The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Freymiller at 3:01 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 in the Centennial Room (Room 320) of Davies Center.

1) Minutes of October 1, 2013 approved as distributed

2) Open Forum
   • Single Stream and Trash Containers
     • The single stream and trash containers are liked, but many do not know what single stream is
     • More education would be helpful
     • Some containers have explanations, but others do not
     • Used food items and Kleenex can go into single stream
     • If in doubt, put it in recycling and it will get sorted out later
     • Advanced Disposal is our provider
   • November 8th is the inauguration of our new Chancellor, so the parking lot behind Phillips and Davies will be closed
     • GF will be moved to another location
     • We have to make sure there is plenty of parking for those coming to campus
   • Veteran Students
     • If there are veteran students who have been negatively impacted because of government shutdown, they can work with the Financial Aid Office and possibly obtain a no-interest loan
   • Information on the Volkswagen Bug in amphitheater
     • Is there to raise awareness of LGBTQ rights
     • It is a sanctioned program
   • Flu Shots
     • Trying to get the flu shots in; hoping we have it by the 22nd of October as it is our first scheduled clinic
     • Do not do a lot of advertising with faculty and staff, but some clinics are coming up
     • On some televisions and sent to all students
     • Flu shot clinics will be held in the Maple Room (Davies) from 10:00 – 2:00 on the following dates:
       • Tuesday, October 22
       • Thursday, October 24
       • Thursday, October 31
       • Wednesday, November 6
   • Membership and function
     • The Senate Executive Committee membership and functions were revised in October 2012 and there was a consensus that we will give it one year to see how well things work

3) Review of tentative agenda for October 22, 2013 meeting of University Senate
   • Meeting cancelled due to lack of agenda items
   • 3 catalog motions to come forward from APC for the next University Senate meeting (November 12th)
     • Latin American Studies Emphases
     • Rename English Liberal Arts
     • Eliminate Pre-Law Pre-Professional Program
4) **Outline and Prioritize Issues Regarding the Calendar Discussion from Senate**

- Attention was drawn away from the academic calendar because of the proposed timetable
- Questioning if the timetable should be tabled so we can concentrate on the academic year calendar
- In one department meeting the calendar changes were met with some enthusiasm, but the timetable suggestion was not met with any enthusiasm
- The Confluence Project was also brought up, but we may want to wait and see if it goes forward to see if we might need additional time between classes
  - Wouldn’t impact a great number of students
- Like the idea of moving forward with the calendar restructuring
- One could always increase time between classes by changing the times that classes start
- **UW System calendar policy was read**
  - It is vague
  - Is any policy stating the number of contact hours required per credit?
    - Registrar’s Office has something about the Summer School session (credit class is supposed to meet for 2400 minutes)
      - That policy is from the Department of Education and “requires” us to maintain 2400 minutes per credit hour and that includes time out of class that students spend on class work
      - Students are supposed to be working so many hours outside of class, but this cannot be checked so it cannot be a requirement
    - ULEC had a discussion about HLC and what might constitute a learning experience
      - It basically states that institutions shall conform to commonly accepted practices in education
    - Looks like universities are given some leeway
- Going 14 weeks and maintaining MWF classes at 50 minutes would not get us in trouble
- **Phase II Orientation was one of the factors involved in trying to change the calendar**
  - Is this a sufficient reason to want to make these changes?
- Under the proposal, we could have the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as part of Thanksgiving recess
- The order of priority is still of concern
- If we go to standardized semester lengths, it opens up the month of January to an expanded and more flexible Winterim
  - Winterim is a significant source of revenue and we could expand it from 3 to 4 weeks
  - Offerings could be increased
- Changes are based on the number of weeks that classes are offered
- With only three weeks for Winterim we are very limited
- Student learning should be on the top of the priority list
- Summer school should have at least 7 of each of the days
  - Final exam schedule could be extended so we have a full 7 weeks
- There is no need to expand Interim to make it equal as it is not necessary
  - Last year we never even filled all the 3 week summer classes
- Time to graduation would benefit as well if students could pick up additional credits in the Winterim
  - If we expanded Winterim, we could tap into other school’s programs
- What can we learn from what happened during Senate and how can we prevent this from happening again?
  - The calendar proposal was presented as a Topic of the Day and those are usually held in small groups
    - Because it was a large group discussion many were afraid to speak up
  - One could have asked for point of order and asked for further respect
  - The issue was not prepared
  - Should lead with the reasons and the problem(s) that need to be solved
  - We should have presented it differently as it was not presented well
  - If it had been done in a small group setting, then many of the questions would not have been able to be answered
- Because the wording of the statement regarding the start of the Fall semester is in Chapter 36, it could open up all kinds of possibly negative things that could happen if we seek to change that requirement
  - See no positive benefits to opening up, or even floating any ideas about things in, Chapter 36
  - It is a toxic political climate towards UW System right now
  - We need a better set of friends and allies in Madison before this should be looked at
• Priorities are:
  • Equal length semester
  • Health, safety, and well-being of first year students (starting after September 1st)
  • Adding Wednesday to the Thanksgiving recess
  • Increasing Winterim to allow greater flexibility
  • Phase II Orientation on Tuesday after Labor Day with classes starting on Wednesday after Labor Day
  • Would improve the start of the academic year in 5 of every 7 years
• The Senate agenda for further discussion of this issue should be explicit
  • Might be good to say that we are looking for advice about potential opportunities
  • Pros and cons are better than a general discussion
• We do not have to do anything with the calendar, so maybe we need to explain that this is what we have decided and then list the reasons for our decision
• We need to give a response to the concerns that were brought up in Senate
  • We didn’t provide Senate with enough context or background
  • We need a handout or something on the website with the list of issues
• Do we have enough concerns to propose changing the calendar in the first place
• We should list pros and cons, as well as the benefits to our students (pros and cons to an equal semesters, Phase II Orientation, etc.)
  • May consider benefits to making this change, costs to making this change, other issues/suggestions that you can provide
  • Benefits to our students, benefits to our faculty
  • Benefits to our current system versus the benefits to changing the system
    • May even word it as who benefits
• If the time schedule is going to be off the table, then where is there opposition?
• Send Chair Freymiller any thoughts/language/ideas/etc.
• This needs to be contextualized before the next Executive Committee meeting
• When this comes up again, it may be better if the Vice Chair presents the Topic of the Day
• Because the Senate meeting is cancelled an email should be sent to the senators asking them to talk with their departments about the calendar proposal
  • It needs to be thorough
  • A contextual handout for any discussion might be useful
• Still too close to the event in Senate to continue this discussion so we should focus on gathering information

5) Announcements
  • Friday night at 7:30 Andrew Neesley, a composer and trumpet player, will be at the State Theatre
  • Geography Conference is going on this weekend

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate