UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING
VOL. 45, NO. 13

May 5, 2009

Members Present:

Members Absent:
Robin Baker, Lori Bica, Barbara Davis, Margaret Devine, Martha Fay, Lyle Ford, Kirby Harless, Todd Hostager, Rosemary Jadack, Andrew Jepsen, Heather Kretz, Barbara Lozar, Karl Markgraf, Jill Pastrana, Rick Richmond, Jeanne Skoug, Linda Spaeth, Todd Stephens, Sharon Westphal, Rebecca Wurzer

Guests:
Kris Anderson, Mary Jane Brukardt, Jack Bushnell, Donald Christian, Gail Scukanec

A special meeting of University Senate was called to order by Interim-Chair Harrison at 3:06 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 in the Tamarack Room of Davies Center.

I. Minutes of April 28, 2009 University Senate meeting approved with minor revision

II. Chancellor’s Remarks – Chancellor Levin-Stankevich

- This is a really hectic time of the year so it is appreciated that all made the time to come to University Senate
- State budget
  - Continues to go through the motions
  - It is in act 2 of a 5 act play
- Joint Finance Committee
  - Some change in the number of members of that committee, predominately in the La Crosse area
  - Were upset by La Crosse giving back $5.5 million to Madison’s $2.3 million in the auxiliary fees so they adjusted them
  - Were able to adjust them because, while the Governor is committed to additional financial aid for Wisconsin citizens in the face of a tuition increase, the Federal increase in the Pell grant would be sufficient to meet the increase in tuition
  - May be some impact on notification to students
  - Resulted in reduction in cuts to auxiliary budgets of about 35 percent for all institutions so the Joint Finance Committee reduced the contributions of each institution for a total of $25 million down to $16 million – which means that that money isn’t back in the budget but just not as much going away
  - Currently we are at $1.3 million reduction in auxiliary
  - Will wait to see what the final budget is and at that point will see if any reductions might be affected on the positive side by a lesser reduction on the auxiliary side
- Continue to work with local delegation, who are now in majority, to try to keep the academic building funding for planning in this biennial cycle
  - If we can get full funding for planning that building in the 2009-2011 budget then we will be ready for construction in 2011-2013
  - We have a local legislator, Pat Kreitlow, who will be on Building Commission next year and through 2011 so if it is shovel ready then we could have better argument for inclusion in the construction plan for 2013
  - Had a great Posters in the Rotunda day and invited alumni and legislators to a reception following
• Were struck by the number of legislators, relatives, spouses or children who have or are attending UWEC and the respect and knowledge of what the UW System does
• Shows a real genuine acknowledgement of the quality of this institution
• Keep building on that and reminding people of that
• Of the 10 total interviewed, 3 students from UWEC were interviewed for student regent position
• Have had a number of activities around buildings this week; every Tuesday the Architecture Team and the State and System Building folks are here to continue planning and work on the Student Union
• Advisory Council to get a presentation on that
• Gail Scukanec is heading up the planning for the academic building
• Moving ahead on the planning of the Children’s Center - First job is the site of the facility
• Chairs, deans and directors received additional information around the PEEQ process
  • Reports need additional work to be responsive and informative
  • Opportunity section is an inseparable part in looking at any of these assessments
  • At the macro level we need to be more purposeful in measurement and success
  • What will come out is the evaluative comments after feedback process, but not necessarily colored wheels
  • It stays with commitment we made early on
• Appreciate amount of work and energy as it is recognized that we have had the “pedal to metal” throughout
  • HLC visit in September
  • Board of Regents meeting in October
  • Key needs to be our Mission Statement
  • The one we have doesn’t work and we need to have something in its place
  • Need to agree to something that captures what we hear and see everyday
  • All will need to think as university citizens
  • Need to keep a steady pace but maybe a little cruise control next year instead of constant acceleration
• New people on campus and hope you will welcome them so they can learn about our community
  • Will be in 2 year term roles
• Take time to renew this summer

III. Unfinished Business
Revised Mission Statement – University Planning Committee – Kristine Retherford, Robert Hooper, Lori Snyder, Thomas Hilton, Marty Wood, Andrea Gapko

Continued Debate
• Last week UPC wasn’t clear about the mission and the direction that we wanted to take
• We listened to comments and had reflection of input from all over campus
• This grew out of Strategic Planning Process
• 3 years pulling input from hundreds of individuals
• During that process it became clear that the current statement did not reflect the lived statement on campus
• No mention in the current statement on issues of equity, diversity and inclusivity
• Reviewed documents, read position statements, explored mission statements, looked at range and depth and the breadth of those statements
• Began by identifying themes and key words
• Generated key words and themes and although we disagreed we brainstormed on what they meant to us to make them clear distinct statements
• Was a fair amount of discussion and disagreement
• Deliberated to 2 or 3 versions that we like and agreed on, and those were the 2 statements that were brought forward
• Heard from more than 175 people and considered their comments
• Made changes while others were considered but not changed
• Provided multiple opportunities for input
• Sent a revised draft back to this group but it failed to pass so it sent a clear message that there were some concerns but the proposed mission statement was extremely well thought out and is a reflection of our lived mission
• Felt it was an inclusive process but cannot please everyone
• Everyone knew we had a mission but it was not useful as it lacked distinction and was too long
• People cannot tell you what is in the current mission statement as it was trying to be all things for all people
• Says we offer masters or specialist level but really the mission statement shouldn’t be doing that kind of thing
● Is a dated mission
● Needs to be articulate and clear
● Needs to recognize the greater society that we serve
● It addresses the common purpose of the institution
● Will probably be changed in the future
● Can change bullet points
● Committee was deliberative about what we and you wanted UWEC to be
● The committee then came to consensus about what words and phrases meant
● The committee received feedback and acted on those comments, although the committee may not have changed every word
● Of the feedback received about ¾ responded positively to new mission statement
● Is not perfect but does encompass what the UWEC community wants to be
● Captures spirit
● Differences are on specific words
● For the most part support was positive
● Bulleted items were kept off because bullets are explanation of the mission
● Mission is not a lengthy passage
● Currently people cannot quote the mission
● Bullets describe how we accomplish our mission
● Audience for the mission statement is all individuals that make up UWEC
● Senate would change the bullets as the bullets are owned by faculty and academic staff
● Gives more flexibility and is more usable
● Every word that has been argued about is what makes us distinctive
● HLC is about dealing with greater good and we want students to go out and carry our mark
● Encourages our students to contribute to society
● Sets a direction for our students
● Students were invited to respond to survey but not many responded – only received about 40 comments from students
● Didn’t require their approval
● Should be proud of the students comments as they were overwhelmingly positive
● This statement was difficult to write so we should commend the University Planning Committee
● Verbs such as serve, prepare, and emphasize suggest something other than something that is really transformative
● The language puts the power in our hands except for last phrase as this ought to evoke what we are about
● We are not here to sell our mission
● Not seeing enough about intellectual virtues
● We’re becoming a character academy
● Not all bullets support the mission
● The debate will never end
● In order to get something passed, the contradictory parts should be removed
● Some still like the current statement
● “Sense of the Senate”
  ● 1 – Like the current long statement
  ● 9 – Accept the proposed draft
  ● 6 – Accept proposed draft with a little more editing
  ● 23 – want short mission, but not the proposed one
● New eyes would be helpful
● Public comment time is required
● Will not happen prior to HLC
● Would be nice to have by BOR meeting in October
● Would be nice to have choices of mission statement to vote on
● Committee members rotate
● A couple of statements read/proposed by Jack Bushnell
● Jack Bushnell to provide consultation and lend expertise to the committee
● Need to do something with current mission and bring back to senate in early fall then to faculty and academic staff
• Keep the bullets as is
• 1 statement to be brought back in the fall
• May need to provide feedback in the summer
• People are to submit several complete thoughts
• Will need majority vote to pass

IV. New Business
• None

V. University Senate Chair’s/Faculty Representative’s Report – Interim-Chair Harrison
• Election results will be distributed electronically
• Executive Committee to serve as the governance body over the summer
• If special meeting is called feel free to attend

Many of you may not realize it but this is the last University Senate meeting for someone who has been very involved in governance for many years at UW-Eau Claire. She helped developed the first constitution, served on numerous senate committees, served as the Academic Staff Representative, Chair of the Academic Staff Personnel Committee, member and Chair of the Executive Committee, temporary University Senate Chair, Chair of Compensation Committee and served 10 years as the Vice Chair of the University Senate. It is with great appreciation that by acclamation you extend thanks of the University Senate to our Vice Chair Andrea Gapko for her excellence service to governance and to this university.

VI. Faculty Representative’s Report
• Chancellor resigns from UW-Stevens Point
• Rebeeca Martin talked about pandemic planning
• Minutes will be posted on the University Senate website

VII. Academic Staff Representative’s Report – Senator Brockpahler
• Minutes will be posted on the University Senate website

VIII. Reportable items from Committees
• None

IX. Special Reports
• None

X. Miscellaneous Business
• None

XI. Announcements
• Next University Senate meeting is scheduled for September
• Look for University Senate email over the summer

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary to the University Senate