

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008-2009

The University Committee (UC) meets weekly (customarily all Monday afternoon) during the fall and spring semesters and as needed throughout the summer and during the winter and spring breaks. The Office of the Secretary of the Faculty provides support to the UC. The secretary of the faculty attends all UC meetings and maintains committee records. The chancellor and provost are invited to attend open sessions of the meetings of the UC and to keep the committee up-to-date on issues and initiatives.

I. Functions

As the executive committee of the Faculty Senate, the UC has the following functions (as abbreviated from *Faculty Policies and Procedures* 6.54.B.):

- Considers questions and makes studies concerning the educational interests and policies of the university
- Advises on procedures and involve the faculty in policy development and decision making
- Consults with and provides advice to administrative officers on budget matters
- Prepares the agenda for the faculty senate
- Makes timely reports to the faculty
- Appoints and/or advises on the appointment of faculty to committees
- Serves as the faculty's grievance committee, except for matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities.

In addition, serves as the board of directors of PROFS, Inc., and as such, represents the interests of the faculty to members of the state legislature and to other officials and state agencies.

II. Issues Addressed

The committee held 41 business meetings in 2008-09 and spent most of its time on issues related to:

1. The educational interests and policies of the university including considering questions of policy posed by members of the faculty and administration, communicating with and appointing faculty to committees, and setting the agendas for Faculty Senate meetings.
2. The process of joint governance, including representing the interests of the faculty in discussions and follow-through with members of: campus and school/college administrations, the board of regents, the academic staff through coordination with the Academic Staff Executive Committee (ASEC), and the student body through coordination with Associated Students of Madison (ASM).
3. Requests for tenure clock extensions, leaves of absence, and other personnel-related rule waivers.

Issues are brought to the committee in a variety of ways. Issues are brought by members of the faculty or administration, by ASEC or ASM, by individuals, or are generated internally within the UC itself. Some of these issues are eventually brought to the senate for action.

A. Issues addressed by the Faculty Senate

2008-09 Faculty Senate business and legislation is summarized in Faculty Document 2143, which was distributed for the 5 October 2009 senate meeting. These actions will not be duplicated here, although the following summarize some of the issues addressed by the UC and the senate.

- *Role of the Athletic Board.* The Athletic Board, as part of the institution's NCAA reaccreditation process and in response to criticism about its internal functioning, conducted a self-study. From that self-study, the board created a document that it presented to the senate entitled "The Role of the Athletic Board," which received a negative response. The University Committee responded to the senate's concern by re-casting the document to reflect more accurately the provisions of *FPP*. The UC's response document, Faculty Document 2114a, was further amended by the senate and adopted. The senate also passed a motion that the UC appoint an *ad hoc* committee to review the board under *FPP*.

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- *Engagement of the Faculty and the Senate.* The UC continued to engage the senate in discussion of the five faculty priorities that were first defined by the UC and the senate in 2006-07: relationship with the state; graduate student education; diversity of students, staff, and faculty; faculty life and community; and access to governance.
- *Need-based Scholarships.* The UC spent considerable time during the year building on the senate's adoption of a resolution supporting a faculty/staff need-based scholarship fund raising campaign initiative that served as the foundation for the Great People. Great Place. With matching contributions from the UW Foundation and the UW Credit Union, the funding raising campaign made tremendous progress.
- *Domestic Partner Benefits.* The senate continued to express its support for extending health insurance benefits to the domestic partners of state employees.
- *Policy on the Granting of Posthumous Degrees.* The UC submitted for a first reading a policy to maintain the faculty's primary responsibility for the granting of degrees.

B. Other Issues Studied by the UC

Some issues are resolved by the UC without action by the senate. Other issues require study by the UC before being brought to the senate. Some of these issues are summarized below.

- *Budget Planning and Analysis Joint Subcommittee.* During its more than ten plus years of existence, the Budget Planning and Analysis Joint Subcommittee of the University Committee and the Academic Planning Council has found it difficult to find its niche in the budget process. The UC continued its discussions with the administration regarding the role of the subcommittee and to identify ways to engage the subcommittee in campus budget discussions. Meanwhile, the UC assumed the role of that body and worked closely with the administration to develop a set of budget reduction principles and guidelines for the annual budget exercise.
- *Consensual Relations Policy.* In response to concerns from faculty members and administrators about the adequacy of the institution's policy on consensual relations, the UC studied policies from peer institutions and worked to recast the policy.
- *Salary Compression and Inversion.* Faculty salaries at UW-Madison continue to fall behind those of our peers due to the state's budget crisis. The UC spent time at a number of meetings discussing with the administration how to address the issue.
- *Cost of Textbooks.* Students, the administration and the faculty and staff continue to look for ways to address the high cost of textbooks. The UC met with students and administrators to try to identify measures that can help the situation.
- *Reaccreditation.* The UC met frequently with administrators and faculty as the institution prepared for the successful site visit in April and met with members of the reaccreditation team during its time on campus.
- *Graduate Education.* The UC continued its efforts toward ensuring that UW-Madison maintains its competitiveness with regard to graduate education.

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III. Faculty Nominations and Appointments to Committees

As authorized in *FPP*, the UC appoints faculty members as needed to certain committees established under Chapter 6 or other faculty legislation. Faculty were appointed to the following committees:

- Athletic Board (subject to approval of the chancellor)
- Commission on Faculty Compensation and Economic Benefits (subject to approval of the senate)
- Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities (subject to approval of the senate)
- Committee on Retirement Issues
- Library Committee (subject to approval of the senate)

The UC recommended faculty members for appointment to the search and screen committee for the UW-Madison provost. The UC also appointed the chairs of the Lectures Committee and the Committee on Retirement Issues.

The UC appointed or recommended for appointment faculty members to the following committees that are not governed by *FPP*:

- Committee on Access and Accommodation in Instruction
- Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues
- Health Care Advisory Committee
- Honorific Modified Professorial Title Review Committee
- Labor Licensing Policy Committee
- Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
- Nonresident Tuition Appeals Committee
- University Book Store Board of Trustees

IV. UC Representation on Committees

UC membership carries with it the additional duty of serving on various other committees, as well as sharing responsibility for and participating in campus-wide planning and informational sessions for new faculty and department chairs. In 2007-08 UC members served on additional committees as indicated below:

- CIC Faculty Representative: Gail Geiger
- Commission on Faculty Compensation and Economic Benefits: Ann Hoyt
- Committee on Committees: Gail Geiger, Linda Graham
- Faculty Consultative Committee on Financial Emergency: Judith Burstyn, William Tracy (chair)
- PROFS, Inc. Board of Directors: all UC members
- PROFS, Inc. Steering Committee: Gail Geiger, Dennis Maki, William Tracy
- University Academic Planning Council: Judith Burstyn
- UW System Faculty Representatives: Ann Hoyt

V. Rule Waivers, Other Personnel Items, and Interpretations

The UC is authorized under *FPP* to hear requests for rule waivers such as extensions of the tenure clock, leaves of absences and temporary assignments, and conversion of a probationary faculty appointment to an academic staff appointment. It also serves as the hearing committee for faculty grievances other than those under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities. These personnel matters are of great import to those concerned, and the UC spends considerable time studying, discussing, and resolving these requests. The UC is also charged with clarifying and rendering interpretations of *FPP*. During 2008-09 the UC dealt with the following cases:

- 20 actions regarding leaves of absence
- 15 actions involving extension of the tenure clock
- 8 situations involving other personnel issues, including three grievances

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VI. 2008-09 Committee Membership

Judith Burstyn (Chemistry)

Gail Geiger (Art History)

Linda Graham (Botany)

Ann Hoyt, chair (Human Ecology)

Dennis Maki (Medicine)

William Tracy (Agronomy)