University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire  
University Senate Executive Committee  
Minutes from April 2, 2002  
Volume 38, Number 11

Present: Ken De Meuse, Rodd Freitag, Andrea Gapko, Susan Harrison, Robert Hooper, Rose Jadack, Tim Lane, Donald Mash, Jane Pederson, Cleo Powers, Ronald Satz, Kathie Schneider, Nick Smiar, Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Jean Wilcox

Absent: Todd Stephens

Guests: Kay Magadance, Ted Wendt

The meeting was called to order by Chair Harrison at 3:02 p.m. in Schofield 202

1. Without objection, minutes of March 5, 2002 approved as distributed
   • Sense that although discussed possibility of requesting System legal input on voting for Academic Staff Personnel Committee membership, consensus by end of meeting was to hold off until after Senate vote taken

2. Open Forum
   • Has been lot of discussion on campus about faculty/academic salary package
     • Would like to consider making statement about classified salary situation
       • Feel appropriate for Senate to register concern classified staff are left out of discussion
       • Have been working without contract since July
       • Different because union issue, not governance issue
       • Believe would still be useful for chancellor to express concern for situation
       • Labor relationship/negotiation dynamics prevent chancellors or administration from advocating
         • Administration watching closely
         • Budget shortfall has real implications for how it will be settled
         • No dollars to fund as compensation reserve has been grabbed by Joint Finance Committee
       • Was rally in Madison over spring break to emphasize lack of movement in contract negotiations
       • Also protesting raise of $10 to $20 in monthly health insurance payments
       • Contracts have been held up this long in past
       • Classified staff significantly affected by budget situation
         • Even if settlement reached, on average could take up to five years to equal dollar amount received this year by faculty
         • Proposed increase of $20 per month for health insurance would wipe out much of any raise
         • As workload for faculty and academic staff increases, additional work filters down to classified staff
         • Classified staff are frontline workers taking calls from public
         • Also many LTEs on campus in most precarious situation
         • If institute rolling layoffs as some have suggested, would be unfair to people at lower end of pay scale
       • Perhaps not governance issue, but may be some way to support classified staff
         • Could issue Senate resolution
         • Chancellor to talk with executive staff
         • Kathie Schneider to talk with union representative, Jack Connell, to get ideas about wording
       • No one questions importance of work done by classified staff; not much can be done in bargaining arena in present budget situation
         • No way to save $5 million at UW- Eau Claire without touching personnel
       • Salary letters for next year in process; distributed only after June Board of Regents meeting approval

3. Review of tentative agenda for April 9, 2002 meeting of University Senate
   • Executive Committee can move items within, but cannot change order of agenda without approval of full body
   • Full body sets order of agenda at beginning of session
   • Consensus to move Compensation Committee motions to top of miscellaneous business
   • At actual meeting, can judge how time going and move to reorder agenda as necessary
• Chair will request written reports from committees and stress importance of keeping oral reports short
• Could increase length of Senate meetings or schedule additional meeting in place of open discussion scheduled for April 30th or Executive Committee meeting scheduled for May 7th
  • Longer meetings problematic for people with childcare

4. Key Points for Open Discussion of April 30, 2002 – State of Budget and University Priorities
• Chancellor prepared to tell what know of actual number of budget reduction
  • Perhaps should use this time for additional Senate meeting and once final figures are known call full faculty and academic staff meeting to talk about priorities
  • Already implementing many ideas that have been in discussion for weeks by deans and provost
    • Communicating with chairs and directors on ongoing basis
    • However, with so much uncertainty, difficult to go back to units
  • Likely to be sensitive issues
  • As much as we know will be shared prior to that date – will get out word as soon as known
  • If not soliciting ideas and thoughts of full professors on campus, then wasting untapped resource

5. Nepotism Policy Update
• History of Nepotism Issue distributed by Kay Magadance
  • Advised by System Legal Counsel Christopher Ashley to go with current System policy and use reasonable approach in those cases where relationships fall outside of language
  • Date when System changed policy to include ‘immediate family’ unclear
  • Does not cover many situations, in particular living together, already occurring
  • No sense in taking to full Senate until have something that can pass System Legal
  • Have dealt with issue of department chair living with faculty from department
    • Chair not involved in decisions regarding that faculty member
    • Should somehow be up front about it
  • Could pursue with legal counsel giving specific examples and asking to come up with language
    • Got impression that Legal Counsel not interested in writing anything down
  • Could just add line that this does not cover all cases; should test and where relationship falls outside this language should use reasonable approach in cases where there is appearance of conflict of interest
  • Could put that in as last paragraph and take out first paragraph
  • Chair Harrison and Provost Satz will work on language for fall

6. Miscellaneous Business
• Senator Interest Survey will be distributed prior to next meeting in same format as previous years

7. Announcements
• Kathie Schneider to receive Regents Academic Staff Award at dinner Thursday evening
• Athletic Training major to be considered at Regents meeting; possibly because changing from emphasis to major without fiscal implications
• At same dinner will also be honoring St. Joseph’s Hospital as partner with nursing program here

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Wanda Schulner
Secretary to the University Senate