University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Executive Committee

Minutes from March 17, 2015
Volume 51, Number 11

Present: Cathy Berry, Linda Carlson, Selika Duckworth-Lawton, Mitch Freymiller, Marc Goulet, Beth Hellwig, Abe Nahm, Anne Papalia, Jean Pratt, James Schmidt, Sherrie Serros, Johannes Strohschänk, Ganga Vadhavkar, Katie Wilson, Marty Wood

Absent: Jason Anderson, Martin Hanifin, Holly Hassemer, Rose Jadack, Patricia Kleine, Geoffrey Peterson

Guests: Sue Ayres, Wanda Schulner

The regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Freymiller at 3:03 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 in the Council Oak Room of Davies Center.

1) Approval of the Minutes of February 17, 2015
   • Approved as amended
     • The meeting number was changed to reflect number 11

2) Open Forum
   • Work Flow Issue
     • Nancy Amdahl was not aware of any technology problems, but in case graduate departments were having issues she plans to schedule additional training sessions
     • LTS is also working on the issues
   • Public Authority
     • The alternative to the public authority proposal is to have regulatory release
     • It would really be nice to get position control policies
     • Would like each individual campus to keep its own accounts in order; to have revenue bonding authority instead of having to go through state processes
   • Early Separation Incentive
     • If we do not get enough people to retire with the early separation incentive, would furloughs be an option?
       • Everything should be considered, but furloughs are not very appealing
       • Chancellor is hesitant to take that step because he believes we are already undercompensated
       • Furloughs would be a one-time solution to a long-range problem and solutions need to be strategic
     • If we have to declare a financial emergency and lose tenure-track faculty, would that apply to assistant professors?
       • Contract language implies that assistant professors could be laid off during a reduction of force, but the Chancellor will verify that
       • Guidance can be found on page 59 in FASRP
       • Some department chairs believe that some assistant professors will not be here next fall
     • We are identifying people who are eligible to apply for an early separation incentive
     • We are trying to be strategic and should not be penalized
   • Would it be smart to keep Facebook, Google, Twitter, and other social media sites separate in cases of public records requests?
     • It is generally good practice to keep them separate from University activities
   • Retirements
     • Institutional memory gets lost when large numbers of people retire, so it might be a good idea to invite those retirees back to share their knowledge
     • Minnesota had a phased retirement that was popular
     • They also got a bonus for early notification
     • The Chancellor is hopeful that early retirements might help with the budget crisis
• Input from the community
  • Staff members have been told that the community has heard that UWEC is getting hit harder than anyone else
  • We get a larger portion of the reduction because our appropriation is a pretty good size

3) Review of tentative agenda for March 31, 2015 meeting of the University Senate

• Approved as amended
  • Update New Business item C to reflect: Establish a new comprehensive major in Materials Science and Engineering
  • Under New Business add: Motion to Remove GE Subcategories
  • Under New Business add: Motion on Academic Staff Promotion

4) Amending the Bylaws Classified Staff

MOVED by Senator Pollit to bring this motion to the Executive Committee for further consideration, seconded.

• Cons of the recommendation are oddly written
  • The only Senate committees that involve Classified/University Staff are the Budget Committee, the Technology Committee, and the Physical Plant Planning Committee
  • There is little concern because the changes would not impact the classroom
    • Only change that could affect classrooms is change to the Technology Committee
  • Suggestion was made to remove the con listed under the report of the motion
  • Concern about the possibility of Classified/University being able to vote twice on an issue
    • Classified/University Staff would not have undue influence because a single vote within a committee should not affect anything
  • Sharpen the pros
    • This recommendation is embracing greater participation in governance, but it does not embrace shared governance
    • The pros section of the report should state that it adds “greater participation in shared governance at UWEC”
  • Classified/University Staff members on committees would not create a majority
  • Seems that this addresses efficiencies

Without objection we will amend report to take the con off the report and add a pro under the report as reflected above

• It brings enrichment to the table
• Is it disingenuous not to list any cons
• Cons reflect the discussion of the Executive Committee

VOTE on Motion: PASSED

5) Classified Staff Voting Rights on Committees

MOVED and seconded to bring this motion to the Executive Committee for further consideration

Without objection, revise the report to parallel the previous motion

• Add pros addressing efficiency and expertise that Classified/University Staff bring to committees
  • It embraces the concept of greater participation in shared governance
  • There are committee structure efficiencies and advantages of additional expertise

VOTE on Motion: PASSED
6) Announcements
   • Girl Scout cookies on sale today at Festival Foods
   • Two positions for campus representatives to Wisconsin Athletic Advisory Committee for WIAC
     • Jill Prushiek and Bernard Duyfhuizen are current members, but are looking for replacements
     • Respond to Beth Hellwig by Wednesday, April 1 if you are interested
     • These are faculty positions
   • UWEC Men’s Indoor Track and Field team won the NCAA Division 3 National Championship
   • Rally Against Hate
     • There will be a rally on Thursday, March 19 on the Campus Mall with the Bias Incidence Response Team to take a stand against hate
     • There have been anonymous racist comments on Yik Yak aimed at multicultural students
     • Yik Yak is totally anonymous, which makes it hard to identify the perpetrators
     • Students want administrators and the UWEC campus to show solidarity against hate speech

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate