

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
LA CROSSE

Report of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Faculty Representative
Thursday, September 20, 2018

A. UPDATE: RESTRUCTURING-RELATED ITEMS

- 1) The activities related to the UW Colleges/Extension Restructuring are now mainly focused at the individual campus level.
- 2) Virtually all of the administrative changes resulting from the restructuring have been made or are in the process of being finalized.
- 3) Tenure status and personnel placement issues have been resolved, except for tenure issues for Extension and Public Media at UW-Madison. These are expected to be resolved this fall.
- 4) Name changes for all of the former College campuses, except for those merged with UW-Oshkosh, were approved at the August Board of Regents meeting.
- 5) System VP Rob Cramer suggests that the Colleges/Extension Restructuring Task Force will likely hold its October meeting [scheduled for October 19]. Subsequently, we will likely hold meetings bimonthly.
- 6) One serious issue of note:

B. UW CAMPUSES AND FALL ENROLLMENTS. The UW-L administrative leadership [Chancellor Gow, VP/Provost Morgan, VP Hetzel] have reported on our very positive Fall, 2018 freshman enrollments. Across the state, an increasing number of our campuses have not been meeting their enrollment targets.

Examples of campuses with numbers below target:

- UW-Superior;
- UW-Platteville;
- UW-Oshkosh;
- UW-Stevens Point;
- UW-Stout.

[UW-Stout missed its target for both 2017 and 2018. Reports suggest the campus fell approximately 300 students short in 2018].

Campuses meeting their targets in Fall, 2018:

- UW-Madison;
- UW-La Crosse;
- UW-Eau Claire;
- UW-River Falls.

C. LIST OF KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED AT THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2018 FACULTY REPS MEETING]

- 1) Course transfers between the state's technical colleges and UW campuses.
- 2) Course transfers between UW campuses.
- 3) An emerging new policy on "low performing programs".
- 4) UW Colleges/Extension restructuring: Recent developments at the campus level.
- 5) [A common academic calendar for campuses?]

D. NEW UW SYSTEM IDEAS REGARDING CREDIT TRANSFERS. President Cross has thus far held two meetings with Faculty Representatives regarding what his staff views as a course/credit transfer problem. In 2017-18 the UW System convened a committee of faculty that developed recommendations to ease the transfer of mathematics credits between the UW campuses. **Now, the UW System leadership will likely focus on addressing transfer issues that it perceives to exist across disciplines on its campuses.**

At the meeting of the Faculty Representatives on September 7, President Cross made a number of observations regarding the transfer issue, including:

- There have been some complaints [presumably within political circles] regarding the problem students have with transferring course credit between the tech colleges and our campuses, and between UW campuses.
- There are people in the capitol who would like to require greater transferability.
- Perhaps the issue of transfer is more of a perceived problem.
- The faculty of the receiving institutions have the right to determine which credits to accept. That is a foundational principle: "faculty own this."
- System does not want to create a monolithic core of courses.
- President Cross wants to identify a number of credits – "perhaps twenty, thirty, or sixty" – that would automatically transfer.
- He is suggesting "a cleaner path of course transfers."
- "A very clear map of course exchanges".
- Cross thinks we should consider identifying competencies that make up particular courses on the various campuses, allowing courses with overlapping or similar competencies at other campuses to easily transfer.
- [Acting VP for Academic Affairs] Karen Schmitt will be working with faculty to streamline transfer.

The current UW System transfer policy may be accessed at:

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/regents/policies/university-of-wisconsin-system-undergraduate-transfer-policy/>

Comments from the Faculty Reps in response to President Cross' ideas on the course transfer issue included:

- While some Faculty Representatives acknowledged that there are flaws in our current transfer practices, **most stressed the need for a study to determine the extent and the nature of the transfer problem. Policy recommendations and/or changes should only be made after there is a serious, comprehensive study.**
- General Education programs on most of the campuses satisfy System requirements, but are geared to serve the needs of each campus' academic program.
- With respect to general education, "one size does not fit all."

E. THE UW SYSTEM'S PROGRAM MONITORING TASK FORCE. Regent Policy Document 20-24 "Procedures Relating to Financial Emergency or Program Discontinuance Requiring Faculty Layoff and Termination," adopted in March, 2016, allows for the layoff of faculty [including tenured faculty] due to program "discontinuance". The UW System established a task force during the 2017-18 Academic Year whose purpose is to recommend criteria for discontinuing academic programs.

Update on the Program Monitoring Committee

- In May, 2018, the committee developed a draft policy on "program discontinuance" due to "low performance."
- A key determinant of "low performance" will be the number of students who graduate from a program over a number of consecutive years [probably 5 years].
- The next meeting of the Program Monitoring Committee is October 4.
- The UW System expects to issue the committee's policy draft for review on or around October 8.
- Carleen Van Zande [an Associate VP, UW System] suggests that, at present, *"It appears now that 10% of current programs would trigger a review and in need of an action plan but would not necessarily be eliminated."* [email of 9/14/2018].

See <https://www.wisconsin.edu/regents/policies/procedures-relating-to-financial-emergency-or-program-discontinuance-requiring-faculty-layoff-and-termination/>

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