University Senate Executive Committee
Minutes from November 3, 2009
Volume 46, Number 5

Present: Robin Baker, Mitchell Freymiller, Andrea Gapko, Susan Harrison, Beth Hellwig, Jeff Janot, Patricia Kleine, Scott Lester, Jennifer Lee, John Mann, Joe Morin, John Pollitz, Sheila Smith, Linda Spaeth

Absent: Brian Levin-Stankevich, Scott Lowe, Sean McAleer

Guests: Thomas Hilton, Craig Mey, Charles Probst, Mike Wick

The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Harrison at 3:06 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2009 in the Presidents Room of Davies Center.

1. Minutes of October 20, 2009 approved as distributed

2. Open Forum
   - None

3. Review of tentative agenda for November 10, 2009 University Senate meeting approved as distributed with permission to revise based on outcome of Executive Committee meeting.

   MOTION by Senator Lester to move agenda item #7 (Voice of Faculty and Academic Staff in LTS decision related to academic-related computer labs) up to be the first item on today’s discussion, seconded and PASSED without dissention.

4. Voice of Faculty and Academic Staff in LTS decision related to academic-related computer labs
   - Many concerned about their teaching for the spring semester and beyond with the decreasing number of academic related computer labs
   - This discussion is not about the process itself but about how to proceed
   - Many including Deans and students had input and were involved in the decision making process
   - Will be down 120 computers
     - Will be physically taken out of classrooms; rooms are being repurposed
     - Had option to remove all computers in the rooms versus some computers from the rooms
   - Staff complain that it is difficult to find adequate rooms/times to schedule exams
   - Has created problems and struggles
   - Students agreed to infrastructure budget support
   - Also use student tech fees to help with general access labs, student employees, computer check-out at the library, hard drive space, email system and etc.
   - Down 7 positions in LTS or there would have been further cuts
   - Not questioning LTS’s decision but where in the planning process, when everything is all put together, do we come up with 150,000 to 200,000 to make additional computers possible
   - UW-Stout's tuition is higher and they also charge $4000 over 4 years for the students to have a computer
     - Has UWEC looked into something like this
   - Important to have students in a proctored setting with internet access for teaching
   - This is a matter of convenience versus capacity
     - There is physical capacity but it is just not as convenient for everybody
     - May not be in the same building, on the same floor or available Monday through Thursday
     - May have to schedule time on a Friday
   - Currently testing a Pilot program with computer software licensing and using computers off-campus
     - Would facilitate students working independently but maybe not in the classroom
     - Theoretically, it would clear up classroom space
Craig Mey and LTS made the best choice possible
- Looked at lab usage statistics
- Concerned that more cuts may be in the future
- Used to have more Technology Committees
- The talk of the computers didn’t even get to the Senate, yet there was a big discussion about Clickers
- Curriculum is 1st so faculty and academic staff as a whole should have had a say
- Might be a good idea to look at alternative schedules so more hour and 15 minute classes can be scheduled as that seems to be what instructors prefer
  - If that rule was changed instructors may be open to different blocks of time
  - Instructors are not opposed to teaching different days but prefer the longer block of time to teach
- Some instructors schedule computer lab time for the entire semester but may only use the lab one day per week
- LTS continues to keep statistics and patterns of usage
- We are used to doing things the same way and need to find alternatives
  - Not just because we are losing resources but because students are expecting this
- Need to think about what the governance role in all of this is
- Discussion of what possible Technology committees might still exist on campus
  - These committees are more information sharing than advising
  - With all the Technology Committees on campus we should not be facing these kinds of problems
  - May need to change structure
- Faculty need to pay more attention when they have the lab scheduled versus when they use it
- College of Business Lap-top Initiative
  - Thought that 25% of students would have severe problem with the cost of the laptop but as it turns out currently only10% are having problems and the other 90% managed on their own
  - May be due to a recent steep decline in computer prices
  - Doesn’t seem to be the hardship that was anticipated
- Spending money on infrastructure needs to be preserved
- Nervous about what LTS may be able to provide if they get hit again with budget reductions
- Virtual lab on wheels is being used in one college
- Should be getting the results of PEEQ studies soon and this may shed some light on this subject
- Nice to have a more detailed presentation to see the big picture
  - Senate Budget Committee looking at some of that information and will share with the Senate
- Interesting to know how the Federal Stimulus money is being divided/spent
- Chair Harrison to email Dave Gessner for budget presentation to review all monies in and out

5. Speaking Rights Bylaw
- According to Robert’s Rules of Order those in the gallery should not be called on unless it is specifically stated in our bylaws
- Robert’s Rules is silent for anybody other than a member of the body
- Each member has two speaking terms
- The gallery would have to have senator(s) make a motion on their behalf as non-members cannot present motions
  - Should abandon this and use the rules that we have always used
- Students are not listed in our bylaws
- Common courtesy to have a student liaison with speaking rights
- Should be a relationship between Senate and the Student Senate
- Student liaison or designee could speak and treated as a member for speaking terms
- Gallery can speak during reporting time just not during debate
- Anyone has the right to ask for a meeting to be called
- If not a senator then can go to a committee to ask for a motion to be presented
- Senators have been elected to represent the greater staff but should also hear information
- A non-member only needs one member to present his/her point
- Chair can grant speaking term as he/she can see those in the gallery
- Agree with limitation of time
- Should only be called on for information and to have informed decisions
6. Consultation for committee membership handbook language
   - It is unbelievable that it states the Chancellor is the only one with this authority
   - If setting or making policy then the Executive Committee should be consulted
   - Always like having more names brought forward than there were vacancies
   - Chapter 2 link to be forwarded to Executive Committee members for review of language
   - Chair Harrison will start the process for locating the names of existing administrative committees

7. Implementation of Bylaw Senate Vacancy 11.C
   - Some members of Senate have never attended Senate
   - Most of the time this occurs during sabbatical
   - Questioning if we want to enforce this bylaw
   - If member is choosing not to attend then they are missing out on representation
   - If no member is present than they are only hurting themselves
   - Imagine that one would make it more of a priority
   - Cannot force them to show up
   - A decision to make a seat vacant and fill it with an at-large member sets a dangerous precedent
   - Can’t disregard the bylaws
   - Unit positions should be kept open
   - Put the ball in their court and inform the department/unit
   - Cannot force a department to have a representative
   - Should explain the rules to those that are missing the meetings and to their department/unit

8. Miscellaneous Business
   - None

9. Announcements
   - Academic Staff Open Forum at noon on Thursday in the Arrowhead Room
   - Handbook
     - Suggested that handbook be online
     - Senate in charge of chapters 3, 5 and 7
     - We are in control of everything that we’re in charge of
     - Should think about if we want everything in our handbook to be in our bylaws as this makes everything easier in collective bargaining issues as the bylaws are sacred
     - Seems manageable now and would seem unmanageable if we made the change
     - Sections need to be clear
     - Suggested that faculty and academic staff be on the Senate’s webpage otherwise you can be lead to different areas
     - Senate in charge of updates
     - Currently you have to refer back and forth
     - University Senate Chair is looking for input

10. Adjournment

    Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate