University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Executive Committee

Minutes from February 7, 2012
Volume 48, Number 8

Present: Patrick Day, Mitchell Freymiller, Susan Harrison, Beth Hellwig, Paul Kaldjian, Jennifer Lee, Brian Levin-Stankevich, Geoff Peterson, John Pollitz, Mitra Sadeghpour, Sheila Smith, Linda Spaeth, Katie Wilson

Absent: Patricia Kleine, Rick Mickelson, Marie Stadler, Rama Yelkur

Guests: Jennifer Fager, Robert Knight, Don Mowry, Marty Wood

The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Harrison at 3:02 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 in the Alumni Room of Davies Center.

1) Minutes of December 6, 2011 approved as distributed

2) Open Forum
   - University Assessment Committee - Jennifer Fager
     - Nominees have been appointed and are as follows:
     - Sheila Smith and Cheryl Brandt from the College of Nursing & Health Science, Kim Pierson and Stephen Hill from the College of Arts & Sciences, Marvin Lynn and Kris Retherford from the College of Education & Human Sciences, Bob Sutton and Scott Swanson from the College of Business, Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Troy Terhark and Peter Rejto appointed by the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Jim Phillips, Rose Battalio and John Pollitz appointed by the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs
     - Terms have been randomly staggered
     - Will meet for the first time tomorrow morning at 8:00 a.m.
   - Director of Service Learning – Don Mowry
     - Comments from Don Mowry
     - “As most of you know, UW-Eau Claire has had a Service-Learning graduation requirement since 1995, and one of the original purposes of the Differential Tuition Program was to establish a Center for Service-Learning to serve students and faculty and community members.
     - My guess is that you already know about this, but I just wanted you to be aware of the fact that the Center for Service-Learning was not successful in its bid for two Blugold Commitment projects. One to continue the center and one to move to an expanded concept and program of civic engagement. Thus, the center will not have funding and will cease to exist as of June 30, 2012.
     - The responses from the Blugold Commitment reviewers did suggest that the accounting functions of the office could be filled by an LTE and student workers, but there was no commitment of funding even to this level of support.
     - Just so you know, I have not yet had a discussion with my supervisor; we had one scheduled for today but it was postponed until later this afternoon.
     - Whether or not service-learning continues as a graduation requirement on its own or as one of several options for students, I am very concerned about the current staff member and student workers, the programs that are under the center’s umbrella, our students, and how this change may be perceived in the community.”
   - Currently there is no funding in the proposal but have had funding up until this point
   - Have gotten BluGold and Provost funding the last few years
   - In the past differential tuition funding was available
   - Comments by Robert Knight, Associate Vice Chancellor, Undergraduate Studies
     - Staff working on a model to present to the community to move in a different direction for service learning
     - Is not our intention to completely end it
     - Knight to keep the Executive Committee informed
     - Preliminary ideas have been put together
     - Will know more by spring break
Wellness Committee for Student Affairs
- Employee wellness initiative that is a fitness challenge called Take Back Your Lunch
- Inviting people to share the brochure with their departments; Will also be distributed via email
- Is a team competition and it should be fun
- Focuses on what one can do during their work day
- Study released recently about being sedentary all day is equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes per day
- The benefits to your heart for exercising 30 minutes of cardio per day is offset by sitting the rest of the day
- The Library has spinner, treadmill and elliptical on the 3rd floor
- There are staff and faculty that play basketball on their lunch break as well
- An Academic Department Associate has worked in the same department for 42 years
- Wondering if she can be recognized in a different way than the usual
- There is a celebration in April and it could be possible that a special recognition and award could be presented; email is to be sent to Beth Hellwig
- Classified staff council may be another way; maybe Awards committee

3) Review of tentative agenda for February 14, 2012 meeting of University Senate
- Questions to be listed under the Topic of the Day include:
  - What are the relative weights, if any, of the university learning outcomes? If there are weights, how are they allocated?
  - What should be our priorities in Liberal Education reform?
  - If we use a distribution model, should it be by discipline or by outcomes? How do we transition between a distribution model to one based on outcomes?
- Without objection, agenda approved as distributed

4) Creation of Ad Hoc Committee to review membership and function of ULEC as per 10/12/2010 action
- Academic Department Associate schedules the ULEC meetings and it is hard to find a time to meet as there are so many members
- Seems to be an excess of membership
- Issue is how to change Liberal Education requirements for the entire university
- It doesn’t matter that so many individuals are on the committee but it is hard to schedule meetings
- Will hopefully be a maintenance committee in the future
- Hard to get everybody on the same page; A lot of two steps forward, one step back
- Between last year’s committee and this year’s committee they reinvented what they had already worked on
- Afraid if we try to fix it then will have to start all over
- Might want to get some things established first
- Supposed to have a report on how the committee is working;
  - Report should state that we fulfill our obligation and be done with it
- Should have a small group take an analysis
  - Paul Kaldjian to work on the report
  - Will bring this back to Senate
  - Questions about what the review will result in; If the new direction is serving us well
- Now is not the time to shake things up

5) Announcements
- Is a University and Community Summit on March 1st at 3:00 p.m. in the Alumni room to talk about alcohol issues with students
  - Will include community, medical, law enforcement and neighborhood associations along with many other members
- Are going to have a lot of construction this summer
  - We have to get this stuff done over the summer
  - Presentation to the senate would be nice to answer more detailed questions
- Legislative Taskforce keeps meeting once a month
  - JoAnne Brandes who is the President of our Foundation Board is now on that Taskforce and is also a former regent of the UW System
    - Communicate with her pretty regularly
- Drama continuing around Wisconsin and the UW System and restructuring
• A separate issue with the development of a UW Personnel System and a UW Madison Personnel System to replace the state personnel system or act in parallel to it in some way
• UW System Personnel Structures
  • Nominees were submitted and chosen
• Budget
  • Met with UW-Stout and UW River Falls
  • Think we may have gotten through the decision making around the biggest part of this and one can only hope that they have in fact reduced the deficit in the state then going forward we won’t have as big of a hole to fill
    • That is what will be campaigned on
    • Next year’s lapse is less than this years and there is some sense that there may be some discussion on reducing that lapse to UW System
      • Depends on revenue assessments that come in
      • Also because of political pressure that the cuts were too deep for the UW System
• Wisconsin EDC, formerly the Commerce Department
  • Has a video in which they tout as one of the great benefits of coming to Wisconsin is the outstanding University of Wisconsin System
• Other campuses are more dependent on System than we are and if left to their own devices would not succeed as well as an Eau Claire, La Crosse, Whitewater or Stout
• Trying to work as a group within the Board of Regents structure to get as much as we can from the state agencies into the Board
  • The end game is then we can have a “family” discussion on how things will be divvied up
  • People with no connection to UW System are going to be making recommendations to the legislature
  • We want to have solidarity going into this taskforce with UW System and let’s get tuition authority along with personnel authority and get them out of the hands of OSER so that we don’t have to go ask people for supplemental pay plans if we have the resources; we can just decide to do them
    • Would still have to get the Board to agree to that but then we could work with the Board internally and look at different opportunities
    • Some of the members of this taskforce think that there may be significant opportunity for change while others are trying to prevent any type of change
• At the end of this biennium the statute, as was written, says the Board of Regents makes all decisions on tuition and fees and that there is no limitations
  • Of course in a Budget Bill the Legislature can come in and override no matter what happens
• All the examples they have to look at are far more flexible decision making at the campus level or at least at the equivalent Board of Regents level
• Financial Aid and affordability
  • Put on the front burner by a lot of people, including the President of the United States, over the last few weeks
  • Somewhat of a game changer because it forces a dialog around tuition into a dialog around accessibility and affordability, which is on one hand more subjective and on the other hand more difficult to achieve
  • We don’t have the ability to take tuition and redirect it into financial aid, except for the Blugold Commitment
  • Will be more to come on tuition in this state because even if we get control within the Board of Regents there is some real divisions among the institutions on the attitudes towards tuition and affordability
• Chair Harrison will present a timeline on the new building and will put it in her Chair’s Report

Meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate