

University Staff Council (USC) – Minutes
March 8, 2022 – 2:00-3:00 p.m.
UW-La Crosse, Graff Main Hall Room 325

Call to Order – 2:01 p.m.

Roll Call –

Council Members in attendance: Alan Kelly, Domingo Carrion, Becky Yoshizumi, Leslie Fell, Tom Fell, Terry Stika, Karen DeSchepper, Kimberly Schliebe, Jeanne Voss, Bill Klein, Ben Kolpitcke

Absent: Dave Pohnl, Pearl Bearhart

Guests: Sean Hurtubise, Amy Ticknor, Ericka Pfeiffer, Anna Meier, Ben Cornforth, Lynne Smith

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

Treasurer’s Report – No questions, recorded as is.

Committee Reports

USC Bylaws - Mary Grattan

No update

USC Committee on Committees – Amy Servais

No update.

USC Elections – Ben Kolpitcke

No update.

USC Program, Grants and Fundraising (PGF) - Karen DeSchepper

The spring newsletter was emailed on February 18th. Spring Showcase at the Stadium will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2:30-4 p.m. Hope to see you there!

USC PGF/Sub-committee Grants – Nicole Novak

The Professional Development Grant Subcommittee met on February 15 to discuss applications from the most recent grant application cycle ending February 1. Two grant requests were funded for a total of \$2,458. This includes \$2,000 that will be combined with \$1,000 from the Employee Enrichment Fund to support a guest speaker that will benefit the whole university. The next Professional Development grant cycle deadline is June 1st. All university staff are encouraged to apply. Awards for the next grant cycle will be funded from the FY23 budget.

USC Excellence Award – Jeanne Voss and Karen Brandt

The University Staff Excellence Award committee completed the following assignments:

- sent nomination email to the chancellor for university distribution
- sent first nomination information email to Campus Connection

We plan to hold a review meeting on March 10th.

USC Excellence Recognition – Becky Yoshisumi

Save the date! Wednesday, July 20 is the date for the University Staff Excellence Recognition event. Those reaching milestones this year will be receiving notification letters within the next four weeks. Watch for further info!

UW Shared Governance – Karen DeSchepper

No update

Joint Committee Representation Reports

Joint Academic Initiatives Oversight – Paige Jordan

No update.

Joint Environmental Sustainability Committee - Pearl Bearhart

JCES is working on a survey to send out campus wide with two main topics: electric vehicles and bike infrastructure. Hoping to gauge campus's interest and satisfaction in the EV and bike options on campus and utilize that data going forward. Possible second survey related to general sustainability on campus as a whole and special topics such as divestment from fossil fuels. Next meeting March 11th.

Joint Planning and Budget – Ingrid Iverson and Pearl Bearhardt

Chancellor Gow talked about the missing student search, the mask mandate sunset on March 11 and Tommy Thompson visit

- The Provost reiterated that one cannot mandate masks in classrooms, one could ask for compliance
- The CFO introduced David Kim our new CIO
- With the continuation of the tuition freeze we have a structural deficit of 1.9 million dollars. We will get one time relief funds of 1.4 million. We will use carry over funds to manage the .5 million. We will also be getting 5 million for student mental health. UWL crediting students about 100 dollars for 90 textbook rental and 10 MTU pass fees
- Major discussion on Work from Home policy and Higher Learning commission's focus on student mental health

Joint Legislative & Regents Relations - Nicole Novak

No update

Joint Multicultural Affairs – VACANT

Joint Parking and Appeals Committee – Mark Beckerjeck

No update

Joint Freedom of Speech Program Committee – Kimberly Schliebe and Ben Cornforth

No update other than revising and updating our bylaws.

Joint Textbook Oversight Committee - Sandra Vinney

No update

Community Engagement Council – Karen DeSchepper

Continued working on Community Engaged Learning (CEL) course designations. Lisa coordinated support for Afghan Evacuees with other campus partners. Article on UWL Community Engagement will be in the April/May Coulee Region Women magazine. Possibly launching Community Engagement data tracking for UWL staff, Fall 2022, with possible incentives. Stay tuned.

HR Advisory Committee – Rebecah Neitzel and Kimberly Schliebe

Discussed the work from home policy and details surrounding. Once established, this policy can be used a recruiting tool.

Work-Life Taskforce – Ben Cornforth

Ben asked USC for feedback on the work from home policy as there is disfavor in the wording within the policy. UWEC policy is worded more clearly. WLT Committee would like to submit letter of recommendation to HR for improvement. Concerns include childcare verbiage, as well as clarity in the supervisor training, technology home set up, and department control points. Remote work vs flex scheduling discussed. Ben will email more information on behalf of committee for USC review.

S&S Dean of the College of Business Administration – Bobbi Webster

Candidates visiting campus March 3 – March 10. Timothy O’Keefe on March 3 & 4, Marc Miller on March 7 & 8, and Taggart Brooks on March 9 & 10. Committee will have final meeting on Friday, March 11th.

S&S Dean of the College of Science and Health – Amy Servais

We have done the semi-finalist interviews and campus finalist should be announced sometime next week.

Old Business

TTC Appeals update – In process of reviewing appeals. Those that appealed will be notified of committee’s recommendation along with HR and their direct supervisor.

Elections Committee: Mary Grattan, Ben Kolpitcke, and Becky Yoshizumi with Chair to be decided.

New Business

Elections – Six open seats in this election: 2 - At large, 1 - Facilities Maintenance, 2 - Professional, 1 - Admin Support. Nominations being accepted for ballot. Elections to be held in April. Confirmation in May.

Spring Showcase – April 7th, save the date! Featuring Veteran’s Memorial Stadium.

Exec. Updates – TTC Appeals policy and procedures. Chancellor Gow thanked us for supporting his request to rename CFA. Board of Regents approved the naming. Exec team expressed concerns in the renaming process. TTC appeals training and budget replenish at fiscal year-end

was discussed with Dr. Hetzel. Same topics discussed with Provost Betsy. USC would like Exec to share concerns with the remote work/flex scheduling policy.

Mask mandate will end on March 11th. Concerns that plexi glass will also need to be removed. Some departments would like to keep barriers in place.

Purchasing and AP will be doing an update on Shop UW+ on March 24th at 2:00 in Wimberly Hall. Session will be recorded.

Get Engaged

- Please join us 15 minutes before our Council meeting for networking! Room will open at 1:45.

Adjourn – 2:54 p.m.