

## Minutes

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education  
Committee on Academic Staff Issues

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

<https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/35fc52490e0042d8a61b1d5645838eda>

+1-571-392-7650

PIN: 558 781 4820

Minutes: Jenny Hackel

Attendees: Shane Hubbard (Vice Chair), Steve Ackerman (OVCRGE, Chair), Nagesh Adluru, Denny Hackel, Jenny Hackel, Chris Huffman, Moira Harrington, Rebecca Adams, Peter Johnson, Julie Karpelena (ex-officio)

Guests: Dr. Patrick Kelly, Kati Schlosser, Ben, Mike Geier, "M", Ann P, CK, Patty

Absent: Lauren Meyers, Tim Bendfelt, David Richards (pending District 2 appointee)

### **1:32 Call To Order**

#### **Steve Ackerman – Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education**

- Provided update on the OVCRGE's activities
  - The research professor titles are now available. Divisions, depts, centers need to develop a process for guidelines how they will implement those titles. If you have any questions about how to do that, reach out to Nadine Conner.
  - Positive cases of COVID have rapidly increased across student population. Undergrad students are restricted in activities, all classes online for 2 weeks. Along with Chancellor's team, Steve Ackerman has a small team to look at how things are changing in the hospitals and PPE levels. They addressed undergrads in human subjects research before Chancellor asked classes to go remote. Only 11 grad students have tested positive. Separating them out of undergrad population has been easy.
  - On subject of furloughs, he is aware that furloughing everyone across the board was not popular with research staff. He understands that this had a negative impact on each person. There are no discussions active about furloughs right now.

Q&A with Steve Ackerman

Q: If there are more furloughs, will your approach/decision change?

A: He will go to CASI before making a decision. His preference will depend on what levels are being proposed.

Q: Has there been an update on total economic update to campus?

A: \$150M is the last known number. If people have to go home and tuition has to be reimbursed, that will change the figure.

Q: Is there a benchmark or can you envision a benchmark in which we consider sending people home?

A: There isn't a single threshold. His team has come up with 5 different categories to watch: PPE status, hospital beds, number of cases, status of positive rates going up, and any

directives in place. Positivity rates went up, some concern about hospital beds, and chancellor directives were evaluated as part of the decision for undergrads.

Q: At Faculty Senate meeting, if they feel strongly about staying online, might that be a deciding factor going forward?

A: Some research education cannot be done online. OVCRGE is trying to come up with a plan to carve out those graduate courses so research education can continue.

Q: There are two incentives announced for research that has been negatively impacted by COVID and those that have been impacted by travel restrictions. Who can apply for and benefit from this funding?

A: It's all WARF money, which means you need to be faculty or permanent PIs to apply for it. As long as faculty or permanent PI applies for the funding, another person could be recipient of it.

Follow up Q: Does that work with travel funds? Can faculty request travel funds for another staff person?

A: Unsure, let me get back to you on that.

Q: Quick clarification about students. If students are participating in COVID research on campus as a subject, can they still participate?

A: Yes, they can.

Parting Comments from Vice Chancellor Ackerman: So far, research community COVID cases have been successful at containment. Outbreaks have been limited to small groups. Full research impact is yet to be determined. There is extra \$125M came in due to COVID. There is also 100 more no cost extension requests being submitted than last year though.

### **Announcements (Shane Hubbard)**

Two links discussed with Vice Chancellor Ackerman:

*Pandemic Affected Research Initiative*

<https://research.wisc.edu/funding/pandemic-affected-research-continuation-initiative/>

*Travel funding opportunity - COVID*

<https://research.wisc.edu/funding/conference-travel-information/>

District lists have been converted to Google Groups instead of Wisclist. You will not be able to see those districts if you're logged into personal Gmail group.

### **Dr. Patrick Kelly – Interim Director of Medical Services & Primary Care Physician**

#### **• Dr. Kelly discussed UW campus testing operations**

There are a lot of moving parts to the testing process on campus.

- How and where to Test
  - Testing is scheduled at one of several sites done through MyUHS account.
  - Henry Mall testing is drive up only now.
  - Walk up is at 21 N. Park.
  - Kohl Center testing due to open next week.
- Who should get tested?
  - Anyone can get a test.
  - Targeting those with symptoms or close contact with someone that is positive.

- If you've been out, chances are reasonable to assume you've come into some sort of contact, perhaps not close.
  - Mandatory dorm testing
    - Residence hall students, are tested within a day of moving in.
    - Testing every 2 weeks thereafter.
    - It's being enforced through reminders.
- Testing Volume
  - Testing between 1000-1500 sorority/fraternities.
  - Tested another 1500 students in Witte and Selery halls.
  - Initial goal was 6K tests/week. Reality is more than double.
  - Over next week expecting it to be around 1500 tests per day.
  - There is a great combined effort w/ Wis Vet Lab and Hygiene lab to form a new unit to do more testing.
- Testing Results
  - Pushing Exact Sciences with their turnaround time. Turnaround times towards end of week is getting a little slower but within acceptable margin. Sundays is when we tend to get a lot of results.
  - If someone tests positive, a contact tracer investigator will get result through statewide reporting system, call that person, conduct an investigatory interview.
  - They will give instructions on duration of their advised isolation and identify close contacts.
  - Next step is to contact the close contacts and advise them to quarantine.
  - For residence halls, once positive test comes in, Housing is notified. Within a few hours, they are removed from the population to an isolation area. Roommate is also moved to a quarantine area.
- Testing Staffing
  - Had to hire close to 150 part time employees to lift the effort.
  - Most of them are testers, some contact tracers.
  - Current FDA approval is for an observed license, which requires more labor.
  - Trying to apply for unobserved license, which will increase ability to collect more tests.
  - There are about 30 contact tracers, currently keeping pace. Each tracer can only do ~5 cases per day. Extra cases go to public health Dane County.

#### Q&A

Q: Specifically to staff, Steve Ackerman mentioned that if staff tested off site are positive, they should report to UW. How does this information get back to campus?

A: We are fortunate to have good relationships between UW Madison, State DHS, and Dane County Public Health and good support from data & IT experts on campus. Right now, if you tested positive outside UHS, it's a manual process that takes some time to get the result to campus. It's easier for UW and Dane County for UHS to handle as much of our community as possible. If a staff tests positive offsite, it is helpful for you to report it to UHS as quickly as possible.

Q: What has been the primary reason for this operation set up on campus? What are the drivers and do you see the potential for campus to control this?

A: We learned a lot this summer, still learning a lot. Very glad that outbreaks so far have been pretty well contained within a relatively low risk population. Based on surge in summer and current surge, there is pretty characteristic behaviors that resulted in it: gathering in close contact with lots of people, other close living settings, not wearing masks. The biggest concern is that at some point, this virus doesn't care who it infects, it only takes one person to spread it beyond. We need to get this under control as much as possible.

Q: Are there pretty large house parties going on? (Mifflin, Fraternity/Sorority Rush, Vilas, etc)

A: Student Affairs spends time doing community patrols to observe the usual high party areas. People have been relatively calm compared to previous years (at least from outside). Many people have small levels of get togethers. It really only takes one event though. Everything was moved more to online/virtual for rush. Fraternities and sororities are separate from campus through. Activity levels are less, but test numbers reflect there is some activity happening.

Q: Are there other campus success stories out there we can learn from?

A: It may be too soon to tell. When Notre Dame put their 2 week pause on, cases did seem to go down. U of Illinois also started enforcing conduct violations which resulted in a drop in cases as well. Schools that are adopting different models (staggering classes return to campus, ie freshmen first) will be interesting to see how it turns out.

Q: Isn't campus testing self administered? Isn't it easier to use the Alliant Energy Center site (drive up, no appointments) to have someone else do it for you?

A: Tests are run through same lab. Doing the test yourself can be much more comfortable (the depth of insertion is quite variable from person to person). The Alliant testing site isn't clear how long it will stay set up.

Q: Wasn't there something about random checks for employees?

A: There is a person with a study soliciting employees willing to be tested regularly for a prevalence study.

Q: Where are the testing sites?

A: Henry Mall will continue to have drive up hours. The other sites for walk up will be 21 N. Park. Will be opening in Kohl Center this Wednesday. Register to MyUHS to make appointment, there is no cost to employees. All sites are by appointment only.

**Action Item:** Dr. Kelly would like to hear about employees and if the testing is of interest to them? This is a good question for our districts. Henry Mall drive up testing has been underutilized.

### Subcommittee Reports

- Communications (Bendfelt (\*chair), J. Hackel)
  - Website is out of date. June Minutes need to be posted, members page needs to be converted to meet accessibility requirements. Add David for District 2, pending confirmation of his appointment.
  - Annual report is now posted, has been emails to Secretary of Academic Staff. Please feel free to email to your district
- Nominating and Districting (Johnson(\*chair), Hubbard)
  - District 2 (runs to 2023)
  - Steve Ackerman has approved the interim appointment as of last Thursday.
  - Don't we need to have them write a bio and vote as a committee? In the spring, that is how Lauren Meyers and Jenny Hackel were appointed. **Action Item:** Review the bylaws to ensure appointment without committee vote is ok.
  - Should we write up new bylaws for how this works for the future? Yes. **Action Items:** Denny Hackel will ask Jake Smith if we can alter the procedures to appoint individuals if uncontested. If ok, he will draft new guidelines.
- Personnel Policies and Procedures/HR Design (D. Hackel(\*chair), Meyers)

- Denny Hackel emailed Jake Smith regarding quorum. If we don't have quorum, it's not a meeting and we should not take minutes.
- Jake Smith is supportive of us updating our bylaws to make it easier to achieve quorum. If there is something bigger to vote on, do we want to allow a simple majority? Let's hope there will be more participation during those meetings.
- For bylaw changes, will have to consult what is needed to do to approve it.
- Professional Development and Recognition (Harrington(\*chair), Adluru, Adams, Huffman)
  - Nothing new to report. No competition going on right now.

### Other Business

- Approve July minutes
  - Approved with minor update to typos.
- Discussion on District 4 furlough statement
  - District 4 feels strongly about how furloughs were handled. They feel that many do not understand that the funding comes from outside the university for them, the net impact on them being furloughed doesn't benefit campus.
  - Do we want to support this as a CASI? Is there anything that needs to be changed?
  - Open discussion:
    - District 5: 4 people responded from this district.
      - One person fully supported it, reinforcing that supporting grants/contracts exception is important
      - One would like to see more than 1 being allowed per week
      - One person understands it and it is challenging.
      - Another person likes the idea of support staff being included, but the comment seems like more of an after thought.
    - District 7: 6 people responded from this district
      - Mixed bag of comments from diverse district.
      - Majority of feedback voiced support of current policy though 2 people indicated approval of the document
      - One person wanted to see research cores added
      - Others are concerned about fairness. Could the document add a section to address cultural implications to campus? Would this look like largely white well paid individuals are being exempted from furloughs?
    - District 4: 6 people responded from this district
      - District voiced strong support
    - District 8
      - Did not send to district
      - However, there was a strong sense within center that liked the current campus approach to furloughs.
    - Julie Karpelena
      - FYI – During last decision, Steve Ackerman did weigh in on this on behalf of research in the past.
    - **Action Item:** Shane Hubbard will add this to the agenda for next month to close the loop on this. Document creators are likely to pursue conversation with Vice Chancellor Ackerman regardless of committee support.
- Next meeting:
  - Shane Hubbard will try to get Steve Ackerman here at least every other month

- Trying to line up speaker next month, has an invitation pending.
  - Any feedback about today's speaker please send to Shane Hubbard.
- Next OVCRGE-CASI meeting October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020; video conference

**3:00 Adjourn**

**Future Minutes**

Meyers(Oct), Bendfelt (Nov), Adluru (Dec)