

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007-2008**

The University Committee (UC) meets weekly (customarily all Monday afternoon) during the fall and spring semesters and as needed throughout the summer and during the winter and spring breaks. The Office of the Secretary of the Faculty provides support to the UC. The secretary of the faculty attends all UC meetings and maintains committee records. The chancellor and provost are invited to attend open sessions of the meetings of the UC and to keep the committee up-to-date on issues and initiatives.

**I. Functions**

As the executive committee of the Faculty Senate, the UC has the following functions (as abbreviated from *FPP* 6.54.B.):

- Considers questions and makes studies concerning the educational interests and policies of the university
- Advises on procedures and involves the faculty in policy development and decision making
- Consults with and provides advice to administrative officers on budget matters
- Prepares the agenda for the faculty senate
- Makes timely reports to the faculty
- Appoints and/or advises on the appointment of faculty to committees
- Serves as the faculty's grievance committee, except for matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities

In addition, the UC serves as the board of directors of PROFS, Inc., and as such, represents the interests of the faculty to members of the state legislature and to other officials and state agencies.

**II. Issues Addressed**

The committee held 39 business meetings in 2007-2008 and spent most of its time on issues related to:

1. The educational interests and policies of the university including considering questions of policy posed by members of the faculty and administration, communicating with and appointing faculty to committees, and setting the agendas for Faculty Senate meetings.
2. The process of joint governance, including representing the interests of the faculty in discussions and follow-through with members of: campus and school/college administrations, the board of regents, the academic staff through coordination with the Academic Staff Executive Committee (ASEC), and the student body through coordination with Associated Students of Madison (ASM).
3. Requests for tenure clock extensions, leaves of absence, and other personnel-related rule waivers.

Issues are brought to the committee in a variety of ways. Issues are brought by members of the faculty or administration, by ASEC or ASM, by individuals, or are generated internally within the UC itself. Some of these issues are eventually brought to the senate for action.

**A. Issues addressed by the Faculty Senate**

2007-2008 Faculty Senate business and legislation is summarized in Faculty Document 2069 which was distributed for the 6 October 2008 senate meeting. These actions will not be duplicated here, although the following summarize some of the issues addressed by the UC and the senate.

- *Misconduct in Scholarly Research.* Changes in NIH regulations regarding misconduct in scholarly research required that faculty legislation on this matter be aligned with those changes. The UC worked closely with the Graduate School and the Office of Administrative Legal Services to create bridging documents that met this need while preserving important considerations in the faculty policy.

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- *Engagement of the Faculty and the Senate.* The UC continued to engage the senate in discussion of the five faculty priorities that were first defined by the UC and the senate in 2006-2007: relationship with the state; graduate student education; diversity of students, staff, and faculty; faculty life and community; and access to governance.
- *Need-based Scholarships.* The UC spent considerable time during the year working with the administration and the UW Foundation to develop a strategy for a faculty/staff need-based scholarship fund raising campaign. This work culminated in the senate's adoption of a resolution supporting the initiative that served as the foundation for the Great People. Great Place. campaign.
- *Police Department Policy on Videotaping.* Concern was raised in the senate regarding the videotaping of a student rally and the disposition of the videotape. The UC worked with the Police Department to understand its policy and practices and reported this information at two different senate meetings.

#### **B. Other Issues Studied by the UC**

Some issues are resolved by the UC without action by the senate. Other issues require study by the UC before being brought to the senate. Some of these issues are summarized below.

- *Budget Planning and Analysis Joint Subcommittee.* During its more than ten plus years of existence, the Budget Planning and Analysis Joint Subcommittee of the University Committee and the Academic Planning Council has found it difficult to find its niche in the budget process. The UC continued its discussions with the administration regarding the role of the subcommittee and to identify ways to engage the subcommittee in campus budget discussions.
- *Graduate Education and Tuition Remission.* The Tuition Remission Task Force's recommendations were not sufficient to solve this ongoing and growing problem for graduate education. The UC spent considerable time during the year in dialogue with the administration, faculty and students trying to develop approaches toward resolution.
- *Balancing Participation in Shared Governance.* The ongoing broad topic of shared governance participation was a common agenda item for the committee during 2007-2008 as it continued to examine this continuing issue. Discussions included such specific topics as tenure criteria, the potential for scholarly contributions related to clinical and professional practice to qualify as criteria for tenure, department chair appointments, and broadening participation on campus-wide committees.
- *Policies Regarding Emeriti/a Faculty.* With projections for increased faculty retirements and the potential impact on the institution, the UC investigated whether there should be mechanisms to keep faculty engaged in the institution following retirement. After much consideration, the UC was satisfied that existing policies and procedures are adequate.

#### **III. Faculty Nominations and Appointments to Committees**

As authorized in *FPP*, the UC appoints faculty members as needed to certain committees established under Chapter 6 or other faculty legislation. Faculty were appointed to the following committees:

- Athletic Board (subject to approval of the chancellor)
- Campus Planning Committee
- Library Committee (subject to approval of the senate)

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- Memorial Library Committee
- Committee on Retirement Issues
- University Academic Planning Council

The UC recommended faculty members for appointment to the search and screen committees for the UW-Madison chancellor, the vice provost for faculty and staff programs, and the director of the University Health Services. The UC also appoints the chairs of the Lectures Committee, the Committee on Retirement Issues, and the Committee on Honorary Degrees (subject to the approval of the chancellor).

The UC appointed or recommended for appointment faculty members to the following committees that are not governed by *FPP*:

- Committee on Access and Accommodation in Instruction
- Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues
- Domestic Partner Benefits Task Force
- Health Care Advisory Committee
- Honorific Modified Professorial Title Review Committee
- Labor Licensing Committee
- Lakeshore Nature Preserve Committee
- Nonresident Tuition Appeals Committee
- Reaccreditation Core Teams
- University Book Store Board of Trustees
- UW System Compensation Committee

#### **IV. UC Representation on Committees**

UC membership carries with it the additional duty of serving on various other committees, as well as sharing responsibility for and participating in campus-wide planning and informational sessions for new faculty and department chairs. In 2007-2008 UC members served on additional committees as indicated below:

- CIC Faculty Representative: Linda Graham
- Commission on Faculty Compensation and Economic Benefits: Ann Hoyt
- Committee on Committees: Ann Hoyt, William Tracy
- Faculty Consultative Committee on Financial Emergency: Dennis Maki, Robert Mathieu
- PROFS, Inc. Board of Directors: all UC members
- PROFS, Inc. Steering Committee: Dennis Maki, Robert Mathieu, William Tracy
- University Academic Planning Council: Jane Hutchison
- UW System Faculty Representative: Robert Mathieu

#### **V. Rule Waivers, Other Personnel Items, and Interpretations**

The UC is authorized under *FPP* to hear requests for rule waivers such as extensions of the tenure clock, leaves of absences and temporary assignments, and conversion of a probationary faculty appointment to an academic staff appointment. It also serves as the hearing committee for faculty grievances other than those under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities. These personnel matters are of great import to those concerned, and the UC spends considerable time studying, discussing, and resolving these requests. The UC is also charged with clarifying and rendering interpretations of *FPP*. During 2007-2008 the UC dealt with the following cases:

- 7 actions regarding leaves of absence
- 20 actions involving extension of the tenure clock
- 9 other situations involving other personnel issues

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**VI. 2007-2008 Committee Membership**

Linda Graham (Botany)

Ann Hoyt (Human Ecology)

Jane Hutchison (Art History)

Dennis Maki (Medicine)

Robert Mathieu, chair (Astronomy)

William Tracy (Agronomy)