

Minutes
University Staff Council
Thursday, October 1, 2020; 9:00 a.m.
WebEx

Jacqui Palcic, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Mary Alkons, Tanja Anderson, Karen Brueggeman, Jenny Clauer, Kim Duesing, Jacqui Palcic, Julia Rowehl, CynDee Sentieri, Jean Sickels, Abby Dunkleburger

Mike Gorman, Academic Staff Rep, Bakhtear Talukdar, Faculty Senate Rep.

Absent: Rebecca Knapp, Kari Heidenreich

Quorum Present: Yes

New Business

Julia motioned to approve the September 3, 2020 council minutes; Jenny seconded the motion, approved unanimously.

Welcome new members: Mary Alkon and returning elected members Kim, Jenny and CynDee

Elections: Council reviewed results. There was no administrative affairs nominee. Karen motioned to appoint Gretchen Kinney to this seat, Julia seconded the motion, approved. Jacqui will reach out to Gretchen to ask if she would be interested. Karen will post the results of the election on the website and update executive board positions.

Executive Board Elections:

Karen motioned to nominate Jacqui as chair, CynDee seconded the motion. No other nominations. Jacqui accepted nomination, approved unanimously.

Karen motioned to nominate Julia as vice chair, Jacqui seconded the motion. No other nominations, Julia accepted nomination, approved unanimously.

Karen motioned to nominate Kim as treasurer, Jacqui seconded the motion. No other nominations, Kim accepted the nomination, approved unanimously.

Jacqui motioned to nominate Jenny as secretary, Julia seconded the motion. No other nominations, Jenny accepted the nomination, approved unanimously.

Chair's Report:

UW System Rep Meeting:

- Meeting coming up with president Thompson – items we would like discuss
 - o What does he see our role to be
 - o Budget cuts

Minutes
University Staff Council
Thursday, October 1, 2020; 9:00 a.m.
WebEx

- University staff always doing more with less and no increase in pay
- Those making the least have endured hardships with furloughs
- POG – huge concern for programs/departments
- Can he share the strategic plan with us.
- Treatment of aging workers, and their being forced out
- Would like a better job done articulating safety during covid.

Update from Cabinet:

- Discussing spring break options, moving it and going remote after, or eliminating it and giving extra days off during the semester.
- Health department recommends no spring break
- Council discussed the options
- Antigen Testing:
 - Now open for off campus students
 - There will also be testing at U-Rock
 - Meeting today to discuss employee testing.
 - Discussing incentives “freebies” to give to students
- Contact tracers are in place
- Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs: Taryn Carothers was named to this position
 - She will be setting up meetings with governance groups in relation to budgets.
- Furloughs.
 - Varying degrees of furlough days:
 - ... some based on salary ... some flat across the board
 - Intermittent and consecutive days
 - In a few instances – no furlough for EEs earning < \$40,000
 - In a few instances – executives given salary reduction instead of furlough days
- COVID
 - All campuses have COVID dashboard to track cases (although reporting across campuses varies)
 - Some campuses have had to go remote for a 2-week period already this semester
 - For students in isolation/quarantine, some campuses have partnered with area restaurants to provide catered meals to students.
 - One campus had success with chancellor and other cabinet members randomly walking the campus and known party locations to monitor violations of social distancing, masking wearing, etc. and issuing citations (penalty based on severity of offense).
 - Most campuses only testing students. Don't have tests or capacity to test EEs.

Minutes
University Staff Council
Thursday, October 1, 2020; 9:00 a.m.
WebEx

- Tuition Waiver Benefit
 - o New policy started in Eau Claire - If open seat in class, EE can take class and earn credit. EE must complete application for tuition waiver. Only one course allowed at a time. EE must earn a grade of C or higher in the course – if not, he/she reimburse tuition cost.
 - o This was one of the last programs Pres. Cross put into place before his retirement. Benefit with low cost that can be provided to employees.
 - o Our UW System rep is gathering more info on this to disburse to all campuses as we were all interested in this.
 - o If we are all agreed, I'd like to add this to our goals and get a subcommittee working on it.

Inclusive Excellence:

- Diversity Forum this week, all sessions are recorded for anyone to listen to.

Vice Chair Report:

Enrollment Strategy and Evaluation Committee:

- New staff hired to implement ESEC work.
- Discussed budget
- Lauren Smith presented on reducing the scope of degree completion

SPBC:

- Will post info to WebEx Teams
- Discussed budget updates and planning
- Enrollment is down, discussed challenges over next 5 years.
- Discussed the strategic plan in groups.

Treasurer Report:

- Balances: 102: \$3000.00, Foundation: \$1092.29
- Karen motioned to approve the report, CynDee seconded the motion, approved unanimously.

Chancellor Liaison Report (Kari):

- No updates from Kari

Human Resources Liaison Report:

- Open enrollment Sept. 28-Oct. 23.
- No benefits fair but there will be sessions available for employees to sign up to discuss benefits.
- Flu shot clinic on November 3 at UWW and November 5 at U-Rock
- Recruitments are moving on

Minutes
University Staff Council
Thursday, October 1, 2020; 9:00 a.m.
WebEx

- Student Employment tool training is up on Canvas
- Newsletter will be out soon.

Faculty Senate Update: They are discussing the future and budget.

Academic Staff Assembly Update: They are discussing some of the same items we are (compensation/budget)

Campus Committees

- o ELARC: No Update
- o Audit, Risk, Compliance and Ethics (Julia): No updates
- o Sustainability Committee (Wes): No update
- o Transportation and Logistics Team (Wes/Kim): No updates
- o Landscape & Planning: No updates
- o Student Success (Lisa Roth): No updates
- o Rec. Sports Advisory Committee (Kim): No updates
- o UW-W Rock County Updates:
 - Tom Loftuss held listening session
 - Lois Smith is assisting with Strategic Planning
- o UC Board (CynDee): No Updates
- o University Technology Committee (Karen): Working with instructors for online learning.
- o Search Committee: No updates
- o UPARC (Jacqui): Discussed program optimization and lack of time to do their work
- o USARC (Karen): Discussed charge from chancellor and elected chair
- o POG: On hiatus right now

Subcommittee Reports

Grant/Fundraising – No updates

Programming/Outreach – No updates

Employee Recognition – No updates

Elections: - Complete, will hold elections for next year in the Spring

By-laws: - No updates

Personnel Review Committee: List of staff willing to sit in on grievance procedures.

Other Business:

Initiatives for Antigen Testing:

- Discussed various options such as tuition money, free food or items from local businesses, donations, etc. Can we donate money from our budget?

Committee Assignments:

ARCE – Mary Alkons

Sustainability – Mary Alkons and/or Jean

Minutes
University Staff Council
Thursday, October 1, 2020; 9:00 a.m.
WebEx

Landscape and Planning – Kim
Process Improvements and Planning – Tanja
Faculty Senate – Mary Alkons
Academic Staff – Still need rep.

Website Comments
None

Karen motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jenny seconded the motion, meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Brueggeman