University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
University Senate Meeting
Vol. 46, No. 1
September 8, 2009

Members Present:

Members Absent: Ed Beach, Kirby Harless, Larry Honl, Andrew Jepsen, Karl Markgraf, Sean McAleer, Jeanne Skoug, David Sommers, Odawa White

Guests: Kristine Anderson, Mary Jane Brukardt, Jack Bushnell, Mickey Crothers, Rick Gonzales, Teresa O’Halloran, Rosemary Jadack, Stephanie Jamelske, Andrew Nelson, Kristine Retherford, Mike Rindo, Gail Scukanec, Marty Wood

The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Chair Harrison at 3:05 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 in the Council Fire Room of Davies Center.

I. Without objection, the 46th Session of the university Senate to be conducted using Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, 2000 Edition, 10th Edition, with following Order of Business adopted: Approval of Minutes; Chancellor’s Remarks; Unfinished Business and General Orders; New Business; Chair’s/Vice Chair’s Report; Faculty Representative’s Report; Academic Staff Representative’s Report; Reportable Items from Committees; Special Reports; Special Orders; Miscellaneous Business of the Body; Announcements; Adjournment

II. Minutes of May 5, 2009 University Senate meeting were approved as distributed

III. Chancellor’s Remarks – Chancellor Levin-Stankevich

- Discussion of Blugold Commitment
- Lack of resources; decline of $53 million, another mid-year correction? Will use PEEQ results
- Strategic plan requires 25% more faculty
- Time for immersion & overseas experiences
- Time to degree UWEC vs other institutions
- Globally higher ed costs put more & more on students
- State legislature knows we can go to students for more $
- Alums agree that we need to keep the high quality of UWEC degrees now & in future
- Private institutions showed higher enrollments than expected; people will pay for quality in higher ed
- Raising $ privately; we did well in 08/09
- Larger class sizes can compromise educational quality
- Look at market-based pricing, differential tuition at the Regent level, basically only option
- La Crosse has differential tuition after two years, Madison, 2nd of 4yr implementation w/differential tuition
- UWEC is ranked 5th of 13 UW System schools in cost per year
- Meeting with student senate tonight re: differential tuition, need to spend $ on faculty hiring & staff where it supports strategic plan
- Can’t price lower income students out of UWEC market, hold them harmless
- Students have funded FYE, faculty student research, et al, since 1997
- Maintaining & enhancing quality that UWEC has: using PEEQ reports to act on changes, don’t always agree with PEEQ, still need to make reductions
- Next steps: see strategic plan additionally graduating students in timely manner (four years)
Parents, alums, new & continuing students want to know why it takes so long to graduate; study abroad, general ed requirements, revise curriculum to work w/students to graduate sooner

What if UWEC had a smaller student/faculty ratio; goal is more labor time to do what we want to do; translated to high quality, hands-on education that we give to student everyday, each year

Sent letters polling parents (60); responses” Can’t afford more money, “If you raise tuition, you raise my taxes.” What will you do the money?”

Target add’l resources to assist students and maintain quality of education at UWEC

Want all students to experience internships, experiential learning, globally prepared

Try to “squeeze more out of lemon” If we have less students, then total resources declines plus it goes against UW System growth agenda, if we maintain undergraduate admissions with transfers and achieve financial goals

Only have estimated numbers to give students concerning new hires, etc. re: differential tuition allowances for promotions & tenure…will follow-up after discussion with student senate tonight (9/8/09).

IV. New Business

a. First Reading – Motion from University Senate Executive Committee

Honorary Degree

Has Awards Committee considered this?

Chancellor suggested discussion re: HoChunk elders who may be considered for honorary degrees

Motion 46-SE-01

That the University Senate Executive Committee, along with the President of the University of Wisconsin System as an ex officio member, serve as UW-Eau Claire's Honorary Degree Committee. The Committee's procedures and actions shall be consistent with Unclassified Personnel Guideline 11

Debate

none

Vote on Motion 46-SE-01: Motion PASSED without dissention

b. First Reading – Motion from University Planning Committee

Mission Statement

Report by: Kristine Retherford, member of the UPC, on mission statement

Returning with revised statement; “We didn’t get it right”

Constituents have had great deal of feedback

You want bullets to be part of mission

Words captured the mission but not the spirit or the passion

Bringing forward Bushnell’s updates and passion along with bullets, we are once again taking the mission to students next Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Introduction of Jack Bushnell, Chair, English,

Motion 46-SE-02

That the University Senate approve the newly revised Mission Statement and accompanying bullets as presented, and that the accompanying bullets be published with the Mission Statement whenever possible.

Revised Proposed UW-Eau Claire Mission Statement

We foster in one another creativity, critical insight, empathy, and intellectual courage, the hallmarks of a transformative liberal education and the foundation for active citizenship and lifelong inquiry.

We fulfill our mission through a pervasive university commitment to provide:

- Rigorous, intentional and experiential undergraduate liberal education for life and livelihood;
- Strong, distinctive professional and graduate programs that build on and strengthen our proud tradition of liberal education;
- Multicultural and international learning experiences for a diverse world;
Exemplary student-faculty research and scholarship that enhance teaching and learning;
An inclusive campus community that challenges students to develop their intellectual, personal, and social competencies;
Educational opportunities responsive to the needs of our communities, state, region and beyond; and
Academic leadership in transforming liberal education.

Debate

- “I like it”
- “I really like it” Are bullets the same? Yes, bullets will be in one package
- Mission Statement (in the box) will go to Regents but bullets will not change
- University Senate will “own” the bullets for future changes; NOT have to be approved by Board of Regents
- “In one another” after “we foster creativity”…does it have to be here?
- This version specifies that we are fostering creativity across the board
- “Us” as a community as a university, are we not also engaged this way with the larger community”
- Present language is inclusive
- Are there dangers, politically speaking, by using the word “empathy” in mission statement?
- Will “empathy” be a problem for some of our constituents?
- We need to stay away from something that is too generic and wouldn’t really define UW-Eau Claire
- Bushnell referenced a 1970’s catalog for “old” language that is transformative so people will “change” for the good
- We could potentially own this mission statement
- We need to believe in it and it needs to be more than just “sending out soldiers.”
- “Empathy” was my answer to diversity. I would like to hear the student response before we vote on it.
- It isn’t clear what “we” means in reference to UW-Eau Claire in the mission statement. When you use a pronoun something must define it. I don’t want to see it as a “them vs us” kind of thing.
- Who decided what the “four things were the hallmark” of a UW-Eau Claire education?
- Insight is a higher level than critical thinking
- Creativity for me is at the top, it doesn’t mean that you have to be a good painter, being a creative person, in holistic ways, strong stories throughout history, unless you have ready widely
- If I have to distill the strongest benefits of a liberal arts education…these are what the “hallmarks” are.
- I am struck by the fact that “reading widely” yet nothing about acquiring knowledge. You have to imply some. Empathy can stand on its own.
- Could we separate the bullets and vote on them individually; the bullets are the listing piece, the mission is the spirit.
- This version is a whole line longer than the one last spring.
- As a political conservative I’m totally against “empathy.”

Vote on motion postponed until next meeting

V. University Senate Chair’s/Vice Chair’s Report
- Senate elections will be held at the September 22 meeting
- Senate does not have a technology committee. The Task Force being formed by Associate VC Wick will be an ad hoc committee

VI. Faculty Representative’s Report – Senator McAleer - None

VII. Academic Staff Representative’s Report – Senator Lee (Jennifer)
- Collective bargaining will be on Oct. 13 University Senate agenda

VIII. Reportable items from Committees
- Nominating Committee – Senator Kolb
  - Vacancies announced
  - Please step in and contribute and enjoy the interaction with your colleagues.
o Collective bargaining: will be discussed at University Senate on Oct. 13 and hearing from other campuses but still have compensation committee

IX. Special Reports
a. Construction impact on parking – Parking Options – Mike Rindo and Rick Gonzales, Members of Master Planning Committee
   • Rindo: flare passions such as parking, parking problems b/c of new construction: student center, children’s center, academic bldg
   • Short & long term parking issues, how do we live sustainability values and still make sure we have enough parking for people & students get to work, maximize clean commute
   • Gonzales: short and long term parking plans, 8 months from starting major campus project, 1st project is student union project, shortly after w/be Children’s Center, a year later, academic bldg, and we’ll renovate a good portion of the OL. Potential for over $100 million on this campus, a great deal of $ coming our way, and something we’ll need for a great deal of time, no empty bldgs, no extra real estate, this will impact us in some way, but beats the alternative being the lack of investment on this campus
   • Phase I (PowerPoint to be posted on Senate Web site) re: construction schedule Lose 250 parking spaces though we have an excess of parking spaces, though not where people want them, peak period parking usage has been tracked, even at peak, we had 165 spaces open. We’ll get through this.
   • Phase III: demolition of Old Davies bldg will come down after occupation of new “Davies”
   • Phase IV: Replenis site: adding green spaces, adding parking that was lost. We will have permanently lost 70-80 spaces, losing only that many spaces, worked out very well to lose only this many
   • Lose 100 spaces with Children’s Center, no loss with academic bldg
   • Existing site w/trees, parking, et al
   • Beyond parking: entire area effected, i.e., existing utilities, “footprint” much larger than just the bldg itself, sidewalks torn up that may never come back. UC has Web site with update info.
   • Go back to footprint: limit truck traffic through Roosevelt, work w/neighborhood & limit on-street parking b/c of heavy loaded vehicles w/construction materials. Lots of traffic behind Phillips at all times. Phillips Rd was never designed for that heavy use; project will pay for damage to environment such as decimation of bushes, etc. Several million dollars of highly sensitive equipment in Phillips may be effected b/c of heavy construction traffic. Guaranteed faculty parking in Phillips lot?
   • Hellwig announced meetings for Phillips faculty/staff on Sept. 17 from 4 – 6 and an environmental impact meeting on Sept. 22.
   • Empty spots on very busy days, where were you counting? Bollinger Field counted yes? Available lots were not inventoried at 100% b/c of small amounts of parking available. Sacred Heart? Oakridge? Oakridge isn’t scheduled to go back to Sacred Heart Hospital until 2018. Has a new site been identified for the Children’s Center? CC Site construction on HFA Parking and will effect parking there. Thoughts about HFA making it faculty exclusive? Rindo: reconfigure usage of lots. Along with incentives to park in under-utilized lots. Nursing has many concerns about construction if it is just about parking I’ll hold my concerns. Nursing parking will NOT be affected.
   • Nursing concerns: We appreciate new bldg, new green space, Nursing’s front entrance will be literally at the loading dock, Nursing will be literally invisible, safety, noise, air quality, traffic, maintaining effective teaching environment, loss of Council Oak tree.
   • Gonzales: air quality; hold contractor accountable, noise: backdrop of the hill, drilling, pounding, I don’t think Nursing will be worse, access to Nursing bldg may be better than it is, during construction Nursing front door will be blocked, working with design team, new entrance on East side
   • Nursing concern, not just during construction, but after effects
   • The problem exists: no more real estate, parking, if not student union w/b academic bldg, bldg projects would have been built anyway, even if we used smaller lots, we won’t have space to build large bldgs but will have space to build small references to brand new, stand alone projects
   • HFA has lots of space problems re: HFA is in plans for expansion, Phillips could also be expanded in the future, even with new student union,
   • DNR requires a certain distance from Little Niagara natural area, we’ve met with Nursing group at least twice, for the rest of campus, will have a wonderful site, Nursing will have some issues to work through. Hope it will be benefit to campus.

b. HLC primer – Mickey Crothers and MJ Brukardt
HLC visit six days away. Acknowledgement of Andy Phillips and University Senate contributions for the past years, focus groups, surveys, reflected in 338 page self-study report. Lead writer, Mickey Crothers candid, honest and comprehensive picture of institution and the challenges we face. Four-page handout at Chancellor’s Breakfast: executive summary, summary of findings of self-study and what we need to do as we move forward, help you and help you prepare your colleagues. Eight reviewers will be on-campus, talking to you, students, administrators, faulty & staff, 1990 challenges: diversity & assessment, we know they will be focusing on these two when they’re here. Know what the self-study has shown us, so you can be prepared to speak about these and be prepared to share what you are doing.

Andy Nelson: 10 years ago, lack of diversity, emphasis placed on diversity, we need to expose our students to as much diversity as possible. Great strides & earnestly working, we’ve not yet internalized diversity. Perceptible shift from obligation to truly what we need to do.

What we have we been doing:
1. Centennial Plan & golden arrow with action plans
2. Equity Scorecard Project, final plans with campus climate survey, right direction, work to do
3. Recommend implement all action project and fulfill
4. Reward faculty & staff
5. Build on study abroad program
6. Facility & grounds: need to be more accessible even though legally ADA accessible
7. Keep momentum going, time, energy, and financial resources

For HLC fundamental questions about student learning…put these questions in front of depts. Spend time talking about them. Learning goals & outcomes owned by faculty & staff. Nobody is telling us. That is our business. That is what HLC values more than anything else. Faculty & staff are focused and intentional; faculty ownership of student learning.

Open Meetings to Meet with Peer Reviewers.
Mickey Crothers: HLC will initiate conversations. They have requested conversations with specific depts. And we don’t know exactly why. Susie Johnson is coordinating schedule of those depts that the HLC has specifically requested to see. Crothers has ideas about why HLC wants to meet and has ideas about how to respond. Suggests we know strengths and others b/c self-study does this.

X. Miscellaneous Business
   • none

XI. Announcements
   • Next Meeting of University Senate Sept. 22
   • Higher Learning Commission visit next week.
   • Board of Regents in October
   • 2010/11 Call for differential tuition proposal are out for this week
   • We do have a pandemic plan: see: Laura Chellman & John Baltes

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Submitted by,

Christine Webster for:
Tanya Kenney, Secretary to the University Senate