

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010-2011

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 53 business meetings in 2010-2011 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.
4. The chancellor's New Badger Partnership/Public Authority proposals. First and foremost, the UC worked to protect the governance rights of UW-Madison faculty, staff and students. The UC put together a set of principles to guide strategy and legislation related to the New Badger Partnership and Public Authority proposals, which were approved by the senate. The UC also sought input from faculty, staff and administrators regarding the impact of the proposed legislative changes on the university budget and operations. The UC worked hard to understand the implications for UW-Madison, including the fiscal health of the institution and the relationships of the Madison campus to UW System and to the legislature.
5. The governor's budget repair bill and its implications for the faculty, the university, and society. The UC sought advice from faculty and staff experts on public policy, economics, research and education, to inform its decisions and its advisement of the senate. The UC worked closely with

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the PROFS steering committee to engage with the legislature to represent the interests of the UW-Madison faculty in the budget-making process. This engagement included collaborating with the administration to create a Decision Item Narrative requesting additional tuition remissions to support the additional teaching assistants associated with the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates, an item which was not included in the governor's budget. Other points of engagement included meetings with legislators advocating for greater freedom from legislative control for UW-Madison, for continued state investment in higher education, and for UW-Madison's value to the state economy through faculty research.

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

2010-2011 Faculty Senate business and legislation is summarized in Faculty Document 2288, which was distributed for the 3 October 2011 senate meeting. These actions will not be duplicated here, although the following summarize some of the issues addressed by the UC and the senate.

- *Academic Freedom.* In response to the Republican Party of Wisconsin's open records request for a faculty member's email correspondence, the senate adopted a resolution asking that the chancellor fulfill her role and duty to defend the academic freedom rights of the faculty and to develop and defend the strongest possible legal case for protecting faculty and staff from harassment; and that the chancellor and university counsel protect the atmosphere of free inquiry and expression that should characterize a great public university; and to take the responsibility to initiate and take the lead in the State of Wisconsin in arguing for a restoration of open records laws to their intended role as safeguards of transparent and accountable government rather than as mechanisms for calling on the machinery of the state to intimidate potential critics or engage in partisan reprisals for past public statements.
- *New Badger Partnership/Public Authority.* In response to the chancellor's and the governor's proposals for new models for UW-Madison, the senate spent considerable time discussing and debating the implications for the institution. The senate adopted the principles and flexibilities forged by the UC.
- *Policy on Consensual Relations.* This long-standing policy was amended to clarify the consequences of failing to comply with the policy requirements.

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.

- *Graduate School/Research Enterprise Reorganization.* The UC worked on the implementation of the set of recommendations adopted by the Faculty Senate at the end of the 2009-2010 academic year.
- *CIC Faculty Leadership Conference.* The UC planned and organized an on-campus CIC faculty leadership conference.

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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)
- Campus Planning Committee environmental representative (subject to approval of the senate)
- 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)
- Memorial Library Committee
- Research Safety and Compliance Oversight Committee
- University Academic Planning Council

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*:

- Advisory Committee for the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates
- Business School Dean Search and Screen Committee
- CIO Search and Screen Committee
- College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean Search and Screen Committee
- Committee on Access and Accommodation in Instruction
- Committee on Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual and Transgender Issues
- End Violence on Campus Coordinating Committee
- Health Care Advisory Committee
- Honoric Modified Professorial Title Review Committee
- Labor Licensing Policy Committee
- Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
- Law School Dean Search and Screen Committee
- Madison Initiative for Undergraduates Oversight Committee
- Nelson Institute Search and Screen Committee
- Nonresident Tuition Appeals Committee
- Wisconsin Union Council
- Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate School Search and Screen Committee

The UC appointed a number of *ad hoc* committees to advise it on the following issues:

- Legislation Drafting and Public Policy
- Academic Leadership and Governance
- Governor's Budget Bill
- New Badger Partnership/Public Authority

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 2010-2011, UC members served on additional committees as indicated below:

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- CIC Faculty Representative: Gail Geiger
- College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean Search and Screen Committee: Brad Barham
- Commission on Faculty Compensation and Economic Benefits: Brad Barham
- Committee on Committees: Sue Babcock, Gail Geiger
- External Consultant Advisory Committee: Brad Barham
- External Consultant Evaluation Committee: Brad Barham
- Faculty Consultative Committee on Financial Emergency: Sue Babcock, Judith Burstyn (chair)
- Law School Dean Search and Screen Committee: Gail Geiger
- New Badger Partnership/Public Authority Working Group: Judith Burstyn
- PROFS, Inc. Board of Directors: all UC members
- PROFS, Inc. Steering Committee: Brad Barham, Judith Burstyn, Gail Geiger
- School of Business Dean Search and Screen Committee: Sue Babcock
- University Academic Planning Council: Ann Palmenberg
- UW System Faculty Representatives: Peter Lipton
- Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate School Search and Screen Committee: Ann Palmenberg

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 2010-2011, the UC dealt with the following cases:

- 7 actions regarding leaves of absence
- 20 actions involving extension of the tenure clock
- 7 situations involving other personnel issues
- 2 grievances

VI. 2010-2011 Committee Membership

Sue Babcock (Materials Science and Engineering)
Brad Barham (Agricultural and Applied Economics)
Judith Burstyn, chair (Chemistry)
Gail Geiger (Art History)
Peter Lipton (Neuroscience)
Ann Palmenberg (Biochemistry)