The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Freymiller at 3:02 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 in the Centennial Room of Davies Center.

1) Minutes of October 15, 2013 were approved as distributed

2) Open Forum
   - Chancellor’s Inauguration
     - Reminder for those who are planning on attending
     - Please RSVP on-line if you have not done so already because there is limited seating
     - You can also contact Deb Lang directly
   - Academic Affairs Recommendations
     - Mike Carney is (Interim) Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies
     - The draft ad for that position is ready to go
     - Debbie Gough’s position, but with Kris Anderson’s title of Executive Director of Enrollment Management
     - Will be titled Associate Vice Chancellor of Strategic Enrollment
     - Official announcement goes out tomorrow
   - Economic Development
     - System Office was mandated by the legislature to put out $22.5 million for economic development incentive grants
     - Had a short turnaround of six days
     - In the end, 56 proposals were submitted for $75 million worth of requests
     - They read them in two weeks
     - UWEC sent in six proposals and got two of them funded
     - One of the largest proposals funded was for $3,218,703 to the CoNHS at UWEC
       - The announcement and additional details will be coming out
     - The other proposal funded was for $450,317 to Kent Severson in Geology for responsible mining
     - Only 12 proposals were funded
     - Hats off to UWEC
   - Update on the RFP for Student Health Services
     - The committee’s work has been sent to Vice-Chancellor Hellwig and Chancellor Schmidt
     - Information should be available to the public soon
     - The committee was given the task of evaluating proposals for potential outsourcing of Student Health Services
     - Our own Health Services was given an opportunity to respond to the RFP, but decided not to respond; we are under no obligation to respond to a request for a service that we would be outsourcing
     - Committee finished its work and thought one proposal was stronger than the other proposal, although there were advantages and disadvantages to both proposals
     - Committee hopes that the Chancellor and his executive team will ask the committee to share its insight during a future meeting
     - It takes a great deal of work to rank a proposal
       - Committee had to make a recommendation on one of the two proposals
3) Review of tentative agenda for November 12, 2013 meeting of University Senate
   - Take Provost Kleine off Administrator Remarks as Chancellor Schmidt will be making them

4) Update on Senate Motions
   - All motions that passed during the October 8th University Senate meeting were approved, with the exception of the Kinesiology Emphases, which was held by the Chancellor for further consideration
   - No disagreement with the concept of the motion; Mike Carney was asked to further research the motion because there are certain aspects that have to be shown to the Board of Regents before we can proceed
     - The word “new” appears too often
     - Working with Kinesiology for the appropriate wording because this has to go before the Board of Regents so we have to be careful of the language we use
     - UW-La Crosse might not be too happy with the proposed changes; might be better if it is presented as just a name change because schools tend to object to proposals that appear to encroach on their programs
     - Does not jeopardize Kinesiology’s progress, but we need to articulate our intent more clearly

5) Review of Senate Representation (Frozen Files)
   - Current composition of Senate is 42 university faculty (60%) and 28 university academic staff (40%)
   - Suggestion is to leave it as it is because the Executive Committee is satisfied with current structure
   - Ten-year change in enrollment has not been very significant
   - There was a steady decline in the number of faculty until the Blugold Commitment was implemented
   - It is unclear who attends Senate meetings with regard to voting status
     - Some departments/units are small and a member might feel pressured into becoming the department/unit senator
     - Faculty and/or academic staff might not see relevance of participating in a particular Senate meeting, which is a concern because some are not involved
     - The real issue is why some departments/units think that participation in Senate is irrelevant

6) Update on Liberal Education Proposal
   - What we wanted to do along the way was to check to see where we are at
   - Departments submitted their course intentions for the Liberal Education Core, as well as the outcomes that those courses would meet
     - We needed to get a sense of the capacity that this institution can deliver, so we thought the quickest way to accomplish this was to count available seats
     - We do not have enough seats available at the university to implement the current Liberal Education Core proposal
   - We have to think about capacity in a larger sense
     - Our four-year graduation rate is about 30%
     - We want students to be able to finish in 9 semesters
     - We need to look at the feasibility of completing the Liberal Education core within 120 credits
       - There was a whole list of principles that we were trying to follow, so a template was constructed based on proposed courses that would satisfy the core outcomes
       - Did it from a student perspective rather than from a faculty/staff perspective
         - Some programs/majors found that it could work, while other programs/majors could not fit their requirements within 120 credits
         - Suggestion that a course with a prerequisite should show up in a different color
         - Suggestion that if a course is repeated then the program should stop you or show you that the course is being repeated
         - All this is designed to help ULEC evaluate the process
   - We need to encourage faculty to submit course proposals by November 15th that could meet more than one learning outcome and still be purposeful and intentional
     - More courses should be added to the list because some departments did not submit courses above the 100 level for consideration
     - Bundled courses are not included in this list
     - Suggestion that the wording of some of the outcomes be changed (e.g., “and” be changed to “or” in R3)
     - Suggestion that students could choose 2 out of 3 or 3 out of 5 of the required experiences
     - Amendments to the approved Liberal Education core can be made in Senate
It is hard enough for faculty to think about outcomes-based learning, but we also want them to think about creativity.

ULEC has been talking about criteria for approving co-curricular experiences:
- There should be some targeted experiences that can play a role in the core.
- Not ready yet, but ULEC may be sharing information about this soon.
- The “requirements” can be modified after the fact.
- This comes back to the Executive Committee in February.

If the November 15th proposals do not show substantial improvement in the number of learning experiences, then we will face a difficult dilemma about what we have to do with the current framework:
- Course proposals need to be submitted.
- If our intention is to complete an accounting exercise, then course proposals shouldn’t have to be perfect.
  - This is so much more than an accounting exercise or seat count.
  - This will be an evolutionary process for us.
- ULEC operates on the outcomes:
  - Looking at what changes in terms of language might help.
  - We are moving forward in a good way and building a shared understanding of student leaning in the LE Core, but we are not there yet.
  - Conversations are needed about student learning and best practices (also about S2 and S3):
    - There are differences between colleges.
    - Our understanding of the competency level in the LE Core is focused on what we expect from our students as a foundation.

Announcements:
- It is customary that the Chancellor is tenured in a department, but that did not happen with this Chancellor.
- Geography Conference was well attended:
  - Had about 120-130 people in attendance.
  - Got good reviews.
  - We have decided that we are well positioned to have another conference in two years.
  - It is challenging to host a conference.
  - The window for Davies Center room scheduling is now extended to 3 years.
  - Will provide better support for hosting conferences in the future.
- April 28, 2014 will be the premiere for “Calculus, the musical.”
- Charles Farrell and Christian Wise will be invited to address Executive committee four weeks from today.
- Student Senate is also having a similar conversation.
- Draft rationale for the suggestion to change the academic year calendar was distributed via e-mail.
- Chair wants feedback.
- Centers changed outdoor space policy.
- The outdoor areas will not be closed now until after it snows.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate