MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Lenz, T. Fritter, G. Jensen, J. Moran
MEMBERS ABSENT: S. Frey (Excused)
OTHER PRESENT: R. Cramer, J. Horn, J. Perkins, G. Mendez

At 2:30PM, Chair Lenz called the meeting to order and instructed the Secretary to record those present.

Chair Lenz paused for public comments. Mr. Terry Fritter noted that it was on this day in 1935 that President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act. Secretary read in part from two email communications, one from Erik Geiger, urging that the September meeting not take place as ‘in-person’, and one from Neville Paul, urging that Mark Walters be added to the Congressional Agenda for the purpose of providing a briefing on Title and Total Compensation.

Chair Lenz directed the attention of the Committee to the Minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Fritter moved, seconded by Mr. Moran, to approve the Minutes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Lenz recognized Mr. Patrick Kass and Mr. Gabe Mendez, of Transportation Services, for the purpose of providing a briefing as it related to issues of bus service. It was reported that bus pass holders were informed by email to examine changes posted to the Transportation Services website. It was noted that key routes will allow campus employees to reach the workplace on time. It was further reported that the UW provides 50% of the Madison Metro ridership.

Discussion was heard in regard to bus pass costs and operational costs.

Discussion was heard in regard to the data cited by the Department as it related to bus ridership and how it was arrived at. Reply came that the data is provided by Madison Metro. Discussion heard regarding the cited arrival times associated with various routes and that they do not jive with first hand experience. Reply came that details are available from Madison Metro and that the Department publishes this material in a form that they believe will provide a useful summary of the data available.

Question was raised regarding increased desire for flex permits. Reply came that the Department has more than doubled flex passes and will evaluate the situation as the year goes on. It was noted that flex passes require a 4 hour minimum when in use.

Discussion was heard regarding a letter to the editor signed by Mr. Kass. Clarification was provided that the letter was approved by the Administration prior to it’s release. Discussion was heard in regard to the details of the Rapid Transit system and the advantageous and disadvantageous of either North – South routes or East – West routes. Discussion was heard in regard to the ‘low cost’ program and what lots are made available to it and the possibility of expanding those available lots.
Mr. Kass and Mr. Mendez were excused with the thanks of the Committee.

Chair Lenz recognized Vice Chancellor Cramer for the purpose of providing a report.

Vice Chancellor Cramer informed the Committee that the campus continues to work with Dane County health authorities regarding COVID response and has re-introduced indoor masking and testing of the unvaccinated. Clarification was provided that the testing will be of the swab variety and will take place at VDL. It was confirmed that high traffic buildings will be subject to surveillance in regard to entry.

Question was raised as to how many University Staff were working remotely. Reply came that those numbers would have to be examined and then a reply will be provided.

Question was raised as to the viability of instituting a voluntary separation program. Reply came that no such program is being discussed and that it is viewed as viable only in a financial emergency situation and was used on other campuses to prevent layoffs.

Concern was expressed that other employees carry an additional workload when positions are eliminated.

Discussion heard regarding timeline for the FP&M Director search and screen work. The diversity of the panel was noted, including that the committee has a translator from CLS as an ex-officio member.

Discussion was heard in regard to the work / life balance goals of the Administration and that 2nd and 3rd Shift employees are often overlooked in this equation, as are blue collar employees in general. Discussion was heard in regard to the challenges of communication to both off shift and blue collar employees who often have restrictive usage of computers or little access to them.

Question was raised if the VCFA would object to the next meeting of Congress being held via-correspondence rather than in person. Reply came that there would be no objection.

Question was raised if vaccine booster shots would be available on campus. Reply was in the affirmative.

Concern was raised over the staff work schedule for the 18 September graduation ceremonies as well as the public access to the event. Reply came that details would have to be confirmed before a response could be given.

Vice Chancellor Cramer was excused with the thanks of the Committee.

Chair Lenz directed the attention of the Committee to the draft Agenda for the September meeting of Congress. The Secretary reviewed the items scheduled for that meeting.

Mr. Fritter moved, seconded by Mr. Moran, to approve the Agenda with the stipulation that it be designated as a via-correspondence meeting, rather than an in-person meeting as appeared on the draft. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

At 3:35PM, Mr. Moran moved, seconded by Ms. Jensen, to adjourn the meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: J. Lease / Secretary