
Members Absent: None

Others Present: J. Rebholz

At 2:00PM, Chair Kutz, called the meeting to order and directed the attention of the committee members to the draft Minutes of the previous meeting.

Ms. Czynszak-Lyne moved, seconded by Mr. Pond, to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting. All in favor with the exception of Ms. Hilmanowski, who abstained. MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Kutz paused to accept public comments. Mr. Fritter noted the anniversary of the Delano grape strike/boycott which resulted in recognition of the United Farm Workers. Mr. Fritter also noted the anniversary this week of the Attica Prison siege which left 43 dead when the facility was stormed by New York State police.

Chair Kutz recognized Mr. Jake Rebholz for the purpose of providing a report from the Nominations Committee. Mr. Rebholz reported the committee selections for the vacant seats on the IT Committee and the Labor Codes and Licensing Committee.

Ms. Czynszak-Lyne moved, seconded by Mr. Pond, to approve the appointment of Tara Cordes as the representative to the IT Committee, and that Alex Grimm would serve as an Alternate if Ms. Cordes was unable to complete her term. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Czynszak-Lyne moved, seconded by Ms. Droes, to approve the submission of a slate containing the names of Bruce Broker and Keith Calfas to the Chancellor’s office for consideration in serving on the Labor Codes and Licensing Committee. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Newton arrived.

Thanks were extended to the Nominations Committee in view of the high number of vacancies and appointments they have had to make in the recent weeks.

Chair Kutz opened discussion on the status of Life Long Learning and solicited responses from the Committee.

Discussion was heard that positive progress appears to be being made in regard to Life Long Learning. Discussion was heard that this is one area in which a flex-time policy would greatly benefit University Staff employees who may wish to take advantage of such programs. Discussion was heard that it is
currently possible to petition your department in regard to such requests. Discussion was heard that an expanded summer school program may make classes more accessible to employees as will the growth of MOOCS.

Secretary was instructed to reach out to the representatives of Life Long Learning to note the appreciation of the committee in having their views solicited in this regard.

Chair Kutz opened discussion on the Strategic Planning Process.

Discussion was heard that current ‘cons’ in regard to the State of Wisconsin include the high cost of tuition, which despite the current freeze, becomes unreachable as workers wages remain stagnant and financial aid opportunities shrink. Particular mention was made of the threatened expiration of the Pell Grant. It was also noted that the high cost of public education leaves graduates deeply in debt. All of these factors were considered to be exacerbated by what was characterized as a ‘shrinking middle class’, in which family sustaining jobs were in decline and opportunities to advance were decreasing. Another ‘con’ discussed was proposed legislative action that threatens the future of labs by banning fetal tissue based research. ‘Pros’ or positive aspects of the State where discussed as the advances made by the UW-Madison in research fields and the ongoing recognition of shared governance rights by the Board of Regents and individual Chancellors.

Recommendations for the University included articulating the importance of the ‘Wisconsin Idea’ as well as the value of shared governance. In addition it was recommended to increase the awareness of the relevance of the UW-Extension. It was also recommended to lead by example in terms of wages and not outsourcing jobs.

In terms of critical challenges, discussion was heard the improved public relations and outreach were imperative to articulate the economic impact the UW-System has on the State. Discussion was also heard that adequate staff needs to be provided, particularly in the Extension offices, but also on campuses to meet the needs of both the students and the general community.

Chair Kutz recognized the Secretary for the purpose of a report. Secretary reported that the office had received a positive communication from a member of the Faculty regarding the most recent Blog posts. In addition the Secretary provided an update regarding the number of applicants for the no cost seats provided by the Continuing Studies Department.

Chair Kutz opened discussion on the structure of shared governance and directed the attention of the committee to the document provided that illustrated the 6 models discussed at the previous meeting regarding the composition of the Executive Committee.

Discussion was heard regarding the goals of the exercise and how to better define the roles of both Congress and the Executive Committee. Discussion was heard that ensuring full representation of the University Staff should be guaranteed by the structure that is approved.

Discussion was heard regarding the difference between possible voting rights and speaking rights of Executive members participating in Congress meetings as it related to proposed models.
Discussion was heard if any of the proposed models meet the goals of inclusiveness, relationship improvement or providing a check and balance in shared governance. Discussion was heard that University Staff cannot be represented if the two groups cannot function due to ongoing disputes.

Discussion was heard that the conversation between the bodies may benefit from the input of EAP or OQI consultation.

Mr. Newton was excused for the remainder of the meeting.

Discussion was heard regarding the background of why the Executive Committee bylaws were contained within the Congress bylaws draft document and question was raised if this was an appropriate approach.

Discussion was heard regarding three new proposed models of the Executive Committee.

At 3:45PM, Ms. Droes moved, seconded by Ms. Meinholz, to adjourn the meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: J. Lease / Secretary