University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Executive Committee

Minutes from September 7, 2010
Volume 47, Number 1

Present: Mitchell Freymiller, Andrea Gapko, Susan Harrison, Beth Hellwig, Patricia Kleine, Jennifer Lee, Scott Lester, Brian Levin-Stankevich, Scott Lowe, Rick Mickelson, Geoff Peterson, Sheila Smith, Linda Spaeth

Absent: Jeff Janot, John Mann, Joe Morin, John Pollitz

Guests: Dave Gessner, Teresa O'Halloran, Gail Scukanec, Marty Wood

The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Harrison at 3:06 p.m. on Tuesday, September 07, 2010 in the Presidents Room of Davies Center.

1. Minutes of July 13, 2010 approved as distributed

2. Open Forum
   - None

3. Discussion of Order of Business for the 47th Session of University
   - None

4. Potential need for splitting the elections for Senate Committees
   - Problems with securing nominations/filling vacancies
   - May need to split up some of the elections
   - Hopeful that the second election will take place in Senate two weeks later

5. Review of tentative agenda for September 14, 2010 meeting of University Senate
   - Approved with minor edits in the “Election” categories

6. Discussion of governance concerns brought to the Chair
   - Consultation with Executive Committee about Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies
     - Person who brought this concern forward will have additional conversations with the Provost
     - When changes in Administration come forward the Executive Committee will be kept up to date
   - Meeting/Motion brought forward in February to Establish a Department of Material Science
     - Wondering where it is at as there has not been closure on the motion
     - Motion came to Executive Committee for consultation with Chancellor
     - Provost has touched base with those involved
     - Hiring issues are now in the past as the hires have now been made
     - Still a bigger issue around the shifting nature of academic boundaries
     - How are we going to accommodate cross-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary teaching and research at the University and fairly evaluate the people involved in that
     - Proliferating departments is not the way we are going to solve that
     - Is going to be a continuing issue
     - Is not the most effective way for us to operate
     - Not sure if this is an academic jurisdictional issue or primarily an academic personnel issue
     - Want to deal with the bigger issue before a department is created as a long term solution is being sought

7. Updates:
   - Decision about position related to Administration and Facilities
     - Not inclined to create another Vice Chancellor
     - Construction issues and capital issues are handled at the same meeting that Dave Gessner goes to
     - Is working pretty well the way it is
     - No need to make functional changes
• Question is do we need to create an interim title as we go into this construction and reassess this later on
• Not make any permanent changes
• Make Mike Rindo a different title/one of a title that System will recognize
• Isn’t a big salary issue but a good idea to change title so he has a clear level of authority
• Chancellor asking for continued consultation
• Currently Executive Director of University Communications is Mike Rindo’s title
• Not adding new people but reassigning functions

• Status of Policy Book revisions and portal
  • Thank you for agreeing that all the changes get moved
  • Can see on the University Senate website related links that talk about Faculty and Academic Staff Rules and Procedures
  • Is the new name for the Faculty and Academic Staff Handbook
  • Also linked to the Provost page
  • Can find all articles and bylaws
  • Instructional and Academic Information is on Academic Affairs webpage
  • Question is on who keeps these things up to date, including content
  • Suggestion that it might be a good idea that it should be done the way the catalog copy is done
  • Portal is still being worked on but is live
  • Any questions or comments should be directed to Teresa O’Halloran
  • Available in the A-Z under policies
  • There are no printed copies
  • Organizational chart is printed in University Senate office

8. Discussion of shared governance document and request for students to be included on University Senate and University-wide committees in the Bylaws
   • Met with the President of the Student Senate and he would like to see as many students on committees as possible
   • There are some committees that students might be able to be a part of but right now our language does not include students
   • Some committees have student liaisons
   • Will have to ask some of these committees if the students are an actual voting member of that committee
   • Feedback:
     • General Education Committee: the student member doesn’t show up so if they appoint student then they need to appoint students that show up
     • Questioning what is the students’ purpose for wanting to join
       • Want to contribute or want it on their resume or for furthering getting into another school
     • Depends on the student body every year what they want done
     • Blending of participating in a non-voting capacity
     • Keeping it clear that it is employees of the university that have the responsibility of guiding the overall direction of the students
     • Language that states that committees can invite
       • Chair will bring that back
     • Student Senate has their own committees and do they have faculty and academic staff on their committees
     • Generally in favor of including students as those committees that might want student input would be good
     • Many have academic staff or faculty advisors
     • Encourage to reread Chapter 36
     • Don’t eagerly abandon what has worked well

9. Discussion of possible governance survey
   • Will work with Union leadership to see what should be bargained for or not
   • Governance should not be making the requests

10. Proposed topics to be presented at future Senate meetings and Open Discussion
• Personal use of technologies on classes
  • Phones in the classroom
  • In his phone he can check university email, due dates, schedules, Word and Excel documents can be altered and etc.
  • Is worthy of entire senate discussion or just go to Technology Committee or APC
  • Concern raised on lack of a common policy
  • Does one really want classroom management outlined in the policies
  • APC could affirm that instructors can set their own rules or if they want to bring forward a policy
• Campus Master Plan unveiled in 3 weeks
• Great to have conversation about emergency preparedness as it relates to the classroom
• Implementing General Education revisions
• Rules about student access to teacher evaluation information
  • Historical perspective was given and the students were advised to create the questions then run it on their own server the student(s) own it
  • Once you make it an official evaluation then it becomes a personnel rule and closed records policy applies
  • Run it yourself – then you can have access to it and don’t have to ask us for permission
• Mascot issue may be coming forward

11. Announcements
  • Down to 2 finalists for the Assistant Dean of Students

11. Adjournment at 3:56 p.m.

12. Convene meeting of the UW-Eau Claire Honorary Degree Committee for Consultation with UW System regarding Honorary Degree Committee potential candidates
  • Haven’t given an honorary degree before
  • Had a number of interactions with the Ho Chunk before
  • Seems to fit directly with American Indian studies
  • Small editing things before these documents go out permanently
  • Honor them with a degree as they are a real appropriate group of recipients
  • Doctor of Humane Letters would be recommended for all 5 individuals
  • Take to October Board of Regents meeting at the latest in order to award at the December commencement
  • If vote is in the affirmative then will need a letter stating such and will be brought to Kevin for endorsement

Motion by Senator Smith to recommend going forward with these five individuals presented here with a Honorary degree of Doctorate of Humane Letters

Continued discussion
  • It is not known if there are other credentials that need to be considered other than what is before us
  • If it were to be set in motion somebody could do a search/due diligence as the Board will ask that and we will need to answer it
  • Names should be kept confidential in case something is uncovered
  • Any benefits/privileges are unknown besides the title
  • Particular attention paid to women and minorities is in the policy

Vote on motion: By a vote of 11 to 0 in favor to pass the recommendation

Meeting adjourned at 4: 30 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate