The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Chair Freymiller at 3:04 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 in the Dakota Ballroom of Davies Center.

1) April 22, 2014 University Senate minutes approved as distributed

2) April 22, 2014 University Faculty and University Academic Staff Spring Meeting Minutes approved as distributed

3) Administrator Remarks
   - This has been an amazing year for the Chancellor
     - The welcome reception meant a lot to him and his family
     - This is a strong university with a great reputation and he has spent a great deal of time listening; by the end of year he will have met with every department on campus
     - It has given him greater insight about individual departments people
     - He hopes to continue to make time in his schedule to meet with people at the university
     - Has visited more than 40 area businesses in the Chippewa Valley
     - Message he got from them is that the thing that keeps them from becoming bigger and more profitable is human capital and the ability to attract the right people to help their business grow
     - They asked the Chancellor not to train the students; they are looking for characteristics in the student body
• They were looking for critical thinking and strong interpersonal skills; people with different backgrounds and experiences, people who can write and speak articulately, and people with strong problem solving skills
• Attended many performances and lectures; tries to incorporate his family in much of what he does here
• Thanks the university for making allowances and accepting
• Better understanding of character and culture of UWEC
  • This is something that needs to be experienced
  • The Chancellor has shared some of his experiences on his blog
  • There was leadership before him that was good and there is strong faculty and staff
    • They have kept the focus on student engagement and learning and that our students and graduates are prepared for the world that awaits them
• The Confluence Project has been time-consuming
• Formed an Enrollment Management Taskforce
  • How big we should be, graduate or undergraduate, diversity, and so on
  • Looking forward to their report
• LE Reform
  • Spending the time needed to understand it so it serves the institution well
  • Hope to wrap it up and to give an answer very soon
  • Appreciate the energy that went into that
• Branding of UWEC
  • Is a hard institution to sum up as it is about many things
  • Is a way to talk about the university
• In the coming year we will have some work to do
  • We will work together to have clear priorities
• Have great confidence and are well poised for exciting paths
• Thank you for a great year and we will be working over the summer

4) Reports

a) Report from University Senate Chair Freymiller
  • The Chancellor signed off on the following motions passed by the University Senate to:
    • Change language regarding “cross-listed courses” published in Undergraduate Catalog
    • To include the ENPH prefix in General Education Subcategories II-F, Interdisciplinary Studies-Natural Sciences and III-G, Interdisciplinary Studies-Social Sciences
  • The Chancellor acknowledged receipt of the resolutions passed by the University Senate to:
    • Urge UWEC Administration, UW System Board of Regents and UW System Administration to explore additional sources of funding, as well as internal savings that could be allocated strictly for funding increases in employee compensation
      • Letters were sent to Board of Regents President Falbo, UW System President Cross, Vice-President Crist, and Vice-President Nook conveying this request
    • To ask the UW System Board of Regents to explore the possibility of allowing UW-Eau Claire to develop a two-year pilot test of a new benefit for employee tuition assistance
      • Letters were sent to Board of Regents President Falbo, Eau Claire Regent Behling, and Eau Claire Regent Manydeeds conveying this request
    • To oppose any legislation that would allow any UW employee to opt out of the Wisconsin Retirement System
  • The last of the candidates for Dean of COEHS is concluding his visit to UWEC
  • Senators are reminded to provide their feedback to the search and screen committee
  • Candidates for the position of Athletic Director are interviewing this week and next week
  • Senators are encouraged to attend their open forums
b) Faculty and Academic Staff Rep’s Reports
   - Faculty Rep’s Report
     - Met for the last time this semester
     - Be prepared for some different leadership as President Cross is taking ownership
     - Received updates on the UPS and the HRS System
     - Act 145 is the bill that is changing the funding structure of the technical colleges
       - It indirectly affects us
   - Academic Staff Rep’s Report
     - Virtual conference is scheduled for Thursday, July 24th
       - More information to come
       - Look for that this summer
   - Committee Reports
     - Executive committee
       - On April 29, Executive Committee discussed the ruling of the Chair that the vote on the academic calendar proposal was limited to University Faculty
         - That ruling was made after consultation with the Immediate Past Chair of the University Senate based on an interpretation of the Academic Calendar Guidelines in Article Six: Academic Policies
         - Following much thoughtful discussion, Executive Committee voted to change that ruling and allow all senators to vote on the academic calendar proposal
         - Executive Committee was given an update by Provost Kleine regarding UW System concerns about the UWEC Mission statement

5) Unfinished Business
   a) Second Reading: Motion from the University Senate Executive Committee
      Academic Year Calendar
      Debate
      - Can see some potential benefits
        - The number one potential benefit is that Winterim could be better developed and might be a revenue source; maybe build it in so it is a required part of the program
        - This is not yet in place so losing 8000-9000 weeks of student learning is significant
          - That could be filled in with a well-designed Winterim program
          - That should have come first then adjust the calendar
      - Comments from a senator that was not present
        - She was sorry that she could not attend today, but wanted to provide more detail on student performance in Math in Spring versus Fall. In the Mathematics Department, our basic statistics course (MATH 246) has the highest population, and we give a multiple choice final at the end of each semester. Over past semesters, the questions in this final have not changed, nor has the syllabus or curriculum changed. The topics covered during fall semester are intended to be identical to the topics in spring semester. The sample size is large, with exam results of 1,110 students included in this analysis.
          - With a p value of 0.0091 (so <0.01), students in the fall semester outperform students in the spring semester on an identical final exam.
          - I do not present this result with the intention of implying that a multiple choice exam is the best measure of student learning, only to say that on this one measure of student learning, there is no evidence that a shorter semester correlates negatively with learning.
        - Winterim has a lot of merit, but we can’t lose a week in the spring semester
        - We can do a better job with students
• The unevenness of the semesters is inconvenient, but due to legislative reasons we cannot have the time we want in the Fall
• Changes can be made within departments
• Would prefer to revisit lengthening Winterim, but without shortening the calendar
• From a Nursing perspective, this may open clinical opportunities during Winterim
• Equal length courses would be beneficial, but have not seen any comparison of the numbers for classes on campus that would prefer balanced versus unbalanced scheduling
• Haven’t seen much about student learning outcomes
• The statistics from a previous speaker didn’t provide any control over potential compounded variables
• Take a week out of your Spring schedule and then find another 55 hours in the remaining weeks; think about how difficult it will be to have a week less to do it
• Is a compressed time frame
• We have certain courses that are only offered in the Spring and are only scheduled in such a way to cover important material, so losing a week would not be good for our students as the course helps them prepare for graduate school
• Would be to their disadvantage
• Adversely impacts the students
• It harms the more advanced courses
• Don’t see a reason why what we are doing in the Fall semester and what we are doing have to be conjoined
• When you look at the draft Fall semester we have a week of classes, followed by graduation, followed by the start of finals so we end up having a two week block that we potentially do not have a single day off
• Is a drawback and we may not even get a day off
• See some great possibilities for Winterim
• There is a high level of indifference
• There could be creative ways to use the extra class time
• The advantage of extending Winterim for field based experiences/courses
• Felt that the tradeoff was worth it
• Student Senate has not weighed in
• One senator commented that in his department 10 of 14 courses are offered every semester so this motion is welcomed
• Equal length semesters are viewed positively

Vote on Motion 50-SE-01: 29 to 19 PASSED
6) New Business

Because the Chancellor has not yet signed the Liberal Education Core Compromise Proposal, the motions from Academic Policies Committee that were linked to your agenda are not in order and cannot be presented until the next session of the University Senate is convened.

a) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee

Responsibility 1 Diversity Outcome

*Was not presented for reasons stated above in bold

b) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee

3-Credit Design for Diversity Requirement

*Was not presented for reasons stated above in bold

A motion was made to suspend the rules to allow the students to speak, seconded.

Vote to allow the students to speak: PASSED

Statement from the students

7) Announcements

- Thanks to Provost Kleine for providing the refreshments for today’s Senate meeting
- This concludes the 50th session of the University Senate at UWEC
- Chair Freymiller would like to extend his gratitude to all senators for a productive session and wished all a relaxing summer
- The next session begins on September 9, 2014
- A Resolution of the United Faculty and Academic Staff of UWEC was approved at the Spring general membership meeting in April
  - The text of that resolution was linked to your agenda
    - UFAS-UWEC Resolution

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary to the University Senate