Chair Harrison called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm in Schofield, Room 202.

1. The minutes of the February 3, 1998 meeting were approved.

2. Open Forum: It was noted that with so many faculty, staff and students who are ill, special attention could be given by the housekeeping staff to insure that the buildings were not a contributing factor. It was concluded that Ray Francis should be contacted.

It was noted that the University Senate office had received many calls from concerned staff members regarding interpretation of a memo circulated asking for a ranking of performance awards for Academic Staff which conflicted with the Compensation Package approved by the University Senate on February 10. Tom Miller noted that the memo had originated in his office. He expressed concern that the University Senate might have approved a plan which did not meet the Regents guidelines regarding 1/3,1/3,1/3 distribution.

Thanks were expressed to Chair Harrison for her well-organized meetings of the University Senate and that she maintained a bias-free conduct of the meetings.

A suggestion was made that University Senate minutes reflect the correct figures regarding the percentage distribution of Outstanding Teaching and Extra Merit awards during the first year of the 1997-1999 biennium. There was discussion that some departments understood that a limit of 60% of the faculty could be forwarded for such awards. Provost Miller indicated that in the 1997/98 academic year, approximately 50% of the faculty received Outstanding Teaching awards. A question was posed that if a department submits only 50% of the faculty of that department for such awards, will all of the awards be approved? A hypothetical explanation was given that if two departments of 10 members each submitted 5 names for extra merit, that a Dean could choose 4 members from one department and 6 from another to receive awards but that Deans would not add names to the lists submitted. It was also noted that departments varied in whether these awards were made known or kept private.

3. Chair Harrison indicated receipt of a draft copy of a report on Teaching Academic Staff. This report is being prepared for the Board of Regents. Each campus, through the governance structure, is being asked to respond to the draft by April 15. Discussion ensued as to how the proposal should be distributed due to its length. It was concluded that three questions needed to be addressed; 1) Implications of the proposal, 2) Issues pertaining to the UWEC campus needed to be considered, 3) Would the proposed plan improve or worsen conditions. Chancellor Smelstor suggested that a review by the Senate Executive Committee, and consultation with the Deans should be concluded prior to the plan's consideration by University Senate.

4. Discussion of suggested constitutional changes (per draft document entitled Suggested Constitutional Changes: Senate Committees) regarding Senate Committees to correspond with newly ratified realignment of University Senate.

P.1, Sect. F, item 1) Executive Committee Executive Committee suggests keeping the current language as previously passed by the Executive Committee
P.2, Sect F, item 2) Faculty Personnel Committee no proposed changes
P.2, Sect F, item 3) Academic Staff Personnel Committee no proposed changes by Exec
P.3, Sect F, item 4) Student Life Committee committee disbanded, item deleted
P.3, Sect F, item 4) Academic Policies Committee no proposed changes; recommended editorial change in b) Functions: This committee is responsible for recommending policies for academic programs of the University as they relate to items such as the creation and/or abolition of colleges, schools, departments, degree requirements, academic programs and standards, policies concerning grading, final examinations, class attendance, credit by examination, admission and transfer standards, and such related issues. The committee's charge also includes recommending policies and...
implementing procedures for audit and review of academic programs, in accordance with policies of the Board of Regents and/or System Administration.

P.4, Sect F, item 5) Physical Plant Planning Committee recommended change in a) Membership: The committee includes one administrative representative appointed by the Chancellor, three University Faculty senators elected by the Senate for three-year terms, two members of the University Faculty elected by the University Faculty, at large, and one member of the University Academic Staff senators elected by the Senate University Academic Staff, at large, for three-year terms. The departments of biology, art, and geography shall each elect one member to serve a three-year term.

P.4, Sect F, item 6) Budget Committee Executive Committee recommends proposed language recommended editorial change in b) to strike the word "Affairs" and insert the words "Student Services"; changes in a) Membership: The committee includes the Provost and Vice Chancellor, three Assistant Chancellors, three members of the Administrative Staff selected identified by the Chancellor, an academic dean elected by the Colleges’ deans, the University Senate Chair, and six eight senators elected by the University Senate for three-year terms. Of the six eight senators elected by the Senate, two must be selected from the College of Arts and Sciences and one from the College of Business, and one from each of the Schools in the College of Professional Studies, and one from the University Academic Staff.

P.5, Sect F, item 7) Compensation Committee Executive Committee recommends proposed language recommended editorial changes in a) Membership: The committee includes 8 to 10 members: three University Faculty and two University Academic Staff senators elected by the Senate, two university faculty members elected by and from the University Faculty, two one members elected by and from the University Academic Staff, and two ex-officio non-voting members: the Provost and Vice Chancellor or designated representative and the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs and Student Services or designated representative. Any UW-Eau Claire representatives on the System Working Group on Compensation, or on the UW System Working Group on Fringe Benefits shall also be ex-officio non-voting may be invited to a meeting by members of the committee. Members shall serve three-year terms unless membership is terminated by expiration of a Senate membership as described in the bylaws.

P.6, Sect F, item 8) Nominating Committee recommended editorial changes in a) Membership: The committee includes five members senators elected by the University Senate from its membership at the first March Fall semester meeting of the University Senate: two University Faculty and two University Academic Staff, and one additional senator. Members serve one-year terms. Members are not eligible for consecutive terms.

P.7, Sect F. Ad Hoc Instructional Technology Committee recommended editorial changes as suggested by the IT Committee in a) to strike the words "a non-voting liaison from each of the following: the University Library staff, the Media Development Center staff and the Computing and Networking Services staff and insert the words "an ex-officio, non-voting member to the committee from each major unit of ITM. recommended editorial changes in b) to insert after the word University; "consult with the Assistant Chancellor for Information Technology Management on instructional technology concerns;".

5. Motion made and seconded to require all committee chairpersons to be University Senators.

6. Recommended changes to attachment entitled "University Faculty" as indicated.

7. Discussion of Chapter 3, Faculty and Academic Staff Organization regarding maintaining the ratio of Faculty to Academic Staff under the new University Senate realignment. It was suggested that reviewing the ratio every three years would be sufficient given the term of senate service. Chair Harrison indicated she would email new language to Executive Committee members for their approval in order to keep the intent of section B.2.c.

8. It was noted that there had been a resignation from the Senate Ad Hoc Instructional Technology Committee and that the former member had suggested a replacement.

9. Meeting adjourned at 4:34 pm.

Secretary for the meeting: Bobby Pitts