The UC spent a significant portion of its time on issues related to the following:

- *The COVID-19 pandemic* dominated every meeting, particularly in regards to the impact in shifting to online instruction, but also testing and other safety protocols. UC meetings were held online from March 23, 2020 through September 13, 2021.

- *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.
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- **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.

### Issues addressed by the Faculty Senate
The Faculty Senate typically meets on the first Monday of October, November, February, March, April, and May. A special meeting was added September 14, 2020 for the senators to learn more about the “Smart Restart” of the campus in fall 2020, and to vote on an adjustment to the spring semester 2021. The change would move the start of the semester back by nearly a week and remove spring break. Spring break would be replaced by no class held on Saturday, March 27 and a long weekend that begins with no class on Friday, April 2 and school resuming on April 5.

Other business and legislation of the Faculty Senate between October 2020 and May 2021 are summarized below:

- **Reports/policies**
  - The spring semester 2021 academic calendar was adapted to eliminate spring break to limit COVID-19 exposure (Fac doc 2895)
  - Promotion from Associate Professor to Professor (Fac doc 2879 Rev 2)
  - Added Faculty Legislation II-110, Election Day Observances
  - Obsolete Faculty Legislation policies rescinded:
    - Faculty Legislation II-701, Student Housing Policies and Regulations (Fac doc 2930)
    - Faculty Legislation II-307, Statement of Consensual Relationships (Fac doc 2934)
    - Faculty Legislation II-302, Nondiscrimination Policy of the Athletic Board (Fac doc 2935)
    - Faculty Legislation II-500, Archives Policy (Fac doc 2946)
  - Committee annual reports
    - University Curriculum Committee (2019-2020; Fac doc 2902)
    - University Academic Planning Council (2019-2020; Fac doc 2903)
    - University Committee and Faculty Senate (2019-2020; Fac doc 2904)
    - University Lectures (2019-2020; Fac doc 2910)
    - Campus Diversity & Climate (2019-2020; Fac doc 2917)
    - Athletic Board (2019-2020; Fac doc 2918)
    - Budget (2018-2020; Fac doc 2919)
    - Women in the University (2019-2020; Fac doc 2925)
• PROFS, inc. (2019-2020; Fac doc 2926)
• Committee on Committees report on the candidates for the faculty-elected committees (Fac doc 2927; results: Fac doc 2954)
• GLBTQ People in the University (2019-2020; Fac doc 2931)
• Report from the Office of the Secretary of the Faculty on Apportionment of the UW-Madison Faculty Senate (Fac doc 2932)
• University Research Council (2019-2020; Fac doc 2939)
• Archives (2019-2020; Fac doc 2940)
• University Library (2019-2020; Fac doc 2941)
• Committee on Disability Access and Inclusion (2019-2020; Fac doc 2942)
• Kemper Knapp (2020-2021; Fac doc 2951)
• Undergraduate Recruitment, Admissions and Financial Aid (2020-2021; Fac doc 2952)
• Campus Transportation Committee (2019-2020; Fac doc 2953)

• Resolutions, Endorsements, and Support
  o Resolution in Support of Instruction and Training On Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice (Faculty document 2911)
  o Resolution supporting UW-Madison’s efforts to become a Fair Trade Certified University (Faculty document 2905)
  o Resolution on Climate Divestment and Procurement (Fac doc 2928)
  o Resolution on an accessible and inclusive campus (Fac doc 2947)

• Academic departmental changes:
  o Discontinued: Department of Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies (Faculty Document 2920)

• Faculty Policies and Procedures:
  o Changes were made to committee memberships or functions
  • 6.56, Committee on Women in the University (Fac doc 2929)
  • 6.25.B, Budget Committee (Fac doc 2907 Rev)
  • 6.54.B, University Committee (Fac doc 2907 Rev)
  • 6.40, Committee for GLBTQ People in the University (Fac doc 2933)
  • 6.59, University Research Council (Fac doc 2943)
  • 6.46, Library Committee (Fac doc 2944)
  o Other changes
  • Added: 3.05H. Mechanism for academic staff to maintain graduate faculty status following retirement or resignation (Fac doc 2906)
  • Removed: 6.34. Commission on Faculty Compensation and Economic Benefits (Fac doc 2907 Rev)
  • Gender Pronouns were changed in all sections (Fac doc 2921)
  • Removed: Archives Committee (Fac doc 2945)
  • Added 6.15, Promotion from Associate Professor to Professor (Fac doc 2879)

• Revision of Faculty Document 1071 (UW-Madison Faculty Policy on Access and Accommodation in Instruction) (Fac doc 1071 Rev)
• The Senate met in Executive Session to receive and vote on the Confidential Report of the Committee on Honorary Degrees (December 2020)
• The Hilldale Awards were acknowledged:
  o Biological Sciences Division: Michael Fiore, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine and Public Health
  o Physical Sciences Division: Robert Mathieu, Department of Astronomy, College of Letters & Science
In addition, the Faculty Senate heard 22 Memorial Resolutions in tribute to their deceased colleagues, and received 20 regular annual reports from standing committees; one nomination was approved to receive honorary degrees at the spring 2021 commencement.

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)
- Labor Licensing Advisory Committee
- Memorial Library
- PROFS, Inc. Steering Committee
- Search and Screen Committees
  - Search 1
  - Search 2
- Union Council
- University Research Council
- University Academic Planning Council
- Ad Hoc Committee on Practitioner-Instructor Titles
- Ad Hoc Committee on Promotion to Full Professor

The UC also appointed the chairs of the following committees:

- 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 campus-wide planning and informational sessions for new faculty and department chairs. Some of primary committees include:

- Big Ten Academic Alliance Faculty Representative
- Committee on Committees (2 members)
- Faculty Consultative Committee for Financial Emergency (2 members)
- PROFS Steering Committee (3 members)
- PROFS, Inc. Board of Directors (all members)
- Search and Screen Committees (various)
- University Academic Planning Council
- UW System Faculty Representative

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...
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 2020-2021, the UC dealt with 3 leave-of-absence requests and 15 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, 2020-2021
   Kirsten Wolf, chair, (German, Nordic, Slavic)
   Erica Halverson (Curriculum & Instruction)
   Eric Sandgren (Pathobiological Sciences)
   Lauren Papp (School of Human Ecology)
   Kristyn Masters (Biomedical Engineering)
   Bill Tracy (Agronomy)