University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
University Senate Executive Committee

Minutes from September 2, 2003
Volume 40, Number 1

Present: Don Bredle, Andrea Gapko, Susan Harrison, Robert Hooper, Rose Jadack, Donald Mash, Andrew Phillips, Connie Russell, Ronald Satz, Nick Smiar, Alex Smith, Todd Stephens, Jean Wilcox

Absent: Ken De Meuse, Cleo Powers, Jodi Thesing-Ritter

Guest: Andrew Soll

The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Harrison at 3:03 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2, 2003 in Schofield Hall, Room 202.

1. Minutes of May 6, 2003 approved as distributed
   Minutes of May 12, 2003 approved as distributed

2. Open Forum
   • Leaders of Colleges and Universities Committees in State Assembly and Senate now seem to agree that UW-System has taken fair share of cuts
     • Apparently intend to write letter to Governor Doyle stating just that; letter not yet sent
   • Wondering about UW-System stance on increased health care premiums during year when talking about 0% pay increase
     • President Lyall asked System Compensation Advisory Committee for reaction to possibly increasing what willing to pay for health care premiums even further in exchange for increase in pay plan
       • Looking for what to go to Board of Regents with in October
       • Wanting to know which option would affect morale most – no pay plan, or an increase in pay with greater increase in health care premiums
       • Seen as more than just trade-off – is structural change
         • No confidence that JCOER will keep to bargain
       • Giving up raise to keep health care premiums at current levels not an option at this point
       • Health care costs also expanding at faster rate; once agree to pay, employee portion of premium could escalate quickly
   • Starting in January, will be three tiers of health care providers with progressively higher premiums set for each tier
     • Should know soon what exact premiums will be; already know providers in each tier
     • Option of choosing plan at no cost no longer available; everyone will pay something
       • People that can least afford it losing that option – very regressive plan
       • As of yet, does not include people covered by collective bargaining
     • For people in certain plans, may not be a big difference; top-of-line standard plan may actually cost employees less
     • Awareness of full cost of plans may make more palatable for employees; plans often cost $1200/month
   • Appropriate to invite someone to Senate when numbers more final – in advance of dual option time if possible
     • Will put on agenda for second Senate meeting
   • No discussion going on to change paying for coverage from first day of hire – got this ability few years ago; cost comes out of base budget
   • Changes came not as part of UW-System budget, but as part of state budget when funding level for benefits set
3. Discussion of Order of Business for 40th Session of University Senate
   - Consensus reached to leave order of business same as 39th Session with urgent announcements included in chair’s report
     - Would have to be arranged ahead of time and included at discretion of chair

4. Review of tentative agenda for September 9, 2003 meeting of University Senate
   - Change from Shared Governance Workshop of past to save time
     - Senate Chair will include description of committees and issues interspersed with committee elections
     - Committees will meet at 4:30 p.m. to elect chairs and set meeting times
       - All meetings to take place in or near Tamarack Room
       - Senate Chair will instruct senators who are members of multiple committees of options
   - Without nominations from floor, suspension of rules will be necessary in some cases because insufficient nominees
   - Consensus to approve tentative agenda as distributed

5. Potential Senate Open Discussion Topics for 2003-2004
   - Are suggestions from spring 2003 Senate Survey
   - Other possibility is discussion of proposed changes to GE requirements in areas of foreign language/foreign culture, and English and math competency
     - Would give Academic Policies Committee some feedback prior to their deliberations –at right time in process
   - Or could discuss health insurance and benefits
   - Or many committees could seek feedback on issues facing them this year to get broader input prior to action
     - Could be mini-conference with concurrent sessions
     - May involve more people that way
     - Also opportunity to hear about some of issues percolating
   - Postponed decision on open discussion topic for two weeks to get input from full Senate

6. Miscellaneous Business – None

7. Announcements – None

Meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Wanda Schulner
Secretary to the University Senate