

Hello Members of the 52nd and 53rd Senate:

The UW Colleges/Extension Restructuring Task Force will meet at UW Madison on Friday morning, and I will attend, as usual. I have gone through the meeting agenda, and cannot find anything that is of significant, immediate interest to us at UW-La Crosse. Of course, this situation may change as a result of the meeting. And given all the reports that are scheduled for that day, we will no doubt be given useful and interesting information.

In addition to communications regarding Restructuring Task Force activities, the Faculty Representatives have received very little new information over the past several weeks. However, there are a few items I wish to share with you.

1. **As I reported at your last faculty senate meeting, the fact that the prevailing tuition structure of the UW Colleges -- which is substantially lower than tuition at the four-year "receiving" campuses -- will be maintained is likely to create some problems serious problems in the future.** Yet the the most recent information we received from the UW System reiterates its plan to indefinitely keep this dual tuition structure. This is obviously something that should concern all of the Comprehensive campuses, as even the "bystanders" like us could be faced with additional transfers that are subsidized. I have no particular position on this issue. I am simply concerned that a serious issue could arise and believe the UW System needs to anticipate and deal with potential problems as a result of its decisions.
2. **At the last UW Faculty Senate meeting, I suggested that the UW System needs to do long-term tracking of its graduates from baccalaureate programs by the programs [major] from which they graduated.** Right now, any "tracking" we do is very limited. I stated my view that current planning decisions, such as the proposal to virtually eliminate the arts and humanities at UW Stevens Point, are based merely on notions and assumptions about the employment, professional, and vocational outcomes of our graduates by program concentration. It is highly possible that the "notions" that are driving the decision-making are in fact correct. However, given what is at stake; given the need to be fair to all disciplines; given the very nature of a university as we know it; and given the fact that the best programmatic decisions are generally supported by evidence, the UW System needs to track its graduates over an extended period [5 years, minimum?] and develop a reliable data base on post-graduation outcomes. I am well aware of the fact that my request for the development of a real tracking system may not get anywhere. However, we must do our best with this idea. On Friday, I will again share this idea with President Cross' VP for Administration, Rob Cramer, and see if he can give me advice on the direction we should take to have the UW System potentially support this suggestion.

3. **I reported some time ago that faculty tenured in the UW Colleges will have their tenure confirmed at the UW Board of Regents meeting to be held at UW-Milwaukee in June.** On Friday, the Restructuring Task Force will hear a progress report on the merging of UW Extension with UW-Madison. At that time, we may find out more on the plan for Extension's tenured faculty.
4. **No meeting of the Board of Regents is scheduled for May. The Faculty Reps are scheduled to meet with the UW System Administration on Friday, May 4.** If anyone has any suggestions, requests, or ideas that should be taken forward, please do not hesitate to let me know.
5. **Last thing. The committee charged with developing an alternative budget cutting plan at UW-Stevens Point is -- I believe -- scheduled to deliver its report in about 2 weeks.** When I get additional information on UWSP, I will share it with everyone.

Very Sincerely,

Georges "George" Cravins
UW-La Crosse Faculty Representative, 2017-2018