UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING
VOL. 45, NO. 10
March 10, 2009

Members Present:

Members Absent:
Julie Aminpour, Robin Baker, Cheryl Cutsforth, Patrick Day, Kirby Harless, Larry Honl, Robert Hooper, Todd Hostager, Andrew Jepsen, Dale Johnson, Jill Pastrana, Geoffrey Peterson, Rick Richmond, Linda Spaeth, Sharon Westphal, Rebecca Wurzer

Guests:
Donald Christian, Jake Johnson, Kate Lang, Alex Smith, Bob Sutton

The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Interim-Chair Harrison at 3:05 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 in the Tamarack Room of Davies Center.

I.  Minutes of February 24, 2009 University Senate meeting approved as distributed

II. Chancellor’s Remarks – Chancellor Levin-Stankevich

- Budget
  - Something that will be with us for quite some time
  - Even if there is a significant recovery there will be so many demands on the state budget that they probably won’t look our way
  - UWEC has a long term plan for continuing to improve an already outstanding institution
  - Culture that we have is so valuable to us and is such as asset as we move forward
  - Dave Gessner knows where every penny is, everywhere on this campus
  - Some short term decisions will not be pleasant
  - Need to stop spending as much as we can this year so we take less of a hit next year
  - Also have long term decisions to make
  - This is basically a reset of the economy to a different level
  - Long term decisions will be driven by the PEEQ process
  - Have to figure out how to generate additional revenue
  - Can’t get smaller than what we are as that is less revenue for the institution
  - Invest in people or things that will give us a return on our investment
    - International students recruitment is a good example because if we add 100 more international students then that is 1 million less that has to be cut out of the budget
    - Including classroom and availability of classrooms
    - Still hoping that by the end of March to have the Provost and Vice Chancellor work with the directors, deans and department heads to try to work through where we can go
    - Not convinced that the second year will be much better
    - The other thing we have is the state taking auxiliary money, which is where you usually can move some positions from that money. Now the State has decided to take 25 million out of those “savings accounts”
UWEC, UW-Stout and UW-La Crosse all have to have auxiliary money for repairs saved up front while other institutions can borrow and make that money up quickly
System is trying to go back to the initial deal, which was a $100 million cut to system ($65 in year one and $35 in year two) but it’s the extra $74 million that is the real problem for us as it limits all the other options
People realize the seriousness of this
We realize what we have to do and yet maintain the quality we can while looking at how to rebuild this
Be careful about what you read as the newspapers said that the Governor was rating all the contributions to all the charities in the state and that is not going to happen as you cannot double tax charitable contributions
He is not taking money out of the trust fund as that is illegal
Open Discussion is scheduled for March 31st and we will talk about future needs and where we think we need to go next year on the budget
Plan 2008
- Somewhat concerned about the numbers at UWEC because UWEC stands out but not in a very good way
- We had a lot of activity but not a lot of results on that activity
- Doing much better in the new structures that have been set up by System
- We have been participating in Equity Scorecard and Compass Program
  - We are 1 of 3 UW Institutions in the Compass Program collaborating on enhancing equity, diversity and inclusivity
- David Shih has represented us extremely well at the System level and we are getting good attention
- Need to keep working at that – always
- Students need to be informed that there will be less faculty/staff doing more work
- Will be cuts on class availability
- Assistance will have to be redirected to core instructional and core safety types of things
- Will also have to share information with parents
- Experienced a drop in 18 year old market and it will get more competitive
- Need to be out recruiting students to maintain
- Will communicate through editorial boards, newspapers, direct communication

III. Unfinished Business
- None

IV. New Business
A. First Reading – Motion from Faculty Personnel Committee
DPC Membership – Senator McAleer
- Asked by Provost to look at DPC Membership language for those on sabbatical
- Best solution is to assume that people will be on DPC, whether on sabbatical leave or teaching abroad unless they inform the DPC otherwise
- Have responsibility
- Can affect DPC ‘s ability to organize
- Those at the meetings or with communication can vote
- Language is trying to acknowledge that in some situations is impossible to participate
  - Temporarily suspend membership vs. resigning
  - Tried to use language of temporary suspension
- Proposed wording is trying to clarify the existing/current language
- Trying to make handbook more user friendly
- Question asking if it is legal to propose temporary suspension
  - Senator McAleer will contact legal about this
  - Legal requirement stating that if you hold tenure then you are a member

Motion 45-FP-02
MOVED and seconded by committee (8 for, 0 against, 0 abstain) that the following changes to the Faculty and Academic Staff Handbook, Chapter 5, page 9 be approved as follows:
DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL COMMITTEES

Membership

All tenured faculty with an assignment of 50 percent or more in the department, excluding the Department Chair and tenured faculty members on paid or unpaid leave of absence of greater than 50 percent, shall be members of the Department Personnel Committee. A faculty member may hold membership on the Department Personnel Committee in only one department. If a faculty member holds a 50 percent assignment in each of two departments, the department in which he or she will be a member of the Department Personnel Committee shall be determined at the time the tenure appointment is made. A tenured faculty member shall not lose the right to membership on the Department Personnel Committee during a period of temporary part-time assignment (i.e., two years or less) to university duties outside the department. Tenured faculty members who are (a) on sabbatical leave or (b) temporarily assigned (i.e., for a period of two years or less) to university duties outside the department or (c) teaching abroad remain members of the Department Personnel Committee and are expected to participate fully in the Department Personnel Committee unless they expressly elect to temporarily suspend their membership during their sabbatical leave, outside appointment or teaching assignment and inform their department chair of their decision. Temporary suspension of membership can affect the ability of the Department Personnel Committee and its subcommittees to formally organize and make recommendations (see below, “Organization” and “Functional Equivalent”).

Debate

Motion by Interim Provost Wood to amend language in the first line to state …excluding the Department Chair and excluding tenured faculty members… seconded and PASSED without dissention

- Language suggests constraining and sets up an expectation to participate unless a person opts to not participate at all
- DPC wants clear knowledge if you want to participate or not and the intent was to clear that up but we wrestled on how to state it
- If you’re going to participate you can but the expectation is that you will fully participate
- Do not want to have people cherry picking
- If you are not going to participate then let your DPC know

Vote on Motion postponed until the next meeting

B. First Reading – Motion from University Senate Executive Committee

Voting Role of Provost – Vice-Chair Gapko

- Brief history on the yellow sheet (motion/report distributed)
- It lists pros and cons

Motion 45-SE-02

MOVED and seconded by committee (10 for, 1 against) that three references to the voting status of the Provost and Vice Chancellor be changed, as shown, in three locations of the Handbook:

1 - Article Three: University Senate, Section B Membership: 3. Administrative Senators
2 - Bylaws of the University Senate, Membership of University Senate 1.; and
3 – Description of the Executive Committee Membership.

Article Three: University Senate, Section B Membership: 3. Administrative Senators

The Chancellor and the Provost and Vice Chancellor are non-voting members of the Senate, with the Chancellor being a non-voting member.

Bylaws of the University Senate, Membership of University Senate, 1.
The voting members of the University Senate include:

1 Provost and Vice Chancellor

... The Chancellor and the Provost and Vice Chancellor shall be non-voting members of the University Senate.

1. The Executive Committee
   a. Membership: The committee shall include ten University Faculty, four University Academic Staff, the Chancellor, and the Provost and Vice Chancellor. ... The Chancellor and the Provost and Vice Chancellor shall be non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

Debate
   ● None

MOTION by Senator Lozar that we suspend the rules to vote on this today seconded and PASSED by two-thirds vote

Continued Debate on Motion
   ● None

Vote on Motion 45-SE-02: Motion PASSED without dissention

V. University Senate Chair’s Report – Interim-Chair Harrison
   ● Senate actions recently approved by the Chancellor include the Entrepreneurship minor and the Information Systems & Audit Control minor
   ● Will not have a University Senate meeting on April 14th, 2009
   ● Reserve March 31st for an Open Forum with the Chancellor to speak on the budget

VI. Faculty Representative’s Report – Senator McAleer
   ● The Faculty Representatives last met in Madison on Friday, February 27th.
   ● We met as a group in the morning and then in the afternoon we met with various officials from UW System. Among the major issues discussed were the following:
     ● Budget
       ● We discussed the grim budget news, with certain reps particularly distressed at campus reserve accounts being targeted
       ● Rebecca Martin, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, encouraged faculty to communicate directly with their local legislators about system-related concerns, especially salary
     ● Salary Issues
       ● We discussed the special recruitment and retention fund (aka “the star fund”), with several reps troubled by the lack of faculty input on the distribution of funds on their campuses
       ● There was a sense that the Regents and the Governor see the fund as a business-model solution to recruitment and retention woes and are thus unlikely to abandon it
       ● Al Crist, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, told us that the June salary increase—which most of us won’t see until October—is still on
       ● He reminded us that salary adjustments due to changes in rank will continue as usual, as they’re distinct from performance-based salary increases
       ● He had no information on the extent to which the cost to employees of benefits will increase
       ● A request that President Reilly report to the Regents on salary issues at least once a semester was received favorably
       ● Ed Meachen, Associate Vice President for Learning & Information Technology, reported on efforts to allow faculty to choose to receive their salaries over 12 rather than 9 months
       ● As they estimate it would cost about $400K in up-front programming costs and would require over $500K annually to administer, they have decided against offering a 12-month option
       ● Ed then reported that they will now be able to withhold state taxes for Minnesota and Illinois residents
     ● Program Realignment
The reps discussed the efforts of a system-wide working group comprising mostly provosts to collect and analyze data on which campuses offer which programs, with an eye toward coordinating program closures (so campuses don’t simultaneously drop similar programs)

Stephen Kolison, Associate Vice President for Academic and Faculty Programs, stressed that this is not a comprehensive, system-wide review of programs

The reps expressed interest in having faculty representation on the working group; if anyone is interested in serving, please let me know

3-year Baccalaureate Degrees

The reps discussed a draft of a proposal for developing a three-year baccalaureate track at four campuses, one of which is Eau Claire

A group comprising the provosts of the interested campuses and Stephen Kolison is currently studying the issue, with a target of this August for interested campuses to be authorized to plan and offer the program

The group welcomes input; I’ll be happy to pass along the draft to anyone who’s interested

D2L

Ed Meachen, Associate Vice President for Learning & Information Technology, reported that the UW System has renewed its contract with D2L through 2014

In addition, D2L has developed a purge tool, which will soon be put to use to purge courses prior to Fall 2005. (Every D2L course since 2003 is still on the server, to the tune of 7TB.)

Courses will be maintained on D2L for at least two years and faculty will be able to preserve course content locally, and will be informed well in advance of the purge, which will begin this spring or summer

Collective Bargaining.

The reps briefly discussed attitudes toward collective bargaining on their campuses, including the decoupling of faculty and academic staff, which the enabling provision in the budget implies, though it was noted that the final version of the bill may be more flexible on this issue than it currently is

We will discuss this in more depth at our next meeting

Textbooks

We discussed a draft of the System proposal for early adoption of textbooks

Though the proposal was aimed mainly at campuses without rental programs, the proposal noted that campuses (such as ours) with rental programs typically allow only one rental per class and suggests that this restriction be studied

In addition, the report noted that early adoption of purchase texts by faculty influences the buy-back price students receive

The Regents will consider the proposal at their May meeting, if the Faculty and Academic Staff reps support the proposal at their April meetings

As I previously reported, some Regents are laboring under the misapprehension that faculty are largely responsible for the high cost of textbooks; the reps felt that while faculty involvement in the solution might assuage Regent angst, the Regents need to understand that faculty practices are not a significant factor in the costs of textbooks

The Faculty Representatives will next meet on April 3rd

VII. Academic Staff Representative’s Report – Senator Brockpahler

Met via teleconference on March 6th, 2009

Will send the Academic Staff Report electronically

VIII. Reportable items from Committees

Executive Committee – Interim-Chair Harrison

At the last Executive Committee meeting a concern was brought up about the inability of one to send an email to oneself on campus from an off campus account due to the spam filter

The person raising the concern was referred to the Director of LTS – Craig Mey

The presentation of the proposed Mission Statement was delayed due to the committee’s desire to take additional time to analyze and consider the over 100 email comments submitted

Discussion turned to the Voting rights of the Provost resulting in the motion brought before you today

Other topics discussed were Senate membership and the concept of moving the details of committee structure out of the Constitution and into the Bylaws
Both of these discussions will be continued
Due to Spring Break, the next meeting of the Executive Committee is April 7th, 2009

IX. Special Reports
A. General Education Reform Committee – Kate Lang
- New draft that is out to Think Tanks
- Freshman Year Experience group that Mike Wick has is working on it
- Wellness Think tank that was formed by volunteers, the A&S Curriculum Committee, UGEC, The Assessment Committee, EDI Group, Perspectives Think Tank, Emergent Think Tank and the Academic Affairs Committee of Student Senate, the Chairs groups in all the Colleges have the new draft and it is on the website as well
- New draft states spring 2009 catalog copy
- Comment box is still up
- Early feedback is that it is still too complicated
- Would be most helpful if Faculty would please tell us what your thoughts are

X. Miscellaneous Business
- None

XI. Announcements
- March 31st, 2009 is an Open Forum with the Chancellor on the budget
- The next University Senate meeting is scheduled for April 14th, 2009
- The University Faculty and Academic Staff Spring meeting is scheduled for April 14th, 2009 at 11:30 in the President’s Room of Davies Center
- Campus relay for life is March 27th and donations are welcome
- March 27th the Joint Finance Committee of the Assembly in Senate will be meeting on campus

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary to the University Senate