

MINUTES

Central Committee

8.13.26

MEMBERS PRESENT: S. Frey, P. Haney, T. Fritter, K. Demick, Juan Santoyo Zamora

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

At 2PM, in the absence of a Chair, the meeting was called to order by the Secretary.

Secretary noted that Cultural and Linguistic Services personnel were providing interpretation for the meeting and asked members to speak slowly and avoid speaking over one another to allow for accurate interpretation.

Secretary reviewed the requirements for public meetings under Wisconsin Open Meetings and Records statutes.

Secretary also reviewed the restrictions on discussing Committee business among members outside of a properly noticed meeting. Members were advised that questions or ideas intended for the entire Committee could be directed to the Secretary's office

Secretary paused for public comments. None sought recognition in this regard.

Secretary called for nominations for Chair of the Central Committee for the current term. Mr. Fritter was nominated. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Mr. Fritter was elected Chair.

Secretary then called for nominations for Vice Chair. Ms. Demick was nominated. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and Ms. Demick was unanimously elected Vice Chair.

Chair Fritter provided a report to the Committee. He noted upcoming Board of Regents meetings, including the August meeting at Gordon Commons, and encouraged members to attend meetings virtually or in person when possible.

Chair Fritter noted that this week marked the anniversary of the implementation of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) in 1993. Chair Fritter also noted Wisconsin's history of providing family and medical leave protections prior to the federal legislation and described Wisconsin as a leader in establishing employee leave protections.

Chair Fritter reported that he had contacted representatives regarding having an OHR representative attend Central Committee meeting and expressed hope that this would provide the Committee with better access to information and responses to questions.

Question was raised about the process for amending the bylaws. It was noted that a proposed bylaw amendment must first be considered by the Bylaws Committee and then brought before Congress for approval at two consecutive meetings. The Committee also discussed the process of forming the Bylaws Committee and encouraged members interested in submitting proposed amendments to contact the Secretary.

The Committee discussed the Second and Third Shift Issues Committee and the need to maintain sufficient representation from employees working those shifts.

A question was asked about the upcoming Board of Regents meeting and whether it would address employee issues, including leave policies. Chair Fritter clarified that the Board of Regents primarily addresses University budgets, funding, academic programs, and capital improvements. He noted that upcoming discussions were expected to include the University budget proposal, funding for employee compensation, and capital improvement projects on the various UW campuses.

Secretary reviewed the process for developing the University Staff Congress agenda. He explained that several agenda items are permanent under the Bylaws and that the Congress agenda also provides time for reports and presentations.

The Committee agreed to invite the Chief of Police to appear before Congress. The Committee also discussed inviting other campus representatives, including interim Chancellor, Provost and a representative from FP&M, for future meetings.

A question was raised about motions that had been intended for consideration at the June meeting but were not considered because there was no quorum. One of the motions was a previous parking-related motion and the possibility of inviting representatives to address parking concerns. Chair Fritter reported that he would contact Vice Chancellor regarding progress on parking issues and agreed to revisit the matter at its next meeting if there had not been sufficient progress.

Mr. Haney talked about the Motion on the creation of an ad hoc committee related to university compensation that was supposed to be introduced at the June Congress meeting. The Committee discussed concerns regarding transparency in compensation and the possibility of establishing an ongoing dialogue with the Office of Human Resources regarding University compensation strategy. The Committee agreed that the issue should be raised with representatives from OHR and discussed a proper way of introducing it to Congress.

A concern was heard regarding workplace injuries among custodial employees and the impact of staffing shortages, particularly on second and third shifts. Members reported concerns that employees were being asked to take on additional work because of vacancies and that this could contribute to workplace injuries.

Chair Fritter reported that according to FP&M, temporary contracted services were being used as a short-term measure while additional custodians are hired. FP&M indicated that approximately 20 custodians were expected to be hired within the next two months, with additional hiring to follow.

Ms. Demick moved to approve the submitted Agenda, seconded by Mr. Haney. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Secretary talked about the proposed membership of university staff in the campus Age-Friendly University Global Network. The Committee discussed the importance of University Staff representation on the committee. Ms. Demick agreed to be a representative to the working group.

The Committee discussed concerns regarding maintenance and the costs associated with campus infrastructure repairs and that delayed maintenance could result in significantly greater costs and noted that capital improvement and maintenance needs should continue to be raised.

At 2:45PM, Ms. Demick moved, seconded by Ms. Frey, to adjourn the meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: E.Sidorenko/ Assistant to the Secretary