University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire  
University Senate Executive Committee  
Minutes from February 4, 2003  
Volume 39, Number 9

Present:  Don Bredle, Ken De Meuse, Andrea Gapko, Susan Harrison, Robert Hooper, Rose Jadack, Donald Mash, Andrew Phillips, Cleo Powers, Connie Russell, Nick Smiar, Alex Smith, Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Jean Wilcox

Absent: Ronald Satz, Todd Stephens

Guest: Kay Magadance, Jan Morse, Andrew Soll, Ted Wendt

The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Harrison at 3:04 p.m., Tuesday, February 4, 2003 in Schofield Hall, Room 202.

1. Minutes of January 21, 2003 to be approved at next scheduled meeting

2. Open Forum Items
   • Would like to see opportunity for faculty and academic staff to have input on approaching budget cuts in order to preserve quality
     • Would also assist staff in bracing for cuts
     • Have heard of other institutions in mild panic when cuts announced just days before classes to begin
     • Would prefer not to wait to react, but be involved from beginning
     • Chancellor Mash indicated no one knows exactly what cuts will be, except bad
     • Will not know more until governor’s budget announced February 18, 2003; legislature could work for months after that
     • Provost, budget people, and Academic Affairs Leadership Group participating in normal 95/5 exercise; liable not to be just exercise this year
       • Putting together what will go if budget cut is 5%
       • Deans have been involved in process
     • Timing makes process very difficult and affects extent to which reductions can be made, especially in respect to vacant positions
     • Additional feedback from faculty and staff welcome
     • Looking for suggestions
       • Would like to see possibly smaller, leaner, meaner university, but just as good or better
     • University Senate Budget Committee waiting to meet until after governor’s address
       • Budget Committee can make recommendations and take so far
       • Then if hit with major reductions, decisions will be made by those in position to make them
     • If faculty and staff knew up front what might happen if additional cuts, eventual news would not create panic
     • Another institution took 95/5 exercise further – added what would be cut at each additional level from 6% to 12%
     • Restructuring part of College of Professional Studies plan would require work to implement
       • Judgments will have to be made concerning expenses and other factors of that restructuring
     • Like idea of early warning
       • Best hope is to get voters behind university and put pressure on state legislators
     • Public starting to get some sense of impact, could be 40 positions which translates to fewer sections and/or courses
     • Once get beyond 5% reductions, will have to prioritize and consider impact of decisions
     • Still hope to develop consensus if cuts are deep – will be complicated process
     • Would like to plan and act rather than react
       • Need to put together program with minimum impact on students
       • However, some things that impact quality may be invisible to the public
       • May need to maintain quality by doing less
     • Freshman class for fall already reduced due to previous cuts; may need to make further reductions
According to Milwaukee Journal article, Regent Fred Mohs indicated UW-System will maintain quality and not go back to days in 1980s when students had severely overcrowded classes and couldn’t get necessary courses required for graduation.

President Lyall stated last fall that UW-System had hit wall; any additional reductions would affect tuition and access.

Shared governance must be involved in some organizational changes being discussed; go up to System and Regents as information only.

Representatives seem to vacillate between preserving quality to make degrees mean something and thinking large budget reductions can be made without affecting students or access.

Legislators back on campus on February 17th at invitation of District Nurses Association to discuss health care issues.

Some classified staff concerned supervisors were alerted by email not only of possible work stoppage job actions, but also asked to report anything they hear in way of union activity, and advised to deny vacations during certain times.

Chancellor Mash indicated he heard and appreciated classified staff frustration, but noted campuses were advised by Madison to send out notice to supervisors.

Governor apparently prepared to sign negotiated contracts with number of state unions; some legislators saying no.

University administration limited in support can give on union matters; must be worded carefully.

Do appreciate and value work of classified staff.

Morale beginning to be affected; memo added to frustration.

Showing appreciation for work no longer sufficient for classified staff falling further and further behind economically.

3. Review of tentative agenda for February 11, 2003 meeting of University Senate
   - Consensus to approve as distributed.

4. Update on Nepotism Policy
   - System legal responded to latest attempt at nepotism policy.
     - Felt sentence in second paragraph should not be part of nepotism policy but in employment section of handbook.
     - Otherwise acceptable.
   - Consensus to send nepotism package forward to University Senate and to include previously approved language on Ethics Committee.
     - Package in motion form to be distributed prior to next meeting.

5. Miscellaneous Business - None.

6. Announcements
   - MOSAIC to again present benefit performances of The Vagina Monologues in conjunction with V-Day College Campaign to stop violence against women and girls.
     - Excellent performances often sold out, get tickets early.

Meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Wanda Schulner
Secretary to the University Senate