

Meeting Minutes
Governance Steering Council (GSC)
December 16, 2013

Present: Dan Gerlowski, Giordana Segneri, Michael Carrington, Catherine Johnson, Magui Cardona

The GSC was called to order at 3:07.

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. There are no prior minutes requiring approval.
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. The agenda was unanimously approved.
3. Updates from Constituent Bodies
 - a. Students: The SGA hosted a town hall two weeks ago to introduce the "Live Safe" app that will help members of the campus community communicate with UB police. SGA leaders are in close contact with the creators and developers of the app and can provide feedback from the campus community. SGA leaders hosted an administrative luncheon where they discussed priorities for student government including improved communication and positioning of student government. The SGA was awarded \$16,000 in additional funding from the Allocations Board. That money will help cover expenses from conferences and welcome week events in the spring. The SGA participated in the nomination of the student regent for the 2014-15 year. That student will be the official communication between the University System SGAs and the Board of Regents. This spring, Michael Carrington will represent the SGA at commencement.
 - b. Staff: The UBSS amended their bylaws to include a process to elect a CUSS alternate and a system to regulate terms of CUSS representatives to ensure continuity. These amendments were ratified at the end of November and Ron Vickers was appointed as the CUSS alternate through the end of the year. The UBSS formed a Staff Recognition Committee that will support development of nomination packets for the Board of Regents Staff Awards and promote enthusiasm for staff recognition in general. The Staff Senate is conducting new member outreach based on a list of new hires by sending an email to new staff and having coverage at new employee orientation. At their last meeting, they learned about a new Employee Assistance Program for the University, which will go into effect January 1. The UBSS leaders had informal conversations with Sam Tress regarding the University emergency preparedness plan and concerns about the University texting system expiring users without notice; he has been asked to attend a future UBSS Executive Board meeting to further discussion.
 - c. Faculty: The UFS passed the sophomore seminar, a course that will serve as a bridge to the majors, feature a common read, and reinforce critical thinking. The

UFS heard a report on open source textbooks at their last meeting and has created a faculty workgroup to explore the issue. Some senators participated in a daylong workshop on student success focused on best practices in foundational studies for writing and math. The UFS expects proposals to revise those programs in the spring. The UFS also expects to vote on the approval of a capstone course in the spring.

4. University Budget Committee Priority List of 11/17
 - a. The priority list was distributed at the meeting and all three senates will do their best to provide feedback to the GSC by January 17.
5. University Staff Senate Resolution
 - a. The following resolution, originating from the Staff Senate, was endorsed by the GSC and will be forwarded to President Bogomolny by Dan Gerlowski:
 - i. Whereas staff recognition is an issue concerning members of the UBSS and whereas the University president announces UB Staff Awards during convocation, the UBSS hereby resolves to request that the University president mention the reason or accomplishments for which a staff member is receiving the award in addition to the name of the award, and that such awards be celebrated commensurate with faculty award recognitions.
6. Meeting Schedule for Spring 2014
 - a. The GSC meetings of the spring 2014 semester will take place as follows, 12:30-2 p.m. in BC 431:
 - i. January 16 (staff take minutes)
 - ii. February 20 (students take minutes)
 - iii. March 13 (faculty take minutes)
 - iv. April 17 (staff take minutes)
 - v. May 15 (students take minutes)
 - b. The May 15 meeting will also serve as the "hand-off" meeting and will include new officers of the three senates.
7. Action Plans and Reporting from Committees
 - a. To codify the process for the reporting of actions by committees the GSC will invite the chairs of the four University committees to join the January 16 GSC meeting. The meeting with the committee chairs will take place from 12:30-2pm and the meeting will be extended until 3pm to give the GSC time to take care of regular business.
8. Representation from Employees Serving Dual Roles
 - a. The GSC discussed the members of our community who serve multiple roles (for example, they are staff and adjunct faculty or are staff and a student). It was agreed that when they represent one of their respective bodies on a governance committee, they bring a diverse perspective and that is often a good thing. Governance bodies should feel free to elect whoever they see fit to represent their interests on governance committees.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Johnson