

Brief on the WWU/UFWW Partnership Committee

Partnership Committee Defined

The WWU Partnership Committee is a joint advisory committee comprised of representatives of the employer and of the union. The purpose of this advisory committee will be to address issues referred to it jointly by the Provost and the UFWW President. Issues include interpreting aspects of the contract or identifying issues not in the contract, but closely related to issues in the contract. The committee is not a decision-making body, nor will it usurp the authority or responsibilities of other groups, including the Executive Committee of the UFWW. Positions taken during discussions will not be construed as official positions of either the employer or the union. Contributions by individuals to the discussion are to be treated confidentially by committee members.

The WWU-UFWW faculty collective bargaining agreement provides as follows:

SECTION 4 PARTNERSHIP

- 4.1 The University and the Union recognize that an effective and harmonious working relationship will facilitate the achievement of strategic goals. This will advance the University's mission and strategic plan and provide an environment conducive to achieving excellence.*
- 4.2 A Partnership Committee, consisting of three faculty members selected by the Union and three non-faculty University representatives will meet monthly, or at such times as both sides mutually agree. The purpose of the meetings is to foster communication between the University and faculty. Items for consideration by the committee may include discussion of matters that promote collaborative relationships, and expression of opinions, ideas and concerns. The committee will serve in an advisory rather than a decision making capacity. The committee will be established on a one year trial basis--the parties may mutually agree to extend the term of the committee after the first year.*

In the first year of CBA implementation, all potential issues were addressed through discussions between the Provost and the UFWW President, The committee is being formed in November 2009 for the first time. The following operational expectations are set forth for the group this year.

Calling the meetings and forming the agendas

The Provost and UFWW President will each identify one representative of their respective committee appointees to serve as co-chair. The co-chairs are equally

responsible for organizing and facilitating committee meetings and for ensuring appropriate follow-up from the meetings.

Implementing and documenting committee meetings

Once an issue has been identified, each team will be briefed (often separately) by the provost or UFWW President prior to the committee meeting. The co-chairs will set an agenda that includes written referral from the Provost and the UFWW President on the issue(s) to be addressed. Agendas for the meetings will be distributed in advance. A report, approved by the co-chairs, will be prepared and forwarded to the Provost and the UFWW President for discussion of any necessary action.

Responsibilities of the Parties

At the end of the year evaluate committee meetings and the overall process.

The committee may want to consider an outline such as the following as a checklist for tasks and responsibilities of the committee and members.

Committee Meeting Process

Before the Meeting	During the Meeting	After the Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Provost and the UFWW President identify issues appropriate for partnership committee • UFWW and Admin teams research and meet separately to be briefed on the identified issue(s) • Co-chairs set agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review old business agenda items • Discuss new agenda items • Take minutes and prepare report based on discussions that reflect the perspectives shared in the meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-chairs review and approve minutes and report for distribution • Co-chairs jointly inform Provost and UFWW President of discussion outcome • Co-chairs relate back to committee any action taken by the Provost and UFWW President