Students on US Committees

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Executive Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:
Students passed Resolution 54-R-20 “in Support of a Stronger Relationship between the University Senate and the Student Senate. The Resolution stated:
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate encourages the University Senate to formalize the relationship between the government of the students and the government of the faculty and academic staff; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate requests that the Student Body President, or their designee, be given rights at the University Senate, but not the right to motion or vote; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate would honor the recognition of the University Senate Chair in matters presented to the Student Senate; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate requests the formal holding of positions on the aforementioned Budget, Academic Policies, and Technology Committees to the positions currently in attendance; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate views the University Senate as a valued partner in institutional governance; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate is amendable to recommendations on other means by which faculty, academic staff, and student representatives can work together on campus issues…

The Resolution was brought to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Points Discussed by Committee:
- Students can offer or suggest a motion during discussion but couldn’t actually make a motion as they are non-voting members
- The Student Senate Bylaws state:
  (7.03.2) Residence Hall Association and University Senate: The Senate, while asserting its own autonomy and recognizing the autonomy of the Residence Hall Association and the University Senate, extends the privileges of debating and introducing motions, but not voting, to the President of Residence Hall Association and the Chairman of the University Senate, respectively, for all such time as the Residence Hall Association and University Senate, respectively, shall extend these same privileges to the president of the student body or their designee.
- Some of the students are being given more rights than the faculty that just so happen to not be members of the senate
- If we are granting the President of the Student Senate more extended rights then we would want the speaking rights of the liaison eliminated
- Deleting the liaisons’ rights make sense
- Student Senate stated that other schools grant the same authority
- This was not verified by Faculty/Staff and it is unsure if this authority is granted for other committees as well
- Vice Chancellor Hellwig to check
- Chair Harrison will forward, as edited, the language suggestions to the chairs of the affected committees for their feedback

Pros of Recommendation:
- Responds to Student Senate Resolution
- Provides an avenue for more “shared governance” at UWEC

Cons of Recommendation:
- Students may not want to be on the committees or attend meetings
- Students have their own governance structure

Technology/Human Resource Impact: changes in online Bylaws

Committee Recommendation:
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MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee:
by a vote of __13__ for to __0__ against on ________________ (Date)

Recommends that

Language in Part III: Bylaws of the University Faculty and University Academic Staff, Article Three: University Senate, referencing student participation in University Senate and Senate-related committees be changed as follows.

Section A – Membership of University Senate:
The University Senate shall consist of University Faculty and University Academic Staff senators and will reflect the appropriate percentages of University Faculty senators and University Academic Staff senators as described in Article Three, Section C, 4 of the Constitution of the University Faculty and the University Academic Staff.

The Chancellor and Vice Chancellor(s) shall be non-voting members of the University Senate. (US 3/05; US 10/09)

Section H – Committee Organization:
University Senate committees set up by the Constitution of the University Senate shall arrange for their own organization, officers, and schedule of meetings. Any student members noted in committee memberships (1) shall serve as non-voting members upon appointment to the committee through appropriate Student Senate procedures; (2) should not be counted when determining quorums; (3) should be granted speaking rights accorded to voting members of the committee; and (4) may request for specific items of concern to students to be placed on meeting agendas.

1. The Executive Committee
2. The Faculty Personnel Committee
3. The Academic Staff Personnel Committee
4. The Academic Policies Committee
   a. Membership: The committee includes nine University Faculty senators elected for three-year terms by the University Faculty members of the Senate and one ex officio and non-voting University Faculty representative elected by members of Library Services. There shall be at least one member from each of the colleges. The Provost and Vice Chancellor or designated representative shall serve as an ex officio non-voting member of the committee. A student member may be appointed by the Student Senate to serve on this committee. (US 3/05, US 4/06)

5. The Physical Plant Planning Committee
   a. Membership: The committee includes one administrative representative appointed by the Chancellor, three University Faculty senators elected by the Senate for three-year terms, and two University Academic Staff senators elected by the Senate for three-year terms. The departments of art, biology, and geography shall each elect one member to serve a three-year term. A student member may be appointed by the Student Senate to serve on this committee.

6. The Budget Committee
   a. Membership: The committee includes an academic dean elected by the colleges’ deans and seven senators elected by the University Senate for three-year terms. Of the seven senators elected by the Senate, one must be from each College, two from the University Academic Staff, and one from any area. The committee also includes three ex officio, non-voting members from the Administrative Staff selected by the Chancellor. A student member may be appointed by the Student Senate to serve on this committee. (US 3/05)

7. The Compensation Committee
8. The University Senate Nominating Committee
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9. The University Senate Technology Committee
   a. Membership: The committee includes seven to eight voting members elected for three-year terms: one member elected by and from each of the colleges and enough senators elected by and from the Senate to ensure a total of 4 University Faculty and 3 University Academic Staff on the committee. The Chief Information Officer shall be a non-voting member of the Technology Committee. A member of the Student Senate Information Technology Commission (ITC) will serve as a liaison between Student Senate and the Senate Technology Committee in an ex officio (non-voting) capacity. A student member may be appointed by the Student Senate to serve on this committee. (US 4/10)

Section J – University Senate Quorum:
At meetings of the University Senate, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the members eligible to vote.

Section K – Speaking Rights:
Each member of the University Senate shall have the right to speak twice to a given motion or amendment during debate. Upon approval of the majority of the body, a member may be granted a third speaking turn. During the period of debate, the presiding officer may grant speaking rights to a liaison from the Student Senate and may grant a speaking turn to any nonmember of the body for clarification or informational purposes. The Student Body President shall be granted the same speaking rights as those retained by members of the University Senate. (US 12/09)

Section X – Student Observers on Senate Committees
The following procedures should be followed by senate committees having constitutionally designated student observers:
   a. Names of student observers should be placed on the committee mailing list to receive all communications normally sent to committee members.
   b. Committee chairs should consider the problems of time conflicts of student observers when setting the time and date for committee meetings.
   c. Committee meeting agendas should include a standard item such as "Report from Student Observer."
   d. Committee chairs should consider requests by student observers to include specific items of concern to students on meeting agendas. (FS 1/73)

Implementation Date: July 2011

Signed: ______________________________________
   Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office