Members Present:

Members Absent:
Cindy Albert, Jon Bollinger, Julia Diggins, Doug Dunham, Julie Eklund, Todd Glaser, Gail Hanson Brenner, Beth Hellwig, Rose Jadack, Paul Kaldjian, Fred Kolb, Cheryl Lapp, Mike Morrison, Don Mowry, Mary Nienow, Courtemay O’Neil, Kate Reynolds, James Schmidt, Patti See, Jeri Weiser, Odawa White, Lynn Wilson

Guests:
Debbie Gough, Karen Havholm, Deb Jansen, Paula Jones

The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Chair Freymiller at 3:05 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 in the Dakota Ballroom of Davies Center.

1) December 10, 2013 University Senate minutes approved as distributed

2) Administrator Remarks
   • Comments from Provost Kleine
     • Welcome to Martin Hanifin the new Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration
     • Board of Regents Excellence Awards
       • Since Provost Kleine has been here we have won a few of these awards
         • Paul Thomas, Donna Weber, David Jones, and Jeff Vahlbusch
         • Just received news of another award for Bonnie Isaacsosn
     • Thanks to the staff for writing the applications and the letters of support
     • UW System is asking for our help
       • They are asking for our opinion on common, or system-wide, technologies that we use
       • Information is being sought specifically for learning technologies and D2L
         • Provost will be sending out an email
         • Looking to see if it is usable, how we use it, and if we are satisfied with the service
         • This is our chance to speak out
         • Are these the technologies that we really want as faculty/academic staff?

3) Reports
   a) For the Record: Academic Policies Committee

      Entrepreneurship Certificate
   
      Ghana Study Abroad

Without objection, motion to enter FOR THE RECORD – that a Certificate in Entrepreneurship in the Department of Management and Marketing be established, passed
Without objection, motion to enter FOR THE RECORD – to establish that the service provider for the Ghana study-abroad program be changed from ISEP-Direct to the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC), passed

b) Report from University Senate Chair Freymiller
   - Since our last meeting Chancellor Schmidt has signed off on the following motions:
     - To establish a Linguistics Emphasis within the Spanish, Liberal Arts major
     - To rename the Literature Emphasis to Critical Studies in Literature, Cultures, and Film within the English Liberal Arts major
     - To accept the Liberal Arts Associate of Arts and Associate of Sciences degrees from Wisconsin Technical College System institutions as fulfilling all requirements of the General Education program at UWEC
     - To accept the Liberal Arts Associate in Arts degrees from institutions in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system as fulfilling all requirements of the General Education program at UWEC
     - To update the “Withdrawals” section of the Undergraduate Catalog with a military leave policy
     - To establish a Unified Early Childhood emphasis and suspend the current emphasis in Early Childhood
     - To establish a UEC prefix within the Department of Special Education
     - On January 28th the University Senate sponsored an Open Forum on Transportation and Commuting Issues with presentations made by:
       - Christina Hupy, Bob Eierman, and Emy Marier regarding the comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan
       - Christian Paease (Student Senate IT Director) regarding a bus tracking program
       - Becky Shannon regarding on-campus parking
       - Heather Kretz and Jason Mathwig regarding visitor parking
       - Small group discussions and question/answer session followed
       - Comments from that forum are available on the University Senate homepage
     - On February 12th Academic Affairs hosted a gathering of Deans, Department Chairs, and university senators to experience degree planning from a student perspective using the Liberal Education Core framework and an alternative framework
       - Data from this exercise is being gathered and evaluated

c) Faculty and Academic Staff Rep’s Report
   - Faculty Rep’s Report
     - We are still discussing pay over 9 months or 12, but this discussion has been going on for about 15 years so will most likely not hear anything soon
     - The Regents meeting scheduled for next week is an entire day of studying faculty workload and pay so Representative Peterson will definitely attend this meeting
     - Regents will be proposing provisions to the policy regarding recording and taking notes in lectures
       - Some instructors have banned the use of recording devices (even for those with qualified disabilities), stating that it is a control of content issue; that was not the intent of the policy so the policy will need to be changed to reflect this

d) Executive Committee Report
   - On January 21 the Executive Committee discussed the Chancellor’s intent to develop an Enrollment Management Taskforce
     - Membership has been announced and the Chancellor wants a report from the Taskforce in June
   - On February 4th the Executive Committee received a report on the status of the Liberal Education Reform motion that is being held for further consideration
     - Also received an update on the Kinesiology Emphasis motion that is being held for further consideration
   - On February 18th we discussed the unclassified sick leave policy as it is inconsistent with UPG 10

4) New Business
   - None
5) Announcements
   • The next meeting of the University Senate is scheduled for March 11, 2014

6) Topic of the Day
   • Calendar Rationale Handout
   • Note: There is no intent to make any changes to the length of class periods
   • Comments from Chair Freymiller
     • The intent is to gauge the interest of the Senate for making changes to the academic year calendar
   • Small group discussion comments
     • Should UWEC consider changing its academic year calendar so that fall and spring semesters are equal in length? Advantages/Disadvantages? Challenges?
       • It should be considered
       • There is not a compelling reason to change the calendar
       • With the amount of material that we are trying to cover it does not give us enough time
         • Spring is designed to be heavier
         • Because of the bad weather in the spring it makes sense to have some slack time
         • Spring is also usually the flu season
         • Because of collaborative research and capstones it is useful to have an extra week for the heavier workload
         • Also have to remember that Spring Break gives a week off
         • It makes sense to have an extra week even though it is not mathematically equal
       • An idea could be to keep length of spring semester, but have it as instruction time
       • Looks like given the restraints that we would wind up pushing our final exams until after the Christmas break
         • Exams would not take place after Christmas break
         • The way it is being presented we would lose 2 instructional days in the fall (due to Labor Day and Thanksgiving), thusly giving us 72 days in the fall
       • Certification requirements may not be met in some classes
       • Like the advantage of consistency
       • There is an advantage of adding some time to Winterim
       • Would be a great benefit
       • In some programs it makes it unequal as the same class is taught each semester
       • This would only give the university more reason to not close in bad weather as we would have fewer days
         • We need a written policy for closing during bad weather
         • If closing, it would be beneficial for the students who travel to have notification prior to 5 a.m.
     • Should UWEC consider expanding Winterim from 3 weeks to 4 weeks? Advantages/Disadvantages? Challenges?
       • Very much for it
       • An extra week would be very beneficial
       • Would be nice for the COB for immersion experiences and in general it would be a benefit for a higher quality engaged immersion experience
       • Biology has strong support for an expanded winterim
         • For field courses and faculty/student collaborative research
       • It would lead to better educational outcomes
       • Students who are not here do take winterim courses here and that may not work in their schedule
         • Having a 4 week interim does not preclude them from doing a 2 or 3 week experience
       • Should UWEC consider moving Phase II Orientation for First Year students and transfer students to the Tuesday following Labor Day so that fall semester classes would start on the Wednesday following Labor Day? Advantages/Disadvantages? Challenges?
       • We have no control over the Book Store
         • The Book Store is a contract vendor so we have the ability to put it in the contract when they would be open
       • Housing should not drive curricular issues
       • If this were to be switched then it may be easier to have faculty and staff participate
The Director will soon be retiring and her replacement may have different ideas on how to do orientation and advising so it may be premature at this point.

Should study other places where orientation is separated from move in.

This is not the recommendation coming from Phase II.

Concern about the preoccupation of students came up before and it is still a concern.

- Has been a problem in years past.
- Numbers for detox are at their highest during the first couple of days.

Difficult for Housing to plan that amount of activities.

This would reduce the number of days before classes started.

Question if this could this be worked out between Housing and Phase II without Senate’s involvement.

- This should not be for faculty to rearrange.
- Centers will be open when they need to be open.
- Once students learn about the house party culture they will go.

Should UWEC consider adding the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to the Thanksgiving recess? Advantages/Disadvantages? Challenges?

- Have it be an instructional day, but have an on-line option.
- Do not want to lose the time or instruction.
- Many departments already have that option.
- The issue is that when a student has 4 classes and 3 of them have given that option then we need a university-wide policy because the 4th class is affected.

- If Wednesday is not an official day, then students would start taking off the Friday the week before.
- UW Stout has the Wednesday off before Thanksgiving.
- Some will take the whole week off regardless because of hunting season, but the rest of the students will not take it.
- Labs still run the way we currently have it as we still have Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Faculty already cancel, but many departments do not.
- There may be some misrepresentation on why a lab was not held that week.
- Should consider the entire campus in terms of student staffing.
- On the Monday before Thanksgiving faculty get a lot of questions about what is happening on Wednesday, so if we took Wednesday off then we would get the same question for Tuesday.
- Concern that the Tuesday might become the Wednesday.
- A travel day would be nice.

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary to the University Senate