

University Staff Council (USC) – Minutes

May 11, 2021 – 2:00-3:00 p.m.

UW-La Crosse, WebEx meeting

Call to Order – 2:21 p.m. (Began with general discussion as we did not have a quorum.)

Roll Call –

Council Members in attendance: Becky Yoshizumi, Britney Heineman, Kimberly Schliebe, Michelle Edge, Domingo Carrion, Dave Pohnl, Tom Fell, Karen DeSchepper, Ben Kolpitzke

Absent: Neng Lee, Nouchi Lor, Justin Bolstad, Terry Stika

Guests: Erica Srinivasan, Kathy Thoen, Nicole Gullekson, Pearl Bearhart, Jeanne Voss, Dee Auxier, Robin Tuxen, Jenna Winter

Approval of Minutes – Ben motioned, Karen second. Council approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Ben motioned, Becky second. Council approved.

Guests- Nicole Gullekson and Robin Tuxen with the Caregiving Task Force – Erica Srinivasan also joined. Report was generated to determine how employees were impacted by COVID both internally and externally. Response was both positive and negative. University wanting to find ways to support staff. Group shared findings, answered questions and wanted USC support. USC would like more information on performance reviews and leave support. USC would not endorse but will share concerns and support certain aspects of the report. Finding common ground between all departments will need to be addressed. Equity is important, as many University Staff must be on campus to do their job.

Committee Reports

Bylaws – No update

Committee on Committees – No update

Elections Committee – Ben presented elections results. Congratulations to Kathy Thoen, Isiah Burish, and Pearl Bearhardt.

Program/Grants/Fundraising Committee – Committee planning two USC Building Showcase events; Wittich Hall and Roger Harring Stadium.

Grant Subcommittee – No update

University Staff Excellence Award – Closed session at end of meeting for Excellence Award announcement

UW Systems Shared Governance Updates – The Board of Regents University Staff Excellence Award nominations are due June 25, 2021. The last Shared Rep. meeting was May 7, 2021. Michelle Edge shadowed Britney during the meeting.

Joint Committee Representation Reports

Academic Initiatives Differential Allocation (AIDAC) – No update

Environmental Sustainability – Committee voted on and approved four mini-grants: Reusable period products for the food pantry, E-waste recycling in the Union, Pre-consumer composting at the food centers, and Green bike program renewal. Met with Kyle Burke and discussed potential collaborative projects. Updated bylaws to include a member from Diversity and Inclusion. Had discussion regarding potentially funding solar panels for Prairie Springs phase II as well potential programs for biking on and around campus.

Joint Planning and Budget (JPB) – Met for the last time this year on May 5th. Wisconsin State Senate on Colleges and Universities released a report recommending the four-year schools be regionalized similarly, to what the two-year institutions were previously regionalized. Reviewed COVID-19 funding and its impact on FY21 and FY22 as well as the continued tuition freeze.

Legislative and Regents (JLR) – No update

Multicultural Affairs (JMAC) – Due to COVID-19, ATP will not do conducting fall performances. JMAC will work with D&I and assist with programing needs.

Parking – No update

Free Speech Promotion – No update

Textbook – No update

Community Engagement Council – Shared Community Engagement highlights as presented to the Provost Council.

Title IV Committee – No update

REC Director S&S – The director search is continuing. Committee is having virtual “on campus” interviews with four finalists. Hoping to have everything wrapped up before students leave campus.

University Registrar S&S – Committee met and forwarded three candidates for final virtual campus interviews. Virtual open forum with candidates on May 19, 20, and 24 from 10:00 – 10:45. Watch email for invite to forums.

Human Resource Advisory Committee (HRAC) – No update

Caregiving Taskforce Committee – No update

Old Business

Purchasing change – ShopUW+ Drop in sessions – Shelly and John would like feedback and are hoping staff found sessions useful. Staff would like to see more sessions. Session topics will be requested later in the summer.

COVID leave hours on HRS update and reminder of leave usage – Reminder to use your carry over, as we do not have that benefit to carry over extra leave this year. COVID leave is still listed on the employee leave report. There is no use of balance in 2021 and the leave amounts will be reversed.

New Business

BOR University Staff Excellence Committee/Nomination/Meeting invite – Britney and USC to meet with USC and Excellence Award Committee to review details.

USC Exec Committee Updates – Committee on Committee will solicit in May for June results

Close session for USC members for Excellence Award announcement – Congratulations Britney Heineman!

Adjourn – 3:10 p.m.