

GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

Fall Semester 2010
Wednesday, August 11, 2010
Townsend Center
Approved April 6, 2011 (2:00)

I. Call to Order

President Sethna called the meeting to order at 9:04 p.m. at the Townsend Center. Sethna's opening remarks included a welcome and an expression of appreciation to faculty and a recognition of new faculty. He then spoke about: 1) his optimism about the future, 2) the challenges facing the university, 3) the goals to become a "destination university" and a Carnegie designated "doctoral research university," 4) the plan to achieve these goals by strengthening academics, campus life and facilities; 5) the place of enrollment in the achievement of those goals, and 6) the role of perceptions of UWG (by alumni, prospective students and the community) in the question of enrollment.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the preceding general faculty meeting, of April 29, 2010. No objection was made to calling the question, and the minutes were approved by voice vote.

III. Retention, Progression, Graduation

Scott Lingrell, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, announced and introduced the members of a committee (co-chaired by Lingrell and Gantner) to propose ways to improve RPG rates. He indicated there was no "silver bullet" to account for the rate, but rather many sources. He affirmed UWG's commitment to the Center for Teaching and Learning and the "First Year Experience" and introduced Helen Steel as the new director of the latter. He also noted that each department in the College of Arts and Sciences now has an RPG coordinator.

IV. UWG Annual Fund

Deirdre Rouse and Brad Yates, coordinators for this year's annual fund, spoke, and appealed for support for this fund, noting that unrestricted gifts go to funding scholarship aid for students.

V. UWG Ombuds Program

John Fuller described the ombuds program at UWG, and noted that he will serve as ombuds for faculty, and that Patricia Pinkard will serve as ombuds for staff. He described the program as one of conflict resolution based on the principles of confidentiality, informality, independence, and impartiality.

VI. Outstanding Faculty Member Award by the EXCEL Center

Cheryl Rice presented the outstanding faculty award by the EXCEL Center. She described this award as based particularly on a commitment to first year students. The award was given to Dr. Andy Walter, of the Geosciences Department.

VII. AAUP

Rob Sanders, chapter president of the AAUP appealed to faculty to join AAUP. He noted: 1) the increased challenges faculty now face, such post-tenure review, furloughs, increased health insurance costs, no raises; 2) the role of the legislature's focus on operating the university system like a "business model" and how that is leading to trade schools teaching core curriculum courses; 3) that the AAUP is a recourse to redress such grievances; and 4) that the UWG chapter will be inviting legislators to campus meetings this year for such discussions. He urged all faculty to attend these meetings, whether or not they are AAUP members. He also acknowledged other faculty who are currently or have previously contributed to the work of the AAUP.

VIII. SACS Update & QEP

Associate Vice President Jon Anderson summarized work on the preparation for the forthcoming SACS re-accreditation, and noted that it was proceeding on schedule. He noted that the QEP initiative requires each university to identify one key to student learning, showed that these are very individualized for each university, and invited the submission of ideas for what UWG's key idea should be.

IX. Vice President's Remarks

Peter Hoff, the new interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced himself, noting his long experience as a professor of English and humanities, his previous work as the Chief Academic Officer of the USG, and former president of the University of Maine. He also introduced his staff: associate vice presidents Jon Anderson and Myrna Gantner and assistant vice president Michael Aldrich. He noted that he perceives a god excitement and energy level at UWG and looks forward to saying "yes" to good ideas regarding scholarship, teaching and creative activities.

X. Closing Remarks

President Sethna closed the meeting by endorsing the proposals of the previous speakers, and then asked for a motion to adjourn.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

Minutes by Chris Aanstoos, *Executive Secretary of the Faculty*