Present: Rodd Freitag, Andrea Gapko, Margaret Hallatt, Susan Harrison, Tim Leutwiler, Barbara MacBriar, John Melrose, Cleo Powers, Ronald Satz, Kathie Schneider, Nick Smiar, Todd Stephens, Jean Wilcox

Absent: Tim Lane, Donald Mash, Lori Rowlett

Guests: Jan Morse, Andrew Soll, Steve Tallant, Ted Wendt

The meeting was called to order by Chair Harrison at 3:05 p.m. in Schofield 202.

1. Minutes of November 7, 2000 approved without objection as distributed

2. Open Forum Issue
   - Chair Harrison noted despite discussion of problem at open forum during meeting of this committee last December, and action by administration, course availability remains a major problem during this registration period
     - More seats in 100-200 level courses were available at beginning of registration this semester than last spring
       - Unfortunately also more freshmen students to register
     - As liberal arts institution, pride ourselves of giving students chance to explore various disciplines
       - Mostly impossible for freshmen and often sophomores because of limited course availability
     - Laundry list presented of required or exploratory courses closed with 465 freshmen yet to register
     - Advisers now consider finding courses that count for something (anything) a success; soon will just be trying to find 12 credits to maintain full-time status for students
     - Response to issue from committee and guests
       - Problem very complex
       - Backlog of juniors and seniors unable to get into 100- and 200-level classes as freshman now filling many seats
       - Lack of large classroom space due to remodeling in Phillips Hall exacerbates problem
       - Structure and complexity of baccalaureate degree, particularly GE requirements, contribute
       - Position control does not allow increasing FTE, even if have money in hand
       - Difficult to plan
         - No pre-registration to gauge need
         - Student flexibility to move in and out of classes at will
         - No cost to register for many courses; intent is to drop some later
           - Classes generally drop to desirable size a few weeks after classes begin
       - Some disciplines do try to manage problem by restricting registration either by major or by class status
         - Does not improve overall problem
         - Does not work in courses out of departmental control
       - Influx of people in nursing participating in four-year contract
         - Committed to providing classes for them
       - Definitely a retention problem
         - Students begin looking for different school where can get courses they want
         - Taking classes not interested in can also affect GPA
         - Some students in third semester on campus, cannot get into introductory course in major
       - Because of limited FTE flexibility, only solution is internal
         - Overloads or increased class size
         - Does nothing for quality and motto of excellence
Although is a problem, seems serving 95% of population well
- Others did not concur with that assessment
- Do not believe evidence anecdotal; most freshmen affected
- Also creates climate of fear in which have to fight for classes
  - Very negative impact on educational experience
  - Negative word-of-mouth advertising
- Admitting students to university implies availability of resources to take classes
  - Many schools able to supply sufficient courses for students
- Part-time hires count as FTE; overloads do not
  - Can have money, but if FTE unavailable, cannot hire
  - Not always pool of people with PhD’s in Eau Claire to hire
- Have to look at baccalaureate degree
  - Proud of integrity of our program and quality of education here
  - Need to balance against course availability
- Possibility that some students should not be here
  - Maybe should be helping them to go somewhere with better fit
- What currently seeing not due to change in enrollment targets
  - Next year to decrease by 50 freshmen
- Four recently-formed working groups looking at all aspects of problem

3. Review of tentative agenda for November 28, 2000 meeting of University Senate
- Consensus to approve agenda as distributed with editorial correction
- Confirmation that motions can come from floor under new business

4. Discussion of 2002-2003 Calendar – Jan Morse
- Draft calendar meets requirements
  - Of state
    - 170 days of student/faculty contact
    - 39 weeks of faculty contract
    - No classes before September 2nd
  - Of University Senate
    - Winterim 14 days in length
- Handbook requires alternate arrangements for students with religious conflict to Saturday Winterim classes
- Some did not get good sense of faculty response to change that will start academic year on August 19th for this calendar
  - Others heard only positive comments about increased time at beginning of academic year
    - Able to complete work
    - Attend meetings
  - New faculty in particular seemed to appreciate two week period prior to beginning of classes
  - Some grumbling, but many found workshops and professional development activities helpful and useful
    - Would like to see less overlap of development activities and wider variety
    - Still better than staying on campus late in May
  - Perhaps need to warn up front of limited Monday evening class periods in spring semester (13 vs. 15 for other nights)
    - Classes used to resume at 6 p.m. on Monday after April break to add additional class period

MOVED by Senator Gapko and seconded that classes resume at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2002

Motion PASSED
• Spring break scheduled ninth week of semester due to past faculty requests
  • Unknown if correlates to public school spring breaks
  • Public schools often look at university calendar when setting spring break

By consensus, calendar as amended to come before Senate in three weeks
• Allows time for student input

5. Numbers for At-Large Senate Representation
• October frozen files indicate change in faculty to academic staff ratio did not exceed 5%
  • Therefore, no change required in makeup of Senate
  • Change in academic staff in various voting codes because of mergers and additions to staff noted
  • By consensus, at-large representation to remain as stated in bylaws

6. New Business
A. Certificate Programs
• Does committee see need to put philosophical discussion of certificate programs on future Senate agenda since discussion in Senate cut short?
  • Was university-wide discussion prior to becoming Center of Excellence for Student/Faculty Research Collaboration
  • Feel discussion now moot point
    • Decision made when passed guidelines for those programs
  • University Planning Committee now reviewing mission
    • Will eventually come to University Senate
    • May help in liberal arts vs. market-driven debate
    • Indicates where to use resources
  • Extensive APC discussion mirrored on floor of Senate
  • Must place trust in departments to define certificates
  • Most Senators understood approval of guidelines de facto approved existence of credit-bearing certificate programs on campus
  • See these certificates as part of Wisconsin Idea

B. Solicitation on Campus
• Since discussion on issue postponed due to short Senate meeting, does committee wish to bring forward motion on whole concept of university endorsed/sponsored solicitation, or simply see if motion comes forward from floor?
  • Lot of constituents talking about this issue
  • No real authority to make decision, but can pass resolution expressing position of University Senate
  • Must be very careful of wording if extending position beyond scope of Boy Scouts and discrimination on basis of sexual orientation
  • Concern over message sending to community if pull endorsement of umbrella organizations
    • Especially at time university looking for community support
    • University member of greater community; constantly raising funds
    • PR problem would be unfortunate
  • Believe United Way will change for next year regardless of what done here
  • Believe university and Senate have more significant issues to deal with at this time
    • Individuals on campus feeling strongly can fight own battles
      • Not pledge to United Way
      • Or contacting United Way personally with objections
  • Still interesting that this issue struck chord and generated response on campus
  • Feel important as educational community that university take leadership role on discrimination issue
• Vice Chancellor Soll indicated level of giving at university this year
  • Up slightly in dollar amount
  • Down slightly in number of individuals
  • Neither campaign nor data complete
• United Way appropriations not yet made for next year
  • Members of board of directors visit local agencies and recommend allocations in June

7. Announcements – None

Meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m. without objection

Respectfully submitted by,

Wanda Schulner
Secretary to the University Senate