MINUTES
University Staff Congress
25 January 2016

All members present with the following exceptions.

EXCUSED ABSENT: M. Monroe (135 ), C. DeMontigny (198), E. Schafer (202), H. Udelhoven (203), J. Newton (USEC – 2)

ABSENT: G. Goplin (173), J. Yanzapanta (145), T. Witte (151), K. Woelke (136), M. Adem (139), R. Childs (140), M. Jacobsen (141), L. Martinez (142), C. Corbett (125)

In addition, three Alternates were present.

At 2:30PM, Vice Chancellor Bazzell informed the Congress that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

Vice Chancellor Bazzell directed the attention of the Congress to the draft Minutes of the previous meeting and entertained a motion to approve those Minutes.

A motion to approve was heard, a second to the motion was heard.

Representative of USEC Seat 5 noted that while the draft Minutes captured the positive reaction of the Vice Chancellor to the work of the Bylaws Committee he believed the Vice Chancellor’s statement that the Committee had performed, “great, great work”, should also be included.

Representative of USEC Seat 4 noted that in the portion of the draft Minutes in which thanks are given to those who worked on the Congressional Bylaws, the work of the Parliamentarian should be acknowledged.

Secretary acknowledged that the requested changes could be made.

Vice Chancellor Bazzell called for a vote on the motion to approve the draft Minutes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Vice Chancellor Bazzell paused for public comments. None sought recognition.

Vice Chancellor Bazzell addressed the Congress, urging them to take part in the nomination process of the University Staff Recognition Awards. Vice Chancellor Bazzell also noted the upcoming session of the UW-System sponsored Strategic Planning Session, in which the members of University Staff were invited to take part.

Vice Chancellor Bazzell recognized Executive Committee Chair, Russell Kutz, for the purpose of providing a report to Congress.
Mr. Kutz informed the Congress that the draft of the University Staff Shared Governance Participation Policy is being edited to include a specific reference to the University Staff Congress. Mr. Kutz also informed the Congress that it will be sent a final draft of the Shared Governance Values Statement, which is undergoing a re-draft in order to reconcile it with the edits of the other shared governance bodies.

Vice Chancellor Bazzell recognized Wendy Margolis, for the purpose of briefing the Congress on the Children in the Workplace Policy draft.

Ms. Margolis noted that the original draft of the policy had been distributed to Congress and feedback was solicited. Ms. Margolis continued that the feedback was discussed at the committee level. Ms. Margolis noted the various factors for restrictions and exceptions as well as the relationship of the draft to the Grievance Policy.

Representative of District 152 inquired to how the policy might affect a ‘bring your son or daughter to work’ day event.

Reply came that such a day would be covered within the exceptions for ‘special events’.

Vice Chancellor Bazzell opened discussion on the adoption of the Congressional Bylaws and recognized Bruce Goldade, Chair of the Bylaws Committee in this regard.

Representative of District 108 moved to adopt the Congressional Bylaws as submitted by the Committee. A second to the motion was heard.

Representative of USEC Seat 5 moved to call the question. A second to the motion was heard.

Voice vote was taken, followed by a hand count, confirming a greater than two-thirds majority. MOTION CARRIED.

Vice Chancellor Bazzell called for a vote on the motion to adopt the Bylaws. Ayes were ruled to be in the majority. MOTION CARRIED.

Vice Chancellor Bazzell recognized Congressional Liaison Jake Rebholz for the purpose of acting on the next two agenda items.

Mr. Rebholz inquired if there were any reports from Congressional District Meetings. None sought recognition in this regard.

Mr. Rebholz opened discussion on future agenda items, noting that a discussion on the UW-Wellness program, as well as Emeritus Status for University Staff, were currently slated to be added to future agendas.

Representative of District 124 stated that there should be discussion to clarify the circumstances which constitute an urgent issue and what action the Executive Committee may take under these circumstances. The representative also suggested the topic of explaining or
establishing rules for calling special meetings of congress. Representative also stated that the limited interaction and cooperation between the committee and congress will not improve simply by changing/combining the election process of the Executive Committee and the process should be examined.

Representative of USEC Seat 4 suggested inviting OHR Representatives to Congress to discuss exempt status.

Representative of District 169 suggested scheduling a discussion of ‘operational areas’.

Reply came that the subject of ‘operational areas’ was currently being examined in committee.

Representative of USEC Seat 4 informed the Congress that she welcomes public comments from members of Congress on the topic of ‘operational areas’ and on other items that are currently assigned to the HR Design Policy Advisory Committee, of which she is the Chair.

Mr. Rebholz encouraged participation by members of Congress as well as their constituents, in conversations that take place at the committee level, noting that if one cannot attend in person, they can send written comments to the Secretary who will share them with the committee.

Representative of District 174 suggested a future discussion of available child care options on campus as well as resources available to University Staff to pursue such options.

At 2:55PM, Vice Chancellor Bazzell entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was heard, as was a second. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: J. Lease / Secretary