

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Joint Legislative/Regents Relations Committee
Minutes for Thursday, September 20, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
The U (Student Union), Room 3145

Committee Members Present: Laura Godden, Kjerstin Lang, Jaralee Richter, Elizabeth Brown, Heather Hulett, Joe Heim, Jack Lawlis

Committee Members Absent: Drea Higgins, Sandra Vinney

Guest: Joe Gow

The convener, Laura Godden, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

1. Review the committee's history, [responsibilities](#), and activities

- Committee members introduced themselves and why they were interested in serving on this committee. This is a joint committee, which in the spirit/tradition of shared governance, includes members representing faculty, academic staff, university staff, and students. The committee ultimately reports to the chancellor. The committee's members are welcome to share and disseminate any pertinent committee information to their governance group.
- Past committee members reviewed the committee's main duties and activities. Joe Heim, UWL's Legislative Liaison and emeritus professor of political science, anchors the committee with his expertise and experience. Heim often emails information of interest to committee members. In general, the committee keeps an eye on UW System budget planning and proposals, as well as federal, state, and local legislation and other governmental issues affecting the university, its staff, and its students. It also strives to let legislators and regents know about the good work taking place at UWL of benefit to the state and its citizens. Sometimes the committee writes letters in response to, against, and/or in support of issues or legislation to lawmakers, regents, the campus, and/or the public. The committee also helps to arrange and promote events on campus involving regents and legislators. Typically, in the fall semester of election years, the committee (along with other partners) sponsors political debates on campus for several regional representative races. In the spring, it helps to organize and promote a legislative forum on campus where elected representatives are invited to UWL to discuss current issues of concern, especially those impacting the UW System, UWL, and university staff and students.

2. Discuss the committee's charge and timeline for the upcoming year

- The UW Board of Regents is scheduled to visit UWL on December 6th and 7th. It would be great if committee members could volunteer as guides or try to be especially visible during this event. There is a separate regents meeting planning committee on campus who does the work to reserve rooms, plan tours, coordinate volunteers, and create videos and other illustrative works to highlight UWL for the meeting. Since one of UWL's "buddy"/liaison regents (Delgado) hasn't visited our campus yet, this committee could reach out to him and the other UWL regent liaison (Millner) and ask if either of them would like to do anything special while they are here for the meeting, like a tour, or see if either would like to arrange for a future one-on-one visit to campus.
- This committee will help schedule and promote political debates this fall and a legislative forum in the spring. The chancellor has requested that we try not to schedule such events on Friday afternoons (as has been done in the past) to see if that boosts attendance (and also because it makes it possible for him to attend). However, Friday afternoons are what the representatives seem to prefer for their schedules, so this might not be feasible. Committee members are encouraged to inform people in their department, office, and governance unit of the debates and forum. Lang will use last year's template (Godden will email to her) to make posters for the debates and submit them to the electronic bulletin boards. Lang will send the posters to committee members in advance so they can print and post them and/or email them to others. Committee members are highly encouraged to attend the events if possible.
- The committee should keep watch on anything dealing with the Wisconsin state budget starting in late February/early March as it includes the UW System. The state budget runs on a two-year

(biennial) cycle and is typically proposed by the governor in the spring (of odd-numbered years), so this is when information about the budget generally starts getting released. From there, the governor's proposal goes onto the state legislature's Joint Finance Committee (which is made up of legislators appointed by leaders in both houses of the legislature). This committee holds hearings on the budget around the state that citizens can attend and give input. Heim typically attends these hearings in April and May. The committee's version of the budget then moves on to the full assembly and senate where more debate and changes happen. After both houses pass their version of the budget, if they are different, another committee (consisting of members from both houses) forms to work out the differences. The reconciliation version of the budget then gets voted on by both houses. After it is approved by both houses, it then goes to the governor. The ideal is to finalize the budget by July 1, which is the start of the fiscal year, but that doesn't always happen. Last year, it took until October. This committee and its members can advocate for UWL budget and borrowing requests (as well as more flexibility in borrowing) when appropriate. Some current UWL needs are HVAC updates in Main Hall, a new residence hall, phase II of the Prairie Springs building, and a field house.

- Since it is an election year, candidates running for office will likely hold events on campus and in the community. Committee members can attend these events and ask questions related to UWL or encourage others to do so. They can also work to educate others on campus and community about budget, legislative, and regent issues and workings. Committee members should also be aware that even matters at the local government level can effect UWL. For example, the city is planning to start charging for street parking around campus. Additionally, they can help prevent inaccuracies from further circulating. For example, a current rumor is that the field house is being forced on students, even though evidence (referendum and positive student views) shows significant student support. Committee members can also keep abreast with UW System committees like the general education planning committee and advocate for what is best for UWL when appropriate.

3. Elect a committee chair

- **M/S/P to elect Kjerstin Lang and Elizabeth Brown co-chairs of the UWL Joint Legislative/Regents Relations Committee for the 2018-2019 academic year.**

4. Approve the minutes of the previous year's meetings on September 26, 2017, and January 30, 2018

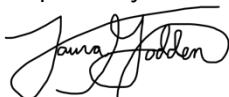
- **M/S/P to approve the minutes from September 26, 2017.**
- **M/S/P to approve the minutes from January 30, 2018.**

5. Plan/schedule the next meeting

- Elizabeth Brown will send out a Doodle Poll to determine the best time for the next meeting which is to be scheduled sometime in advance of the campus political debates in order to plan/approve promotional material and actions. The committee will also talk more about volunteer opportunities at the December Board of Regents meeting at UWL, as well as ways to reach out to UWL's Regent Liaisons.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura M. Godden
October 31, 2018

Approved November 13, 2018.

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Joint Legislative/Regents Committee
Minutes for Tuesday, October 16, 2018
3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
The U (Student Union), Room 3145

Committee Members Present (in alphabetical order): Elizabeth Brown, Laura Godden, Joe Heim, Heather Hulett, Kjerstin Lang, Jack Lawlis, Jaralee Richter, and Sandra Vinney

Committee Members Absent: Drea Higgins

Kjerstin Lang, Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative/Regents Committee, called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

1. Approval of the minutes from the Sept. 20, 2018 meeting was postponed until the next meeting.

2. Promotion of the Oct. 23, 2018 Debates:

- Kjerstin noted that promotion for the Oct. 23, 2018 debates had already been done through digital signage and through a campus news announcement. The League of Women Voters, one of the sponsors for the debates, has already advertised them.
- Committee members discussed having Chancellor Gow send emails to the entire campus community regarding the debates. It was agreed that he should send a separate email for each debate.
- Committee members also discussed advertising the debates on the UWL Facebook page. Elizabeth Brown, Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative/Regents Committee, agreed to contact the La Crosse Democratic Party and the La Crosse Republican Party to encourage them to advertise the debates among their members. Heather Hulett will notify the faculty union about the upcoming debates. Information about the debates has also been shared with the governance organizations at UWL.
- Joe Heim, UWL's Legislative Liaison and emeritus professor of political science, discussed the format for the debates. The debates will be in the Strzelczyk Great Hall of the Cleary Alumni Center. The first debate will be from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. It will be between Wisconsin 94th Assembly District Rep. Steve Doyle (D) 6:30 p.m. and his opponent Albert Rohland (R). The second debate will be between Paul Buhr (D) and his opponent Loren Oldenburg (R) for the Wisconsin 96th Assembly District. There is no debate for the Wisconsin 95th Assembly District because Rep. Jill Billings is running unopposed.
- Joe Heim will introduce the speakers. Six person panels comprised of journalists and a representative from the League of Women Voters will question of the speakers. Kjerstin volunteered to create the name cards for the panelists. The audience will not be allowed to question the speakers during the debates.
- WXOW Channel 19 and WKBT Channel 8 will film the debates and rebroadcast them at a later date.
- Joe stated the campus police had been notified about the debates so that they could take appropriate security members. He noted that the audience might be seated at tables and chairs because the Cleary Alumni Center is hosting a conference that begins early on the morning after the debate and the conference needs the tables and chairs set up. Joe urged committee members to encourage people from their departments to go.

3. Promotion of the Oct. 30, 2018 Debate:

- Joe Heim briefed the committee members on the Oct. 30th debate between Rep. Ron Kind (Democrat) and his opponent Steve Toft (Republican) for the 3rd Congressional District. It will be in the Strzelczyk Great Hall of the Cleary Alumni Center from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. As with the debates on Oct. 23rd, Joe Heim will introduce the speakers and a six person panel comprised of journalists and a representative from the League of Women Voters. WXOW Channel 19 and WKBT Channel 8 will also film the entire debate and rebroadcast it at a later date.

4. Regents' Meeting on Dec. 6-7, 2018:

- Kjerstin Lang discussed the logistics for the meeting UW Board of Regents, which is scheduled for December 6th and 7th. The Board of Regents meets once a month but it has been five years since the Board of Regents has met at UWL. About half of the Board of Regents meetings are in Madison. They meet in Milwaukee at least once a year. She commented that it would be great if committee members could volunteer as guides or try to be especially visible during this event.
- Kjerstin Lang noted that typically 100-120 people attend Board of Regents meetings. Thursday, Dec. 6th, is the day that UWL plans to showcase its programs and its Strategic Planning Pillars. The Board of Regents will have the following committee meetings on Dec. 6th: Research, Economic Development, and Innovation (REDI) Committee, Audit Committee, Finance Committee, and Capital Planning and Budget Committee. The committee meetings are open to the public.
- The meeting of the entire Board of Regents will be on Friday, Dec. 7th. The theme or topic for the December meeting of the Board of Regents is the Faculty Pay Plan. UWL would like to promote all of the good things that the faculty does. Committee members discussed the importance of using stories, rather than just statistics, to illustrate what is happening at UWL. Stories tend to make a greater impression with the Regents than statistics.
- Joe Heim and Kjerstin Lang discussed whether members of the Joint Legislative/Regents Committee would be invited to the Thursday Reception for the Board of Regents. Kjerstin noted that only 175 people could attend the Reception. As a result, the committee members would be among the second tier of invitees who would only be invited after the planners had a better idea of how many of the Regents and other first tier invitees would be attending. The Reception will be on Dec. 6th at 5 p.m. in The Bluffs in the UWL Student Union.

5. Engagement with the Regents Liaisons for UWL:

- The committee members discussed offering a special tour to the Regents Liaisons José Delgado and Regina Milner. Laura Godden offered to provide them with a tour highlighting the history of UWL. It was agreed to extend a special invitation to the UWL Regents Liaisons.

6. Plan/schedule the next meeting

- Elizabeth Brown agreed to send out a Doodle Poll to determine the best time for the next meeting during the week of Nov. 12th.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth F. Brown
November 11, 2018

Approved November 13, 2018.

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Joint Legislative/Regents Committee
Minutes for Tuesday, November 13, 2018
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
The U (Student Union), Room 3115

Committee Members Present (in alphabetical order): Elizabeth Brown, Drea Higgins, Laura Godden, Joe Heim, Heather Hulett, Kjerstin Lang, Jack Lawlis, Jaralee Richter, and Sandra Vinney

Kjerstin Lang, Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative/Regents Committee, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

1. Committee Minutes for Sept. 20, 2018 and for Oct. 16, 2018: A motion to approve the minutes from Sept. 20, 2018 and from Oct. 16, 2018 was made by Heather Hulett and seconded by Jack Lawlis. The minutes were unanimously approved. The committee agreed that the minutes for March and April 2017 should be shared with Sara Olson and included with the other committee minutes. This action will complete the record of the committee's minutes on the UWL website.
2. Recap of Oct. 23 and Oct. 30 Debates: The committee members discussed how well the debates had gone. Turnout for the first debate on Oct. 23rd was about 100 people while turnout for the second debate on Oct. 23rd was about 60 people. The turnout for the congressional district debate on Oct. 30th was standing room only with over 160 people present. Jack Lawlis noted that students appreciated having the debates on campus.
3. Recap of Election Results: The committee members discussed the election results and their potential impact on higher education. Joe Heim noted that the state had a record turnout for the midterm elections of about 62% of eligible voters voting. The percentage of eligible voters voting in the county of La Crosse was higher than the state average. The number of eligible voters age 18-24 who voted in the mid-terms in Wisconsin was 50% higher in 2018 than in 2014. Four years ago Governor Walker won a majority of the vote on UWL's campus. There was more Democratic turnout in 2018 and the UW System as a whole tended to lean Democratic this year.

In terms of the impact for higher education, Joe Heim noted that governor-elect Tony Evers had served on the Board of Regents for the UW System for two terms and was generally viewed as a protector of the university system. As a result, funding for the UW System might be a little better under Evers than it has been under Gov. Walker. It is important to note that cuts to the UW System budget had begun to occur prior to Gov. Walker taking office.

Joe Heim also noted that Rep. Ron Kind is interested in having Congress pass legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, which it had not done prior to the midterm election. Generally Congress is reluctant to cut programs prior to a presidential election, although some in Congress may be interested in cutting entitlements given that the US national debt now exceeds \$20 trillion. The Department of Education may also try to consolidate some of the federal loan programs.

4. Regents' Meeting in December: The committee members agreed that it would be beneficial for the committee to offer to give the two Regents liaisons for UWL a special tour when they

are in town for the Regents' Meeting in December. Laura Godden offered to be their tour guide given her familiarity with the history of UWL. Kjerstin Lang said that she would draft the letter to the two Regents and distribute it to the committee members by Google Drive for their review and comment before sending it to the two Regents.

In terms of the current membership of the Board of Regents, Joe Heim commented that one Regent has recently retired and that he had sent a letter urging the appointment of a Regent with connections to UWL. In his letter to Gov. Walker, he had suggested the names of three Republicans. He also noted that one Regent slot for a non-traditional student had been vacant for eleven months. Jack Lawlis inquired about the process to get a student on the Board of Regents. Joe Heim outlined the process, which requires, among other things, letters of recommendation and the support of the Chancellor. The Governor would nominate the student and the nomination would need approval of the Wisconsin Senate. The committee then discussed what additional steps its members might take to encourage the selection of a UWL student for the Board of Regents.

5. Governance Groups Madison Meeting: Jaralee Richter briefed the committee on the most recent meeting in Madison. She is the representative in Madison for the Academic Staff Council. She indicated that the most recent meeting in Madison focused on responding to changing demographics. Going forward the UW System will see a decline in the number of traditional students and so it needs to become more responsive to the needs of non-traditional students. The UW System also needs to do a better job of recruiting non-traditional students. So part of the discussions focused on continuing education and extending the reach of the campuses to those outside of the traditional student demographic. The meeting also discussed the Higher Learning Commission's best practices and how the UW campuses were meeting those standards. In order to increase efficiency and cut costs, the meeting examined expanding the shared services among campuses and combining human resources with procurement information technology. An example of where this has already occurred is with travel authorizations and reimbursements, which are no longer done at each individual campus but are centrally processed in Madison now. The final topic of discussion at the meeting was on the Title and Compensation Study. This study would examine condensing standard job descriptions to focus on four to six skills. Human Resources is working on this with a private company, Mercer.
6. Join Other Committees on Parking Issue: Kjerstin Lang asked the committee if the committee should support one of the letters being issued by others at UWL regarding the establishment of new parking fee areas around the campus by the City of La Crosse. Sandra Vinney commented that the City had postponed implementing this proposal for two months. She also noted that the University Staff Council had submitted a letter to the City describing the negative impact on students and staff that the new regulations would have. Joe Heim suggested that the committee do its own letter. He also noted that UWL had a good relationship with the City and that we don't want to jeopardize it. Jack Lawlis indicated that, because the implementation of the proposed regulations had been postponed, the UWL Student Association was not writing its own letter at this time but might reconsider this at some point in the future. Kjerstin Lang offered to draft a letter to the City on the proposed parking regulations, which would be shared with the committee members by Google Drive. The committee members could make suggestions on revisions and then vote by email on whether to send the letter to the City.

7. Spring Meetings: Joe Heim recommended holding a Spring Forum of Wisconsin legislators from the area to discuss the proposed budget and its impact on UWL. The proposed budget will be distributed in late February or early March and the forum should be scheduled for after it has been disseminated. As a result, the committee should hold a meeting in February to discuss the logistics and planning of that forum. Elizabeth Brown will send a Doodle around to the committee members to find a date and time in February that will work best for the members.
8. Adjournment: Drea Higgins made a motion to adjourn. Joe Heim seconded it. The committee unanimously voted to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth F. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Elizabeth F. Brown

Approved: Feb. 19, 2019