Members Present:

Members Absent:
Cindy Albert, Jason Anderson, Jana Armstrong, Linda Carlson, Maria Carvalho, Jasmine Case, Lisa Coen, Jeff Erger, Luke Fedie, Ned Gannon, Todd Glaser, Mallory Gohl, Jeffrey Goodman, Staci Heidtke, Kate Hinnant, Bob Hooper, Pat Kleine, Marie Koissi, Cheryl Lapp, Jill Markgraf, Sean McAleer, Pat Montanye, Douglas Olson, April Pierson, Manda Riehl, Audrey Robinson, Carter Smith, Dan Stevenson, Ganga Vadhavkar, Odawa White, Marty Wood

Guests:
Margaret Cassidy, Jennifer Fager, Debra Jansen, Carmen Manning, Jill Prushiek

The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Chair Freymiller at 3:05 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 in the Dakota Ballroom of Davies Center.

1) Approval of the October 27, 2015 University Senate minutes
   • Approved as amended
   • Members present was amended

2) Administrator Remarks – Chancellor Schmidt
   • Chancellor Schmidt's blog post
   • Comments on various implementation teams as well as EDI issues
   • Wishing all a wonderful weekend and asks everyone to give thanks during this season

3) Reports
   a) Report from University Senate Chair Freymiller
      • Since the last Senate meeting, Chancellor Schmidt has approved the following motions:
        • To eliminate the Business Essentials Certificate offered by the College of Business
        • To eliminate the Health and Aging Services Administration (HASA) certificate offered by the College of Business
        • To establish the MSE prefix in the Materials Science program
        • Chancellor Schmidt did not approve the Lactation Support policy, which he had been holding for further consideration, that was passed by University Senate on April 28, 2015
        • In accordance with the process described in FASRP, Chancellor Schmidt consulted with the Executive Committee regarding his concerns
        • In response to a rash of identity thefts that occurred across the UWEC campus last spring, a small group of concerned employees met with the Director of Human Resources, Faculty Representative Peterson, and Senate Chair to develop a survey that could gauge the extent of this problem on campus
        • That survey was sent via e-mail ten days ago and the deadline to complete the survey has been extended until November 30
        • Chair Freymiller strongly encourages senators, colleagues, and co-workers to complete the survey, regardless of whether identities were stolen
        • We hope to gather data about how many employees were affected, which might shed some light on how the identities were stolen
b) Faculty Rep’s Report – Representative Peterson
   - Academic Staff Representative’s report represents what happened at the meeting

c) Academic Staff Rep’s Report – Representative Wilson
   - Key highlights from the written report were shared
   - Are just now having conversations on how remission money would be best allocated

d) Executive Committee Report
   - On November 3, Executive Committee met and discussed merging the University Senate Budget and Compensation Committees
     - One of the recommendations from the Workload Rapid Action Task Force was to reduce committee work
     - Executive Committee agreed that such a merger was worth exploring
     - Chairs of the Budget and Compensation committees have been charged with convening a joint meeting to discuss a possible merger that would reduce and reconfigure membership and consolidate the functions of the two committees
     - Discussion also occurred regarding potential implications of the Affordable Care Act on student employment
     - Because federal law requires that full-time employees receive health insurance, UW System must ensure that students do not reach full-time employment status under the Affordable Care Act
     - Human Resources Director Miller will monitor student employment practices at UWEC to ensure compliance
   - On November 17, Executive Committee met and listened to Chancellor Schmidt report on the EDI initiative that strives to increase the proportion of students of color at UWEC to 20%
     - He has received a proposal that would establish a Hmong Studies program at UWEC
       - As resources become available, he would like to establish a tenure-track faculty position to guide that program
     - Because Chancellor Schmidt did not approve the Lactation Support policy that was approved by University Senate in April 2015, FASRP requires consultation regarding his concerns about the recommendation
     - After discussion between the Chancellor and Executive Committee, Academic Staff Representative Wilson and Provost Kleine will meet to modify the recommendation
     - Once a modification is approved by the Executive Committee, it will be presented to the full university Senate for any further action

e) Academic Policies Committee
   - Update on the Liberal Education Implementation Resolution
     - Faculty and instructional staff provided input
       - Many responses supported implementation only when there is enough seating; however, many responses suggested following alternative approaches
         - Hold students harmless, but proceed with the framework as approved
         - We do not want to delay student graduation if UWEC cannot provide the seats
     - Survey input and shared governance recommends against APC bringing a proposal to the full Senate
     - APC will sponsor a University Senate forum in Spring 2016 to discuss Liberal Education
     - ULEC has seen an increase in course proposals since the survey, which could help close seating gaps on the LE dashboard
4) New Business
a) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee
   Club Sports to Fulfill Physical Activity Requirement

Debate
- Concern that we are taking a piecemeal approach rather than addressing the core of the issue
- Concern about the impact it has on students
- Starting in Fall of 2016 there is no longer a wellness requirement; this is an attempt to find alternatives for current students who must still meet this requirement
- Speculation that current freshman who came in with this graduation requirement may be persuaded to change their catalog, which would eliminate this requirement
- Were told that waiving a university graduation requirement will not happen on this campus, so creative approaches need to be developed
- How this will impact students from underrepresented areas?
- Were told that waiving a university requirement would not be favored by the higher learning commission, so we couldn’t do a blanket waiver
- Associate Deans have the authority to waive a graduation requirement for individual students if that single requirement causes explicit harm to a student and delays graduation
  - Waivers must be issued in a fair and equitable way
- Concern about current students changing to Liberal Education core that does not require physical activity for graduation
- Why is it not possible to waive the requirement for those students still affected?
  - Much speculation but no definitive answer
  - Might be useful for University Senate to take a position on this issue
  - Allowing club sports to satisfy physical activity requirement is feasible because we can track participants, but such a mechanism doesn’t exist for tracking participation in other activities
  - Why would Higher Learning Commission not support waiving a requirement?
    - University Assessment director is not sure that HLC would be concerned, based on their criteria for accreditation
    - APC could potentially create a blanket waiver and propose it to Senate

Move to suspend the rules and vote on this today, seconded

Vote on motion to suspend the rules: PASSED

Vote on Motion 52-AP-04: PASSED

b) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee
   Geospatial Analysis and Technology Comprehensive Major

Handout: Geospatial Analysis and Technology Major Authorization Request

Debate
- None

Without objection, we will vote on this today

Vote on Motion 52-AP-05: PASSED
c) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee

Language Studies Name Change to Interdisciplinary Linguistics

Debate
• None

Without objection, we will vote on this today

Vote on Motion 52-AP-06: PASSED

d) Resolution from Faculty Personnel Committee

Resolution Supporting the AAUP Statement on Tenure
• Resolution reflect AFT statement, not AAUP

Debate
• Both AFT and AAUP support this resolution, even though resolution does not from either body

Amendment to change AAUP to AFT and that this letter be sent out supporting the AFT statement on tenure, seconded

Debate
• None

Vote on amendment: PASSED

Debate
• Thanks on behalf of the academic staff that indefinite status was included

Without objection, we will vote on this today

Vote on Motion 52-FP-02: PASSED

5) Announcements
• Next meeting of the University Senate is tentatively scheduled for December 8th, 2015 in the Dakota Ballroom of the Davies Center
• Chair Freymiller wishes all Senators a very Happy Thanksgiving and hopes that everyone gets to spend time with family and friends relaxing and refreshing as we prepare for the final three weeks of Fall semester

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Kenney
Secretary to the University Senate