Present: Cindy Albert, Cathy Berry, Julie Eklund, Mitch Freymiller, Marc Goulet, Beth Hellwig, Patricia Kleine, Cheryl Lapp, Mary La Rue, Mike Morrison, Abe Nahm, Geoffrey Peterson, Jean Pratt, James Schmidt, Sherrie Serros, Ganga Vadhavkar, Katie Wilson, Marty Wood

Absent: Jason Anderson, Rose Jadack, Paul Kaldjian

Guests: Barb Arnold, Tessa Perchinsky

The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Freymiller at 3:05 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 in the Centennial Room of Davies Center.

1) Minutes of November 5, 2013 were approved as distributed

2) Open Forum
   • Gail Scukanec will be stepping aside as the Dean of COEHS and she will be looking at the feasibility of our graduate program
   • Will be doing that on a part-time basis
   • She is not retiring or resigning
   • She will be on an unpaid leave for a portion of her role as Dean
   • An announcement will be coming out on this
   • There is currently a search for an Interim Associate Dean and there is no plan to halt that
   • Parking Issues
   • Concerns were brought forward regarding parking in the visitor parking lot for faculty who are showing candidates around the campus because they usually have to park on the other side of the river
   • Kim O’Kelly and Dave Gessner oversee parking and the parking office is often unfriendly
   • PPPC could propose a policy change for faculty/staff who guide candidates around campus, but there is more than just a problem with escorting candidates around
   • Handicapped people also have parking issues and should not have to pay for parking on campus
   • New parking spots for the disabled will be in the Schneider lot, but they may be metered
   • Is metering disabled spots appropriate or legal?
   • McPhee and Olson also have problems with visitor parking
   • Maybe the PPPC and the Parking Director could have an open forum to address these issues
   • There is an Open House for the GIS program tonight
   • Thanks to everyone for the wonderful and impressive inauguration
   • We have elevated the perception of this institution for many of our peers
   • Chancellor Board Meeting(s) will be coming up
     • Engineering programs will be talked about
   • The next Board of Regents visit to UWEC is scheduled for October 2016

3) Review of tentative agenda for November 26, 2013 meeting of University Senate
   • The Unfinished Business item will be placed before the New Business items (The Unfinished Business item will also be labeled as a second reading)
   • Remove Topic of the Day until next semester
4) Academic Year Calendar Discussion

- An explanation of the reasons for why this issue is being addressed, what the current regulations are, and what the potential benefits and drawbacks might be should precede the rationale for the change
- Is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving the best time to discuss this?
  - Maybe this issue should be addressed after Liberal Education reform is completed
- If we are looking at safety issues as well as cost issues, then this should not be put off too long
- Timing is a concern with regard to changing the academic year calendar
  - Spring semester might be better
- The original idea was to roll this out at the same time that Liberal Education Reform was rolled out
- Has feedback been gotten from Student Senate?
  - We need to pay attention to student concerns about academic year calendars
  - Student Senate has not been involved in any discussions because the Executive Committee had not decided on how to proceed
  - Chair has gotten a sense from the Student Senate President that adding the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to the Thanksgiving recess would be very strongly supported
  - Flexibility of Winterim scheduling is appealing to students
  - Senator Albert has gotten some feedback from students
  - They like the idea of a four-week Winterim
  - They support 14 week semesters with the same number of Mondays through Fridays each semester
  - They would like to start before Labor Day
  - There are always going to be students who interpret the calendar the way that they want, so we need to communicate our expectations clearly and effectively
  - Students can make choices, but must realize that there may be consequences to their choices
- There are only seven versions for the Fall semester calendar, so maybe they could all be published
  - Some years we have the option of starting classes before Labor Day
- Spring semester poses additional challenges for calendar creation because of leap years and the variability of Memorial Day
- Calendar changes need to be based on data, otherwise we are making decisions without knowing the full implications
- Holding a “Topic of the Day” might give us a framework to create a calendar and that way we can get a feel for what is wanted
- There was a motion to remove Topic of the Day from the agenda and hold off until next semester
- Without dissent, discussion of academic year calendars will be delayed until spring semester

5) Announcements

- It is GIS Day in Geography and Anthropology
  - We encourage all to stop by the open house in Phillips 268, one of the geospatial labs, between 3:00-6:00 pm, after the Executive Committee meeting
- There will be a local food event tomorrow evening built around WPR's TV series Around the Farm Table
  - If interested in seeing the flyer please take a copy from the back table or let Chair Freymiller know so he can forward it to you
- Ask a Scientist is tomorrow night
- Invitation has been sent to Charles Farrell and Christian Wise inviting them to come and meet with the Executive Committee regarding the Food Contract
  - As of this afternoon Christian Wise has accepted, but we still have to hear from Charles Farrell

Meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate