Present: Judy Blackstone, Mitchell Freymiller, Andrea Gapko, Susan Harrison, Robert Hollon, Robert Hooper, Jennifer Lee, Steven Majstorovic, Donna Raleigh, Lois Taft, Steven Tallant, Marty Wood

Absent: Brian Levin-Stankevich, Michael Wick

Guests: Cheryl Brandt, Donald Christian, Kate Lang, Katherine Rhoades, Andrew Soll

The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Harrison at 3:02 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2007 in the Eagle Room of Davies Center.

1. Minutes of December 5, 2006 approved as distributed

2. Open Forum
   - Provost Tallant provided update on three programs in Department of Public Health Professions
     - Music Therapy
       - Decision to be made is whether to keep program, commit resources, and move to Music and Theatre Arts Department as required for accreditation of that department, or close program
       - Dean Christian made recommendation; by next week should be announcement
       - Regardless of decision, program will be moved to Music and Theatre Arts this semester
         - If keep program, would stay in that department
         - If decided through shared governance to close program, would need to keep open for four years to get students already enrolled through pipeline
     - Environmental and Public Health (ENPH)
       - Are many options for where program might be positioned; Dean Christian conducting conversations with several chairs and departments
       - Finalization of plan to occur by mid-semester
       - Program to remain in College of Nursing and Health Sciences for at least rest of spring semester
       - Dean Christian indicated there has been some frustration with time it is taking for this decision
         - Difficulty is fitting a program that is professional in focus into a college for arts and sciences
         - Attended public health conference that is making him think somewhat differently about ways to position ENPH
   - Health Care Administration now in Department of Management and Marketing in College of Business
     - Worked out promotion and tenure criteria and departmental evaluation plan so will be no surprises
     - Faculty and leadership have had input from beginning
   - It was noted that Department of Public Health Professions no longer has senate representation since number of University Faculty in department has dropped below requisite four

   Issue of attendance at meetings of committees
   - At end of last semester, were Compensation Committee meetings with only two faculty members showing up meaning salary plan went forward with little faculty voice
   - Problem also arises in number of other committees where faculty elected and then choosing not to participate
     - Have responsibility to show up or let chair know legitimate excuse
   - Results not in shared governance, but legislation by default
   - Some options include: making committees bigger, fewer committees that really work, or proxies for those not able to make meetings
   - Same thing holds true for senators; are some that do not show up
   - No policy in place for removing members who do not participate
   - Are sometimes legitimate excuses and some members do contact chairs
• Chair Harrison will mention problem in committee report to senate

3. Review of tentative agenda for January 30, 2007 meeting of University Senate
   • Approved as distributed

4. University General Education Committee Plan for Review of GE Program – Co-Chair Lang
   • Committee asking Executive Committee to recommend to University Senate that membership of UGEC be frozen for three years
     • Would allow for committee to complete review without changes in personnel along way
     • Have suspended GE course updates for duration to allow time for this work
     • Preferred this route over appointment of task force because liked idea of elected committee undertaking review
   • Discussion
     • Committee membership covered in constitution
     • Seems scary to allow majority vote to suspend constitution
       • Chair asked to check on constitutionality of request
     • Perhaps easier to form task force or ad hoc committee that operates outside constitution
   • Consensus reached to add to senate agenda as discussion item

5. Discussion of Existing Committees to Potentially Serve as Institutional Ethics Committee
   • UW System rule requires each institution to establish a committee, or designate an existing committee, to provide any member of unclassified staff with consultation and advise on application of UWS 8 – Unclassified Staff Code of Ethics
   • Such committee at UW-Eau Claire never called upon – not sure whether that is because committee does not exist or because an issue never arose
   • Issues would be limited to those covered in UWS 8, such as outside activities, nepotism, and conflicts of interest
   
   MOVED by Senator Woods that the designated Institutional Ethics Committee be the University Senate Executive Committee seconded.

   Discussion
   • Best to use existing committee because seldom convened
   • Executive Committee most appropriate
     • Complaint and grievance committees would be where any resulting complaint would be heard – not appropriate for them to give advice up front
     • Personnel Committees are agents for recommending personnel rules in first place, so would not be appropriate

   Motion PASSED by vote of 12 for – 0 against.

   Chair Harrison will bring language back in two weeks to then go before full senate.

6. Miscellaneous Business
   • None

7. Announcements
   • None

Meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Submitted by,

Wanda Schulner
Secretary to the University Senate