

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009-2010**

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 *FPP* 6.54.B.):

- Considers questions and makes studies concerning the educational interests and policies of the university
- Advises on procedures and involves 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, the UC 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 44 business meetings in 2009-2010 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, grievances 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**

2009-2010 Faculty Senate business and legislation is summarized in Faculty Document 2212, which was distributed for the 4 October 2010 senate meeting. These actions will not be duplicated here, although the following summarize some of the issues addressed by the UC and the senate.

- *Recommendation Regarding the Needs and Structure of UW-Madison's Research Enterprise.* In response to the chancellor's and provost's initiative to form a new office of a vice chancellor for research and in so doing to separate the university's research enterprise from the Graduate School, the UC appointed a blue ribbon *ad hoc* faculty committee to study the issue and report

back to the UC with a recommendation. The UC then worked with the administration to respond to the set of recommendations, which maintained the connection between research and graduate education. The recommendations were focused on preserving the symbiotic relationship between research and graduate education. The UC presented the *ad hoc* committee's findings to the senate, and the senate adopted a set of recommendations aimed at strengthening the current structure of the Graduate School.

- *Policy on the Awarding of Posthumous Degrees.* This policy clarifies the roles and procedures for the awarding of posthumous degrees and posthumous commendations.
- *Faculty Rights and Academic Freedom.* The senate adopted an amendment that defines the meaning of academic freedom and clarified the right of faculty members to criticize or question policies and actions undertaken by the university.
- *Collective Bargaining.* The state legislature and the governor passed collective bargaining enabling legislation as part of the state budget in the summer of 2009. The senate conducted a Committee of the Whole discussion of this subject.

#### **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.

- *UW-Madison's Research Enterprise.* At the UC's meeting on 20 July 2009 the provost announced that the administration would be re-organizing the institution's research enterprise to address structural deficits, and that the re-organization would decouple graduate education from research. The UC challenged the administration's right to move forward on the initiative without governance participation. The UC appointed a nine-member *ad hoc* faculty committee to study the proposal and to report back to the UC with a recommendation. This issue was a major focus during 2009-2010 with the topic listed formally on 29 of the UC's meeting agendas. By the end of the academic year, the UC presented a set of recommendations to the Faculty Senate for deliberation and action.
- *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. In 2009-2010, the UC assumed the role of the subcommittee and in an effort to engage the faculty in campus budget discussions.
- *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.
- *Faculty Compensation.* The UC worked with the vice provost for faculty and staff programs to develop and implement a number of initiatives to help address the issue of faculty compensation. These included a significant increase in faculty promotional increases and the annual indexing of those increases, post-promotion increases, and pay equity increases.
- *Furloughs.* The governor's budget included a provision for mandatory furloughs for all faculty and staff. The UC worked with the administrative on the implementation of this required reduction in compensation.

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- *Athletic Board Authority.* A question as to how the Athletic Board implements its *FPP* authority was raised in the Faculty Senate, and the senate directed the UC to appoint an *ad hoc* committee to review the board. The *ad hoc* committee conducted its work during 2009-2010 and reported back to UC and then to the senate with a set of recommendations to ensure that the faculty's role in the oversight of athletics is properly implemented.
- *Budget Initiative for Graduate Student Support to Improve Undergraduate Education.* The UC worked with the vice chancellor for administration to develop a DIN (decision item narrative) for the biennial budget exercise to provide new funding for teaching assistants in order to improve the quality of undergraduate education.

### **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)
- Campus Planning Committee
- Commission of 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)
- Memorial Library Committee
- University Academic Planning Council

The UC also appointed the chairs of the Lectures Committee, the Committee on Honorary Degrees, 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*:

- *Ad Hoc* Committee to Determine the Needs and Structure of UW-Madison's Research Enterprise
- *Ad Hoc* Committee to Review the Athletic Board
- *Ad Hoc* Tenure Review Committee
- Advisory Committee for the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates
- Cluster Hires Advisory Committee
- Committee on Access and Accommodation in Instruction
- Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual and Transgender Issues
- Course Approval Project Advisory Committee
- Division of Continuing Studies Search and Screen Committee
- Health Care Advisory Committee
- Honorific Modified Professorial Title Review Committee
- Human Resources Director Search and Screen Committee
- Labor Licensing Policy Committee
- Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
- Nonresident Tuition Appeals Committee
- Registrar Search and Screen Committee
- Research Assistant Collective Bargaining Task Force
- Scientific Misconduct Hearing Committee
- University Book Store Board of Trustees
- Wisconsin Union Council

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#### **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 2009-2010 UC members served on additional committees as indicated below:

- CIC Faculty Representative: Gail Geiger
- Commission on Faculty Compensation and Economic Benefits: Brad Barham
- Committee on Committees: Sue Babcock, Gail Geiger
- 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 Representative: William Tracy

#### **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 2009-2010 the UC dealt with the following cases:

- 11 actions regarding leaves of absence
- 26 actions involving extension of the tenure clock
- 8 situations involving other personnel issues
- 4 grievances

#### **VI. 2009-2010 Committee Membership**

Brad Barham (Agricultural and Applied Economics)  
Judith Burstyn (Chemistry)  
Sue Babcock (Materials Science and Engineering)  
Gail Geiger (Art History)  
Dennis Maki (Medicine)  
William Tracy, chair (Agronomy)