The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Wood at 3:05 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2007 in the Presidents Room of Davies Center.

1. Minutes of May 1, 2007 approved as distributed

2. Open Forum
   • Question arose as to status of search for Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies in light of strategic planning efforts and any realignment of duties pending other recent retirements
     • According to Provost Tallant, search committee met this summer; position description and ads went out two weeks ago on track for campus interviews in fall semester
     • Given retirement of Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Services and Administrative Officer in Academic Affairs, have put committee on hold for further consideration of position
     • Will notify any applicants of changes in search process

3. Discussion of Order of Business for 44th Session of University Senate
   • Without objection, proposed new order of business to be recommended to full body with following modifications
     • New Business included after Unfinished Business; Miscellaneous Business moved to bottom of agenda to accommodate items that might come up as meeting progresses
     • Will encourage representatives to submit written reports in case time does not allow coverage of them near end of agenda
     • Susan Harrison agreed to act as parliamentarian

4. Review of tentative agenda for September 11, 2007 meeting of University Senate
   • Currently have insufficient nominees to hold elections for many senate committee vacancies; in many instances not enough nominees to fill vacancies
     • Will have to suspend rules for first instance and leave positions unfilled in second
   • Plan to use clickers for election to have instant access to results
     • As determine process for clicker elections intend to address following issues
       • Voter eligibility for each election
       • Voting for multiple members on given committees
       • Adding additional nominees from the floor
   • Lack of nominees makes good case to streamline committee structure; perhaps asking too much of ourselves
     • Suggestion made to reevaluate committees to streamline while still running business of university
     • Challenge existence of Budget Committee just because potential exists to find job and purpose
     • Might also consider not electing members to Technology Committee
     • Could merge to fewer committees which could then deal with various issues as they arise
     • Senate could vote to postpone elections for certain committees until discussion held to consider possibilities
• Could allow Executive Committee to handle any issues that arise
• Discussion ensued about which committee elections might be postponed
  • Determined to start with committees necessary to accomplish primary responsibilities as established by state statute and postpone elections for remainder
  • Some committees without much to do attract members who may not be fully engaged and committed; would not want to leave critical decisions to people without institutional vision
  • Works in other direction also; people run for committees to make a difference and find out committee has no relevant work
  • Could establish ad hoc committees as necessary without cumbersome election process to fill
  • Might be prudent to postpone elections for Budget Committee and Technology Committee as go through strategic planning process to come up with appropriate committee structure
  • Perhaps elections could also be postponed for Physical Plant Planning Committee
  • Executive Committee necessary to set agenda; personnel and curricular committees necessary to carry out responsibilities established by statute; Compensation Committee necessary for pay plan; and Nominating Committee necessary for staffing other committees
  • As specific tasks arise, administration could set up committees with at least two senate members to keep senate involved
  • Postponing elections could be perceived as method for Executive Committee to accrue power
  • Could seek permission to postpone elections of Budget, Technology, and Physical Plant Planning Committees and have Executive Committee formulate ad hoc committees as issues arise
  • Could also be seen as committee being disbanded so when important issue comes up can appoint ad hoc committee
  • Suggest postpone elections, have Executive Committee do review of committee functions, recommend whether membership is appropriate, and take any proposal to senate
  • Would need permission of body to do so
  • Would suspend elections for three committees most remote from statutes
  • Strategic Planning Work Group 5 looking into infrastructure to support fundamental issues of size, facilities, and structure
  • Strategic Planning seems to be moving away from department/unit representation to more inclusive
  • Other areas do not always understand issues for your specific area – works better if all included so don’t miss something which results in unintended consequences

• Consensus to accept agenda as distributed with addition of motion to postpone committee elections of Budget, Technology, and Physical Plant Planning Committees for Executive Committee to study senate committee structure and make recommendation to senate

5. Proposed Topics for October Senate-Sponsored Open Discussion
• Consensus reached to reserve this discussion time for strategic planning process and finalize focus of discussion as date approaches

6. Consultation with Chancellor Levin-Stankevich on Student Services
• As any vacancy occurs, must look at role, relationships to other entities, and changes that have taken place since position last filled, then reconstitute duties and qualifications to match
  • In July, William Harms, Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Services, retired
  • Over summer gathered group of three faculty, three academic staff, and one student to look at current structure and recent book on student affairs organization
  • Group reported to me on August 10, 2007
  • Also had former colleague interview people, primarily in Student Development and Diversity, to assess our difficulty in recruiting and retaining minority population
  • Collected and did some analysis of information
  • Do not have detailed proposal for you today as had hoped; do need quickly as auxiliary offices now all reporting to Vice Chancellor Soll
  • Strategic planning work group also looking at organization in Academic Affairs
• Key charge is to do no harm; realignment of areas will take place only if it can enhance relationships with and support for academics without additional administrative cost
• Would like to group more traditional student affairs functions under a clearly defined Student Affairs Officer with clear accountability and make sure academic functions are reporting to provost
• Want to take advantage of significant vacancies and use opportunities as they arise
• Comments from Committee
  • Purdue has triage model with any student needing assistance calling one number to get immediate help on determining where to go to resolve problem
  • In past that was Dean of Students Office here

7. Miscellaneous Business
   • None

8. Announcements
   • None

9. MOVED and seconded at 4:28 p.m. that the committee go into closed session under Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(c) to consult with Chancellor Levin-Stankevich on appointments to the University Planning Committee.

Motion PASSED unanimously by affirmative votes from following members: Robert Hooper, Jennifer Lee, Susan Harrison, Meg Devine, Robert Hollon, Andrea Gapko, Mitchell Freymiller, Judy Blackstone, Steven Tallant, Steve Majstorovic, Marty Wood.

Chancellor Levin-Stankevich present to hear committee comments on possible appointments.

Meeting adjourned out of closed session at 4:38 p.m.

Submitted by,

Wanda Schulner
Secretary of the University Senate