

University Staff Council (USC) – Minutes

February 9, 2021 – 2:00-3:00 p.m.

UW-La Crosse, WebEx meeting

Call to Order – 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call –

Council Members in attendance: Becky Yoshizumi, Britney Heineman, Kimberly Schliebe, Justin Bolstad, Michelle Edge, Domingo Carrion, Dave Pohnl, Tom Fell, Karen DeSchepper, Ben Kolpitcke , Terry Stika

Absent: Neng Lee, Nouchi Lor

Guests: Jeanne Voss, Mary Grattan, Kathy Thoen, Dee Auxier, Jenna Winter, Judy King

Approval of Minutes – Terry motioned, Karen seconded. Council approved minutes

Treasurer’s Report – Justin motioned, Terry seconded. Council approved TR

Committee Reports

Bylaws – No update

Committee on Committees – No update

Elections Committee – No update

Program/Grants/Fundraising Committee – USC Professional Development Grant deadline was February 1st. Committee is tabling discussion on USC Spring 2021 Showcase. Hoping to hold one Showcase during the 2021-2022 academic year. Spring newsletter being finalized and proofed. Expected to be sent to all University Staff within the next week.

Grant Subcommittee – February 1st was the application deadline for grants March 1 – June 30.

University Staff Excellence Award – Eligibility letters sent to supervisors and directors regarding nominations. Committee brainstormed of ways to recognize milestone recipients and USEA winner. Breakfast not likely again this year with distancing requirements.

UW Systems Shared Governance Updates – Karen DeSchepper shadowed Britney for the meeting. Vaccination discussion is still on the table and always changing. Taking it day by

day. System cannot not and will not require employees to vaccinate. Testing protocols seem to be consistent around UW Campuses with some requiring apps for monitoring/testing/etc. Larger discussion had regarding abnormal hours and scheduling with direct results from COVID-19, specifically hourly, non-exempt.

Joint Committee Representation Reports

Academic Initiatives Differential Allocation (AIDAC) – No update

Environmental Sustainability – No update

Joint Planning and Budget (JPB) – Chancellor Gow gave the committee the history of JPB. Winter Term enrollments were up with spring enrollment on track compared to previous year. Greg Reichert gave an update on the Advancement Office. Scholarship funding for FY22 was reviewed. Dr. Hetzel announced that the state budget for FY22 looks to have a surplus and we are not expecting a cut in our 102 monies, but we will have to wait and see what happens with the budget to be certain. The next JPB meeting is February 10 at 1:15 p.m.

Legislative and Regents (JLR) – No update

Multicultural Affairs (JMAC) – No update. Next meeting is February 9 at 1:00 p.m.

Parking – No update

Free Speech Promotion – No update

Textbook – No update. Next meeting is March 1.

Community Engagement Council – Committee is expecting to discuss the Community Engaged Learning attribute designation pilot and review new and updated Community Engagement webpages at the next meeting.

Title IV Committee – No update. Next meeting is February 12.

Care Giving – Committee met to review survey results. Will break into sub-groups to discuss survey results and secondary research then identify 3-5 actionable recommendations to bring back to the larger group to discuss/vote on.

University Centers Directors S&S – S&S completed their task. Kyle Burke begins his new role on March 1. Thank you Karen Daniel for time on this Search Committee.

REC Director S&S – This search should be completed shortly. Two open forums completed with one more scheduled.

Extended Learning/Graduate Studies DEAN S&S – S&S completed their work. Meredith Thomsen has accepted this position.

Human Resource Advisory Committee (HRAC) – No update

Old Business

No Old Business to discuss

New Business

Joint Governance Resolution for Strategic Plan – UWL Shared Governance discussed a joint resolution to extend the Strategic Plan five more years. The current strategic plan is dated 2016 - 2020 therefore; the plan needs to be extended. With potential upcoming cuts, it would be nice to have a guideline to follow. At the last meeting, a resolution was proposed to reinstate the current Strategic Plan. Faculty Senate discussed last week. Any thoughts on supporting this resolution? No concerns stated.

Committee Name Change – The USC voted last year and approved separating the US Excellence Award Committee from the breakfast task and forming a recognition breakfast committee. This new committee will focus on the breakfast and milestone recognitions will be titled the US Recognition Committee. Currently seeking volunteers for the new committee. Sign up by Friday, February 12th. Looking for between 5 – 7 people.

Onboarding – There have been concerns with the onboarding process from many areas on campus in all categories; Students, Faculty and Staff. The debit card issue is another concern. New staff members have expressed frustration with being referred to the website to answer their questions. The W4 and direct deposit have allegedly had issues. Can these documents not be completed until the start date? Student paperwork and processing is delayed with few answers when questions are asked. Mary shared that the process does not seem to be as easy as it used to be. Is this because onboarding is now Shared Services? Michelle will ask and stated that only two meetings have occurred (HRAC), one introductory and one regular meeting. USC Exec will bring onboarding topic up in our next meeting with Bob. If anyone has ideas on how to improve the process or suggestions, we can offer please share.

UWL Shared Governance Retreat – A biannual retreat suggested for the governing bodies to share ideas and collaborate. USC would be interested as long as the content of the meeting is beneficial. Discuss topics beforehand for attendees to take forward.

Purchasing training – Purchasing is hosting a training. Please see link listed in newsletter. The US Bank p card process, P2P and Shop@UW updates. The training is Feb 17th. Please see the link is in the USC newsletter.

USC Exec Committee Updates – Meeting with Bob and Joe next week. Newsletter went out yesterday. Thank you to PGFR for their efforts. Educational Assistance Program is still active, take advantage. UW Systems Shared Services HR presented America Saves week is

February 22 -26. Jan Von Ruden set to retire in August. S&S Committee will be created. COVID test kits are available for at home testing. Walgreens has a drive up test option as well. This would be helpful for mandatory testing. Question was raised if an employee would be eligible for the vaccine with working in WI and living in MN. Please question.

COVID-19 life updates / Joys and Concerns – Mandatory testing reminder. You can sign up 7 days out. We are aware of one University Staff working with COVID testing after being a contact tracer

We will discuss upcoming elections at the March meeting.

Adjourn – 2:58 p.m.