The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Wood at 3:03 p.m. on Tuesday, November 20, 2007 in the Presidents Room of Davies Center.

1. Minutes of November 6, 2007 approved as distributed

2. Open Forum
   • Nuisance of buyers soliciting for textbooks at faculty offices discussed
     • Eleven representatives have stopped in Hibbard office since beginning of semester, three in one day
     • Buy textbooks to resell in used bookstores at campuses like Madison
     • Can tell them you don’t sell books; haven’t asked a second time
     • Have new people all the time
     • Provost to check campus policy on soliciting
     • If get business cards from buyers, can call companies and inform of policy
   • No FTE needed when sponsoring an endowed chair; institution does need to cover fringe benefits
     • Foundation estimates income at around 4%; would require about $2.5 million for endowed chair
     • Promotion increases and pay plan increases then also come out of endowment

3. Review of tentative agenda for November 27, 2007 meeting of University Senate
   • Post-meeting program of Higher Learning Commission Self-Study Draft Review Groups currently only item on agenda; could cancel this meeting and postpone that item to first meeting in December
   • Senator Hollon, chair of Academic Policies Committee, noted motion on revising goals of baccalaureate coming forward from APC; will complete report by end of day
   • Question raised: if were canceling meeting and now have one additional item, why not make agenda for meeting include only two items instead of also including all standard agenda items
     • This committee approves agenda for senate meetings
     • Faculty and Academic Staff Representatives just attended joint meeting in Madison; would want to report
     • Not sure how much time would be saved as reports this year have been short
   • Chair Wood heard concerns from senators unhappy that personnel motions passed on first reading without opportunity to take issue back to department for input
     • Motion to suspend the rules is not debatable so people can’t discuss objections at that time
     • Perhaps desire to be nimble has resulted in some hasty decisions
   • Committee discussion
     • In some past actions, have asked upfront that a second reading take place so there is time to take motions back to departments for discussion
     • Once motion to suspend the rules is passed, senators could object and ask for reconsideration of motion to suspend
     • Perhaps chair could also slow things down by noting senators would probably want to take item back to departments and time not an issue for this specific action
• Is period between time motion to suspend rules made and chair puts motion on floor when could ask if there are concerns about going forward with second reading

4. Miscellaneous Business
• None

5. Announcements
• Items from chair
  • Have been approached by faculty representative from River Falls about willingness to again participate in West Central Wisconsin Consortium
    • Used to consist of representatives from Eau Claire, Stout, River Falls and LaCrosse
    • Used to be responsible for program review and also some study-abroad programs
      • Primary WCWC purpose was to provide step between campuses and system where could veto development of competing programs – that duty suspended about ten years ago
    • Concern is that Wisconsin in Scotland program is chartered under WCWC
    • Representatives to meet in Menomonie to discuss in near future
    • Several years ago WCWC representative elections were removed from UW-Eau Claire Handbook and replaced by language that chair would represent campus as needed
  • Has been no progress on pay plan since passage of state budget
    • Does not look like back pay possible before year end
    • Have heard that may be 2% in each year of biennium with 1% additional late in second year possible
    • According to comprehensive salary plan in place on this campus, 2% raises would be across the board; for raises above that amount, merit component would kick in
      • Makes difficult when in some years is possibility for merit increases but not in other years because merit based on accomplishments of only one year
      • May need to find way to base merit on record since last merit increases given
    • Discussion
      • Do not see need to do all work on record of accomplishments if no incentive
      • Do evaluations for more reasons than simply pay plan – helps improve performance and identifies areas for professional development
      • Same problem exists with equity because dollars available to fund equity adjustments vary year by year
      • Is something that Compensation Committee could look at
      • Performance evaluations that cover several years is something within campus control; system only requires that have merit component
        • At this point, 2%, 2%, plus 1% is purely speculation; may know in January
        • Pay plan at this time still in hands of Office of State Employee Relations; next goes to Joint Committee on Employee Relations
        • Would think across-the-board 2% pay increases in year with good budget would cause further morale problems
  • Draft document on Shared Governance Principles and Guidelines distributed by Chair Wood
    • Comes as result of debacle surrounding revisions to UWS 7 regarding serious criminal misconduct
    • New Vice President for Academic Affairs Rebecca Martin wants to prevent such problems from reoccurring
    • Faculty and Academic Staff Representatives came up with principles and guidelines to be able to get a quick read of faculty and academic staff response to draft policy without going through all steps of shared governance
      • Suggest using faculty and academic staff representatives as nonbinding sounding board to see if proposed policy is way off mark
      • Worry about representative bodies becoming super senators was only objection which came from UW-Extension
    • Will be hearing more about Voluntary System of Accountability that UW System committed to with some buy-in by chancellors and provosts
      • Chair Wood will send out email with link to plan
• Is college version developing out of Spelling Commission Report; put together by higher education to keep Congress out of business of higher education assessment
  • Much of information, such as demographics, financial aid, costs, and retention and graduation rates, already available; would be matter of putting it on website
  • More controversial part, which will be phased in, includes learning outcomes data
    • Are three measures to choose from
    • On some universities this very contentious – California system has opted out
• System mandate partly public relations to make information available to compare institutions
• Don’t believe this will hurt UW-Eau Claire
• Vice Chancellor Soll indicated university as institution has taken no position on proposed apartment complex on State Street
  • Had talked to developer last spring and indicated would be interested only if proposal included a Children’s Center as part of project
    • Would be something university could lease and then use land east of Hibbard Lot for playground
• Neighborhood Association virtually certain this proposal will fail
  • However, since one of three properties now owned and other two optioned to this developer, administration must be alert to fact that something will go up at that location

Meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

Submitted by,

Wanda Schulner
Secretary of the University Senate