The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Interim-Chair Harrison at 3:02 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 in the Eagle Room of Davies Center.

1. Minutes of December 2, 2008 approved as distributed

2. Open Forum - None

3. Discussion regarding the proposed pilot program that addresses the gold arrow priority of improving resource flexibility
   - Gold arrows are a way to generate more resources for the University
   - Ultimate goal is to be the premier undergraduate learning community in the upper Midwest
   - The Chancellor, along with his staff, has worked with a number of people, including the Governor’s Office, local delegates and Kevin Reilly, to look at models from other colleges
   - Need to have a great deal of flexibility, primarily around program approval processes, tuition levels, and financial aid
   - Right now there are controls in Madison on how we get money, how we spend money, and what department money is in
   - Going to be working more directly with faculty and staff for ideas on how to implement all the great ideas in the strategic plan
   - This is about looking at models to determine what is a feasible way for Wisconsin to be receptive to us doing this
   - This is an opportunity, in this financial climate, to press the envelope and come up with some different ways for the state to think about higher education
   - Regents are no longer receptive to Differential Tuition
   - Need to develop something that can work fiscally then others can try to join

4. Budget Principles
   - PEEQ needs to drive our new budget model as that will support the strategic plan
     - Is a process of program prioritization and review
     - PEEQ really doesn’t complete itself until summer but the Governor will release the budget proposal on February 10, 2009 thus immediate budget plans will disconnect itself from the PEEQ process
     - Need to meet whatever reductions are going to be put on us without taking away flexibility
     - Have to continue with the PEEQ process and the effort we have put into it
     - In December, met with staff and looked at how we are going to respond to the pressures of the budget reductions
       - Can respond in two ways: hunker down or ask ourselves where we want to be when the economic crisis turns the other way
     - Significant decline in our primary market of 18 year olds and where there is growth, in those in color, we have not successfully reached them
     - If we do not have enrollment, we do not have the resources
     - Need to fund the university system based on enrollment
     - We have been stable but we have been stable against other institutions that have been growing
Need to be driven by the PEEQ and Budget process
Can’t give up on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity
Focus on Growth Agenda
Need to maintain ability to raise money
Giving tends to remain stable
Preserve institutional FTE
Maintain capacity to “grow” back
Some campuses have hard and soft freezes
  • Hard freeze is just unfortunate for whoever has a vacancy
Hiring will be at discretion of divisional Vice Chancellor
Bigger cuts than 2003-2004
The University needs to stop some spending but we need to figure out where
Look at temporary fills, other funding sources, program revenue
Need to look at efficiency and productivity
Need to have curriculum to offer to students
Will be a difficult couple of years
Kevin Reilly stated that education is a top priority
Covenant program could only fund ½
We are currently in the middle of technology upgrades
Committed to the Strategic Plan so awarded the Quick Wins
Need to move in that direction as it is the future of this institution
Will try to get something outlined and sent out this week

5. Administrative Reorganization Structure in light of the result of the search for the Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance, and Facilities
   • Email was sent prior to Christmas that suspended the VC Search
   • Public comment was that those who were strong in finances were not strong in facilities and vice versa
   • Shouldn’t be the VC if you are just learning
   • Chancellor has asked people who report directly to him to take on additional responsibilities
   • Working pretty well the way it is in regard to the “reorganization” and thought do we really need to fill this position, especially with the budget
   • Should the title be Chief Financial Officer instead of VC
   • Chancellor feels he should be working closer with the budget
   • Chief Financial Officer would manage budget and finances, while the other functions would remain as they have been laid out
   • Refocus position on financial resources
   • No additional monies have been given for additional responsibilities
   • Provide feedback to Chancellor

6. The committee MOVED by affirmative votes from the following members: Jennifer Brockpahler, Mitchell Freymiller, Andrea Gapko, Susan Harrison, Rose Jadack, Brian Levin-Stankevich, John Mann, Sean McAleer, Rick Richmond, Linda Spaeth, Todd Stephens, Jan Stirm, and Marty Wood to go into closed session under Wisconsin Statute 19.85 (1)(c) to consult with Chancellor Levin-Stankevich for the purpose of discussing personnel changes in the administrative structure in light of the result of the search for Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance, and Facilities

Meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate