REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

1. The function of the Academic Policies Committee includes making recommendations related to creating or abolishing colleges.
   a. "Function: This committee is responsible for recommending policies for academic programs of the University as they relate to items such as the creation and/or abolition of Colleges, Schools, departments, ...” (Faculty and Academic Staff Rules and Procedures, 2012, page 30).

2. The University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire has a longstanding and strong tradition of shared governance as protected under Wisconsin Statute 36.09.
   a. Chancellor: 36.09(3)
      i. “…the chancellors of the institutions in consultation with their faculties shall be responsible for designing curricula and setting degree requirements; determining academic standards and establishing grading systems; defining and administering institutional standards for faculty peer evaluation and screening candidates for appointment, promotion and tenure; recommending individual merit increases; administering associated auxiliary services; and administering all funds, from whatever source, allocated, generated or intended for use of their institutions.”
   b. Faculty: 36.09(4)
      i. The faculty of each institution, subject to the responsibilities and powers of the board, the president and the chancellor of such institution, shall be vested with responsibility for the immediate governance of such institution and shall actively participate in institutional policy development. As such, the faculty shall have the primary responsibility for academic and educational activities and faculty personnel matters. The faculty of each institution shall have the right to determine their own faculty organizational structure and to select representatives to participate in institutional governance.
   c. Academic Staff: 36.09(4m)
      i. The academic staff members of each institution, subject to the responsibilities and powers of the board, the president and the chancellor and faculty of the institution, shall be active participants in the immediate governance of and policy development for the institution. The academic staff members have the primary responsibility for the formulation and review, and shall be represented in the development, of all policies and procedures concerning academic staff members, including academic staff personnel matters. The academic staff members of each institution shall have the right to organize themselves in a manner they determine and to select their representatives to participate in institutional governance.
   d. Students: 36.09(5)
      i. The students of each institution or campus subject to the responsibilities and powers of the board, the president, the chancellor and the faculty shall be active participants in the immediate governance of and policy development for such institutions. As such, students shall have primary responsibility for the formulation and review of policies concerning student life, services and interests. Students in consultation with the chancellor and subject to the final confirmation of the board shall have the responsibility for the disposition of those student fees which constitute substantial support for campus student activities. The students of each institution or campus shall have the right to organize themselves in a manner they determine and to select their representatives to participate in institutional governance.
3. A proposal to reorganize the College of Arts and Sciences was generated by an Administrator before moving through due process associated with input from the Academic Policies Committee, the Student Senate, and the University Senate.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. A clear need to reorganize the College of Arts and Sciences has not been identified. A first step would be to identify this need before taking further action.
2. The possibility of making a change of this magnitude, impacting students, faculty, staff and administration across campus, must be carefully considered as provided through due process. Representatives from all stakeholders should be involved in the decision to move forward with or halt this initiative.
3. The current timing of this proposal has negative impacts on other major academic initiatives already in place (e.g., liberal education reform).

Pros of Recommendation:

1. Engaging faculty, students and staff through due process is an appropriate approach and is supported by Wisconsin legislation.
2. Following due process will help ensure correct decisions.
3. Faculty and student support of a college reorganization is necessary for such a reorganization to be successful.

Cons of Recommendation:

None

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None

Committee Recommendation:

The Academic Policies Committee recommends that any proposal for reorganizing any college follow established policy and pass first through the Academic Policies Committee and then through the University Senate for input and recommendations prior to any action taken.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee:

by a vote of _7___ for to _0___ against and 1 abstaining on ____5/1/2012____

Recommends that any proposal for reorganizing any college follow established policy and pass first through the Academic Policies Committee and then through the University Senate for input and recommendations prior to any action taken.

Implementation Date: Immediate

Signed: ______________________________________

Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office