Members Present:

Members Absent:
Cindy Albert, Tammy Bednar, Lori Bica, Jon Bollinger, Jeff Erger, Debbie Ernie, Jeffrey Goodman, Martin Hanifin, Marquell Johnson, Karl Markgraf, Jim Phillips, Manda Riehl, Patti See, Jeri Weiser, Odawa White, Marty Wood, Tracy Yengo

Guests:
Joey Bohl, Mike Carney, Margaret Cassidy, Jennifer Fager, Debra Jansen, Heather Kretz, Carter Smith, Jacob Wrasse

The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Chair Freymiller at 3:05 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 in the Dakota Ballroom of Davies Center.

1) Approval of the March 31, 2015 University Senate minutes
   • Approved as distributed

2) Administrator Remarks – Chancellor Schmidt
   • Attendance at the Coffee(s) with the Chancellor has been good
   • Campus Task Force Forum was attended by about 120 people
     • Hoping for feedback from the Forums and the Qualtrics survey
     • Still waiting to hear how big the budget cut will be
   • Voluntary Separation Incentive Program received 115 applicants (35.4% of those eligible)
   • Next week, approximately 1600 5th grade students will be here for Blugold Beginnings

3) Reports
   a) Report from University Senate Chair Freymiller
      • Since our last meeting, Chancellor Schmidt has signed off on the following motions:
        • Establish a certificate in Cognitive Disabilities (CD) 1 through 12 within Department of Special Education
        • Establish a certificate in Emotional Behavioral Disabilities (EBD) 1 through 12 within Department of Special Education
        • Establish a new comprehensive major in Materials Science and Engineering within the Materials Science program
        • Change language in Part III; Article Three: University Senate; Section E – Committees, of the Faculty and Academic Staff Rules and Procedures to remove the voting restriction on Classified/University Staff members on University Senate committees
        • Change language in Part III; Article Four: Governance Committees and Councils; Section A – University Senate Committees to remove the voting restriction on Classified/University Staff members on University Senate Budget, Physical Plant Planning, and Technology committees
        • Remove General Education (GE) subcategory requirements from the University Graduation Requirements
• Change language in Part III; Article Five: Personnel Policies and Procedures; Section C – Academic Staff Personnel Policies; 2. Academic Staff: Recruiting and Appointments for Academic Staff Positions to establish new criteria and time-lines for promotion

b) Report from Faculty Representative Peterson
• The last meeting of the BOR had a heated discussion regarding the status of Public Authority and the budget
• Does not look like we will have revenue estimates until early May

c) Executive Committee Report
• Executive Committee met on Tuesday, April 7 and discussed a pilot program initiated this semester that allows certain qualified athletes to register on the first day that their class standing allows
• For example, a qualified athlete with at least 60 earned credits would be able to register on the first day of registration for students with junior-status

4) Unfinished Business
a) Second Reading: Resolution from Senator Nowlan

Resolution on Public Authority
Continued Debate
• None

Vote on Motion 51-MISC-01: PASSED

5) New Business
a) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee

Removal of Admissions Foreign Language Requirement

Handouts:
Student Senate Foreign Language Requirement
Admissions: Denied Students
Admissions: Foreign Language APC
Admissions Policy 2014-2015 UG Catalog
Admissions: Foreign Language Peer Institutions

Debate
• Holistic Admissions was adopted in 2006 and no single factor can be waived under a holistic review
• 75% of students in WI who take the ACT self-report that they have had two years of foreign language
• Students active look at schools starting in their their junior year through February of their senior year, which is too late to complete two years of foreign language
• International students are not held to this admission policy

Amendment by Senator Strohschänk to change wording in the motion to reflect: Recommends that the Admissions requirement for two years of foreign or second language be reduced to one year and the Undergraduate Catalog updated as indicated in the attached proposal, seconded

Discussion on amendment
• More comfortable with this amendment than the original proposal because it would force students to take more credits here, while original motion would deceed our quality
Rationale for the amendment

- UWEC Foreign Language Admission requirement (FLAR) has been widely considered within UW System to be an asset rather than a liability, setting UWEC apart as an institution that values training in foreign languages at an early age
- Since UW-Madison is the only other UW System institution with a FLAR, UWEC is in excellent company, contributing to the perception that UWEC is the leading liberal arts school in the UW System after UW-Madison
- To eliminate the FLAR when UWEC has otherwise made strides in internationalizing its curriculum, especially by adding programs abroad, seems counterproductive
- According to Admissions data, 37 otherwise admissible freshman candidates had to be turned away since December 1, 2014, because they did not meet the two-year FLAR; under a one-year rule, 25 of those 37 students who had at least one year of language would have been admissible
- Many language programs at middle and high schools level in Wisconsin are fighting uphill battles for survival
  - They fill some seats with students who plan to study at UWEC
  - Completely abolishing the FLAR would reduce students' motivation to study a foreign language prior to college; it would also send the wrong message to school boards deciding to cut foreign language programs
  - Completely abolishing the FLAR would reduce the size of the "captive audience" for promoting the study of foreign languages
  - Keeping the number of freshman applicants denied admission because they lack foreign language preparation will also reduce pressure on the Department of Languages to teach true beginners
- Students oppose this amendment because the FLAR is discriminatory
  - High School foreign language has rigor when taught with best practices, but schools might not be using best practices
  - FLAR disadvantages students through no fault of their own, making them choose foreign language instead of other electives
- Students with only one year of foreign language will most likely test into a 101-level course
- Holistic admissions need to include foreign languages
- Not having a foreign language would not impact many study abroad experiences

VOTE on amendment: FAILED

Continued Debate Motion
- Change from GE to LE does not address differences in BA and BS degrees, so it would be nice to know what that distinction is before the vote happens

Motion by Senator Peterson to suspend the rules to vote on this today, seconded

Vote on motion to suspend the rules: PASSED

Vote on Motion 51-AP-17: PASSED

6) Announcements
- The next meeting of the University Senate is April 28th, 2015
- Celebration of Life/Day of Remembrance will be held on May 6th at noon in the Dakota Ballroom
- Jazz Fest is this weekend

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Kenney
Secretary to the University Senate