

Approved 11/14/2007

**University Committee Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2007
Room 523, Extension/Colleges Building
432 N. Lake Street, Madison, WI**

1. Call to Order/Certification of Open Meeting Notice Compliance

Call to order at 1:02 p.m. by Vice Chair Nack; certified compliance with open meetings law. Members attending: Dave Hart, David Nack, Chris Kniep, Karen Nelson, Greg Blonde (phone). Others attending: Marv Van Kekerix, Ray Schultz, Kate Wodyn.

2. Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2007 meeting

Hearing no changes, Nack considered them approved.

3. Vice Chancellor Report

Vice Chancellor Marv Van Kekerix started by commenting on the Outreach Scholarship Conference, which just ended today. He mentioned some new features of this conference, including emerging scholars (special track for new faculty and grad students) and the McGrath civic engagement awards (five regional winners were named).

We are still looking for a date for the first meeting of the joint governance work group.

Strategic planning steering committee: Communication from the Chancellor naming this committee has gone out. The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for Oct 18.

Strategic planning discussion at UW System level (handouts): Van Kekerix drew attention to the talking points on level one and level two of the planning framework as well as to the composition of the think tanks and the graphic of the framework (seven areas). Similar to our strategic planning effort, this provides a framework under which the institutional plans will fit. This has a very ambitious timeline; reports due in December.

The Commission on Enhancing the Mission of the UW Colleges had come up with a number of recommendations, including baccalaureate access and other collaborative degree opportunities as well as residence halls at additional campuses. Internal task forces have been working on some of these issues, including expansion in Milwaukee, Madison and the northern part of the state. Now, UW System has created a UW Colleges Committee from across the System and they are to take the results of these internal studies and look at the role of the UW Colleges in the System going forward.

There is also a group that is looking at co-location issues (co-location of a county Extension office and UW College campus). Van Kekerix senses that there might be the perception that there is pressure to do this when in fact this task force is just looking at what issues might be involved in a county decision to co-locate a College and county extension office.

Policy changes: Van Kekerix reported that he has sent a memo to Chancellor Wilson recommending that the changes to UPG #15 on academic staff title progression go forward. The change has to do with makeup of the review committee. A change in wording from "faculty" to "program/service unit representative" has been approved. Regarding UPG #16 (Family Leave policy), our definition does not match the System definition and the System Office of General Counsel has suggested bringing ours into compliance with the UW System definition. The issue involves to whom leave benefits would be extended, including domestic partners.

Van Kekerix mentioned that he will be providing an update on the administrative integration at some Cooperative Extension District meetings. He is interested in information and insights on whether there is concern about the integration going too fast/too slow, etc. Kniep mentioned some would like to know what integration means--does it mean co-location? Van Kekerix responded that the integration is taking place in the central administrative core but he has not thought of co-location as

part of that. The programmatic collaboration discussions are also separate from the administrative integration with the exception of the Adult Student Initiative. Blonde also said the discussion of joint governance from a practical and fundamental standpoint gets to the heart of programmatic integration (promotion). Van Kekerix understands that having scheduled a co-located governance meeting raises the expectation that this is going to happen. Blonde commented that in an environment of trust-based relationships, this means dealing with the perception rather than the reality. Nelson said that the conversations she has heard are from those involved in some level of governance; others do not seem to be aware. After the last Faculty Senate meeting, where the chancellor talked about different levels of integration, she became a little more concerned. A consistent message from administration is important, but it needs to be a true message as well. Nelson mentioned she has heard much concern about tenure, rank and promotion because we are so different from the Colleges. Van Kekerix pledged to do his best to keep the dialogue open and encouraged others to do the same.

4. Chair Remarks

Rob Burke emailed the following report to members on 10/8/07:

I would first like to thank the Ad Hoc Committee for the LAB Leave Reporting issue. I think their final report represents a job very well done and I think we should act on that report in a way that gets it to system by the October 31 deadline.

Two other Ad Hoc Committees, the Article 4 Ad Hoc Committee and the Chapter 3 Ad Hoc Committee (which will be meeting on 12 October 2007) are continuing to meet and deliberate.

Looking ahead on my own calendar I will attend part of the UW-Colleges faculty retreat in Sheboygan on October 19. For a while they were hoping to have a time for formal Q/A with Michael Maguire and myself, but that is no longer part of the plan. However, I will attend part of the retreat for the purpose of continuing to get to know the Colleges.

I will be attending the October 29 meeting of the Administrative Integration Steering Committee meeting in Madison.

I will also be attending the system faculty reps meeting in Madison on November 15th and Karen will be able to describe the issues to be undertaken at that meeting.

Nack added that he just heard today that Governor Doyle is calling a special session of the legislature to deal with the budget (distributed copy of press release).

5. System Faculty Reps Report

Nelson reported that most of the last meeting dealt with campus issues. Rebecca Martin talked about the UW System strategic planning framework and she is open to governance feedback on any of the think tank topics (due to her by December 1). She also talked about the LEAP campaign concerning student preparation and helping them to succeed in the workforce. During the Reps only part of the meeting, they reviewed last year and the "shared governance venue" (creation of a group that the Board of Regents would use as a sounding board early on for issues involving governance, but that would not replace the individual governance groups). A committee consisting of Doug Hosler, Bob Jokish, Bob Mathieu, someone from Green Bay, and Ron Singer will have another draft at the November meeting. She is concerned about some of the language like "authority" and ability to make decisions, etc. She expressed that the intent must be very clear in the document that this is just an advisory group with no ability to approve or disapprove. Rob will attend that meeting for her and she has had discussions with him about what the conversation has been. Nack feels there must be other faculty senates that also have serious concerns about this. Discussion ensued, including some background on how this developed. The November meeting is a joint one with the Academic Staff Representatives Council. Nelson concluded by saying that Rebecca Martin reported the Board of Regents is interested in having an opportunity to meet with faculty at their Regents meetings. Perhaps this conversation could be facilitated at the April 2008 meeting that is being hosted by Extension/Colleges. Evidently, the goal is to have a better working relationship between the Board

and faculty. On the leave reporting response, most campuses have not started to talk about this, probably due to the academic year schedule.

6. Leave Reporting Ad Hoc Committee

A draft response dated October 5 was distributed last week. The feedback from Academic Staff Council was incorporated except for the suggestion to reinforce our previous response on section II. The committee felt best to just stick to the topic at hand, which is a response on section III. The discussion draft from Al Christ dated 9/30 on Rationale for Setting a Standard 40 Hour Workweek for the Purposes of Reporting Sick Leave Usage was distributed. Discussion ensued about positive work reporting, and accountability measures in place. Nack commented that in looking at the Al Christ document there is no consideration of what our work is like in Extension. **Motion by Kniep to approve the ad hoc committee's Leave Report response as distributed and forward to Academic Staff Council for their approval. If the Academic Staff Council makes some edits then this approved draft will be forwarded as a separate response of the University Committee to the UW System Fringe Benefits Advisory Committee. Hart seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

7. How can University Committee and Faculty Senate be more proactive on emerging governance issues?

Kniep mentioned an email from Tom Culviner sent after the Academic Staff Reps Council meeting about UW System UPG 3 dealing with job security. One provision of that UPG is that after an academic staff member has been with an institution for more than 7 years, the institution will look at the feasibility of extending the staff member a multiple-year or indefinite appointment, and give reasons why if they are not extending a multi-year or indefinite appointment. Kniep added that she thought a rationale could be that these positions are on "soft money" and you really could not make this type of commitment. Van Kekerix responded that he feels what has pushed this tendency toward not giving multi-year or indefinite appointments is the series of budget reductions that have taken place in recent years.

Nelson wondered if we would have any feedback for the UW System think tanks. Van Kekerix suggested that our members on some of the think tank teams could be asked to report back to us on their progress. Nelson is willing to send the documentation electronically and ask if there is a role for any of our faculty to play and ask for a response. This item will also be put on the November meeting agenda.

8. Discussion of institutional issues and opportunities appropriate for faculty governance

No further discussion.

9. Adjourn

Nelson moved to adjourn at 2:52 p.m. Motion carried.

Recorded by Wodyn, 10-9-07.