University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Executive Committee

Minutes from December 6, 2011
Volume 48, Number 7

Present: Patrick Day, Mitchell Freymiller, Susan Harrison, Paul Kaldjian, Patricia Kleine, Jennifer Lee, Rick Mickelson, Geoff Peterson, John Politz, Mitra Sadeghpour, Sheila Smith, Linda Spaeth, Marie Stadler, Katie Wilson, Rama Yelkur

Absent: Beth Hellwig, Brian Levin-Stankevich

Guests: Teresa O’Halloran

The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Harrison at 3:04 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 in the Alumni Room of Davies Center.

1) Minutes of November 15, 2011 approved as distributed

2) Open Forum
   • Concerns and the mood felt around campus
   • Being asked to do more with less
   • Asking if this is a way of testing the strength of faculty before they snap
   • Would like to find an avenue to respond to administration
   • Now they want us to do more with less and to a higher quality
   • Don’t know what the right way of going about this is
   • We are all stretched and don’t know how long we can endure
   • We are doing far more than what we are being paid to do
   • Comments made today can be sent to administration
   • We are working innovatively
   • Has become increasingly stressful and it is only going to get worse
   • The mood on the campus is frustrating
   • Impatience with the self-assistance mode as there are not any staff available for the support of programs

3) Review of tentative agenda for December 13, 2011 meeting of University Senate
   • Without objection, meeting to be cancelled

4) Opening Spring Meeting
   • Scheduled for January 24th at 3:00 p.m.

5) Potential Senate Chair Informational Session (January 31st)
   • Would offer a workshop for those interested so they know what is involved, what duties, scheduling, and detailed information is expected if one were to become the chair of University Senate

6) Suggested Section Topics within the University Senate Bylaws
   • Would make more sense to list officers assignments under their individual listing
   • Our constitution says how amendments to our bylaws occur
   • Under section C: Nominations and Elections should be nominations and elections for senators and nominations and elections for officers
   • Could use better term(s) as well
   • Section E: Committees could start off with committee organization
   • The addition of a new Article Four is being looked at

7) Creating Article Four of the Bylaws – University Governance Committees
   • Graduate Council
We are only one of two campuses in the state that does not have the Graduate Council as part of the governance structure
- Everybody else has it as a committee within the senate
- It is a committee that does the work
- Would be inclined to say that it should be a standing committee of the Senate

Makes sense that it is organized by function
- If were to add Graduate Council and University Honors under Committee in the Bylaws, then the leadership of these committees should be consulted first

Personnel Committees are in charge of the language for the grievance committees
- Joint language should be looked at for grievance procedures
- Would make some sense
- Could harmonize their procedures
- May also want to see if the personnel structure revision changes anything
- System-wide input is leaning towards harmonizing grievance procedures since the classified staff will be under OSER come January 1 then will go to “the new system” in 2013
- Questioning if classified staff should be brought into university governance
  - A well respected, long time HR UW System employee stated that we will need a new section in the statute for classified staff about their employment rights
    - Was implied that you have union or shared governance as your choice
    - Since they are deprived of union rights then maybe this should be looked into

Institutional Ethics Committee
- A limited scope of ethics deliberation(s)
- Is really a conflict of interest committee more than ethics
- Is more of a preventive committee
- Some did not know that this committee existed
- Questioning when it would be ethical advice versus legal council
  - Ethical issues deal more with what to do with a special tree on campus
  - UWS Chapter 8 focuses on conflict of interest items

8) Announcements
- No Senate meeting on December, 13th
- January 24th, 2012 will be the Opening Spring meeting
- January 31st will be the informational session for those interested in the University Senate chair position
- February 7th, 2012 will be the next Senate Executive Committee meeting
- February 14th, 2012 will be the first University Senate meeting
- Any constitutional changes have to be finished prior to the end of March because April is the next Spring Meeting where the next referendum would occur
- January 17th CETL invited the Executive Committee to attend a meeting with a national speaker
- ASPC is hosting: Maximizing your Performance Evaluation Experience on December 14th at noon

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate