



Minutes of the UWRF Faculty Senate for May 15, 2009 Vol. 34 No. 1.

Representation	Term Expires 2010	Term Expires 2011	Term Expires 2012
CAFES	Kris Hiney	Laine Vignona	
CAS	Wes Chapin	Patricia Berg	David Rainville
	Karl Peterson** (Magdalena Pala)	John Heppen	
		Jennifer Willis-Rivera	
COEPS		Hilary Pollack** (Mike Miller)	Todd Savage
CBE			Hossein Najafi
4th Division	Kristie Feist	Valerie Malzacher** (Michelle McKnelly)	Barbara Stinson
	Kristen Hendrickson		
At Large		Kathleen Hunzer	Robyne Tiedeman
	Sarah Parks** (Stacey Stoffregen)	Dennis Cooper	Marshall Toman
	David Furniss** (Jim Mulvey)		Dawn Hukai
	Terry Brown*		

* Chancellor's Designee

** Absent

() Substitute

Call to Order: David Rainville called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm

Seating of Substitutes: Michelle McKnelly for Valerie Malzacher, Mike Miller for Hilary Pollack, Magdalena Pala for Karl Peterson, Stacey Stoffregen for Sarah Parks, Jim Mulvey for David Furniss

Recognition of Invited Guests:

Approval of Minutes:

Chair's Report:

Chair David Rainville attended the BOR meeting last Wednesday. It was a good meeting, the main items on the agenda was the proposal to make textbooks affordable; this was approved. The changes to Chapters 17 and 18 dealing with student misconduct were also discussed, but were postponed until the June meeting. The Sustainable Management degree was approved.

Vice Chair's Report:**Other Reports:****Unfinished Business****New Business Consent Agenda:**

1. Program Change from AP&P, Broad Area Music major - Elimination, The Music Department would like to eliminate its Broad Area Music Major through a gradual phase-out over approximately the next four years.

The consent agenda was passed by a unanimous vote.

New Business:

1. Election of 2009-2010 Executive Committee

At this point, Wes Chapin moved to introduce a **motion** (and was seconded by John Heppen) reading the following: "It shall be Faculty Senate policy that 'After being nominated, all candidates for the executive committee shall have an opportunity to address the Senate and field questions from members of the Senate.'"

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chair

Nomination(s): David Rainville.

A motion was made to accept by acclamation, but was discouraged by the parliamentarian.

A vote by secret ballot was taken. David Rainville was declared the winner .

Vice Chair

Nomination(s): Dennis Cooper.

A vote by secret ballot was taken. Dennis Cooper was declared the winner.

Secretary

Nomination(s): Kris Hiney.

A vote by secret ballot was taken. Kris Hiney was declared the winner.

At-large

Nomination(s): John Heppen, Jennifer Willis-Rivera, Todd Savage.

Those nominated made statements as to their intents to serve and their qualifications.

A senator asked each candidate for their divisions. Heppen is from CAS, as is Willis-Rivera. Savage is from CEPS.

A vote by secret ballot was taken, and John Heppen was declared the winner.

At-large

Nomination(s): Dawn Hukai, Todd Savage.

A vote by secret ballot was taken, and Todd Savage was declared the winner.

New Business Miscellaneous:

1. Need for a special Faculty Senate meeting to establish an *ad hoc* committee pursuant to sec 4.4.3.1(g)(3).

This is a committee established by Faculty Senate when someone has been denied tenure possibly based on impermissible factors according to the Faculty Senate Grievance Committee.

Rainville noted he would like to schedule a tentative Faculty Senate meeting for one week from today at 1 p.m. in the Willow River Room, UC.

2. A **motion** from Wes Chapin, seconded by John Heppen:

Fully cognizant of the extreme financial challenges facing the State of Wisconsin,

Guided by the long-term interests of students, staff, faculty, and citizens of the State of Wisconsin,

Recognizing that the UW-System is a necessary engine of growth for the Wisconsin economy, deserving of investment, rather than disinvestment,

Noting that faculty and staff at the UW-River Falls (and other UW institutions) have borne a significant share of the State's cutbacks and financial pain in multiple, consecutive biennial budget periods,

Fully aware that the UWRF has taken steps during each of the previous economic crises to minimize the impacts upon students,

Expressing its concern that Wisconsin residents do not understand the full magnitude of budget cuts on staff and faculty, and the subsequent impacts those have on the State, itself, over the long-term,

Further concerned that faculty and staff will be forced to shoulder the full impact of the proposed cuts and furloughs in a way that will again prevent Wisconsin residents from understanding and appreciating the devastating nature of the cuts,

Deeply disturbed that decision makers in Madison continue to assume erroneously that the UWRF and its sister institutions can continue to make multi-year, substantial cuts in staff, salaries, benefits, and budgets without suffering reductions in educational quality,

Considering that faculty and staff are expected to engage in service, advise students and organizations, complete research and scholarly activities, and prepare adequately for courses, in addition to teaching the latter,

Emphasizing that promotion, retention, and other career opportunities are determined by an array of work responsibilities and performance levels in each of the aforementioned categories,

Understanding that many issues remain undefined, such as the way employees who are part-time versus full-time, salary versus hourly, and nine-month versus twelve-month, will be treated,

Aware that Governor Doyle's Budget Director, Dave Schmiedicke, was quoted on May 9, 2009, "Agencies will have to decide obviously at the workplace level how to implement the furloughs,"

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate hereby **moves** that, subject to appropriate state laws,

1. any required faculty furloughs, if such furloughs are mandated, be staggered, using a process approved through formal Faculty Senate participation, and;
2. furlough days must not be defined in a manner that disproportionately impairs some areas of professional responsibilities (e.g. if no teaching days are included in furlough days, responsibilities in areas such as research and preparation would be disproportionately impacted).

One senator noted that defining the process at this stage may be premature as the people involved are taking this gracefully, and are their own best judges as to how to deal with this with respect to their own workload.

Provost Terry Brown read a statement from Chancellor Connie Foster. Foster wrote: "I am sorry I cannot be at Faculty Senate today. I am on my way back to campus after a

meeting of UW System Chancellors with Governor Doyle. We had a very good and productive meeting in which we expressed our concerns about the significant impact of the increased cuts on our campus.

I would like to speak to the motion regarding furloughs. As you know, we are in a national crisis that has forced the state to take these drastic measures. The UW System is politically fighting to prevent an additional 3-5% cut to our budget which would result in inevitable layoffs across the ranks on campuses. While I am sympathetic to the intent of the motion, this motion would be counterproductive to our efforts to prevent further cuts. While the UW System is asking for flexibility in the implementation of furloughs, the Governor is firmly opposed to taking instruction days as furlough and will not allow it. I want to reaffirm that we will work closely with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in the coming weeks as more details regarding the furloughs become available.”

Chapin noted that the way the motion is written, it is subject to state law.

Another senator noted that if no instructional days are allowed to be taken off, people will still be doing the same amount of work for less pay, which is possibly illegal.

Dennis Cooper moved to amend the motion to remove items 1 and 2, and the sentence preceding those. According to the parliamentarian, this is impermissible because it would remove the actual motion from the motion.

Provost Brown said that it is expected that furlough days will be pro-rated according to a person’s appointment.

A senator asked if this motion might actually help the Chancellors as they negotiate with the governor.

Laine Vignona moved to amend this motion to remove “be staggered” and insert “be developed” and was seconded by Dennis Cooper. The amendment was approved by a vote of 15 for, 0 opposed, and 7 abstentions.

The original motion as amended was approved by a vote of 12 for, 8 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

2. A **resolution**:

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate hereby;

1. Stresses the critically important role that the UW System plays as an engine of growth for the State of Wisconsin;
2. Observes with growing alarm the reality that continued cuts will lead inevitably to an alarming erosion of quality that will undermine the System’s ability to serve the State of Wisconsin;

3. Objects most strenuously to the newly proposed budget cuts, salary cuts, benefit cost increases, and furloughs;
4. Calls upon the political leadership of the State to desist from further disinvestments in higher education;
5. Requests that the UW System's vital role be recognized by providing substantial and long-term investment in higher education.

This item was moved by John Heppen and seconded by Dennis Cooper.

The resolution passed by a vote of 21 for, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Adjournment at 2:01 p.m.