

## REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Committee: University Planning Committee

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

***April, 2009 Draft to Senate:***

We serve the public good by educating tomorrow's leaders.

Our integrated, transformative liberal education emphasizes experiential learning and prepares responsible citizens to work toward a more equitable world.

***The original draft, submitted for campus comment in February, 2009, read:***

We serve Wisconsin's public good by educating tomorrow's leaders.

We emphasize transformative learning through challenging, integrated liberal education that prepares ethical citizens to work toward a more equitable world.

### III. Unfinished Business May 5, 2009

Revised Mission Statement – University Planning Committee – Kristine Retherford, Robert Hooper, Lori Snyder, Thomas Hilton, Marty Wood, Andrea Gapko

Continued Debate

- Last week UPC wasn't clear about the mission and the direction that we wanted to take
- We listened to comments and had reflection of input from all over campus
- This grew out of Strategic Planning Process
- 3 years pulling input from hundreds of individuals
- During that process it became clear that the current statement did not reflect the lived statement on campus
- No mention in the current statement on issues of equity, diversity and inclusivity
- Reviewed documents, read position statements, explored mission statements, looked at range and depth and the breath of those statements
- Began by identifying themes and key words
- Generated key words and themes and although we disagreed we brainstormed on what they meant to us to make them clear distinct statements
- Was a fair amount of discussion and disagreement
- Deliberated to 2 or 3 versions that we like and agreed on, and those were the 2 statements that were brought forward
- Heard from more than 175 people and considered their comments
- Made changes while others were considered but not changed
- Provided multiple opportunities for input
- Sent a revised draft back to this group but it failed to pass so it sent a clear message that there were some concerns but the proposed mission statement was extremely well thought out and is a reflection of our lived mission
- Felt it was an inclusive process but cannot please everyone
- Everyone knew we had a mission but it was not useful as it lacked distinction and was too long
- People cannot tell you what is in the current mission statement as it was trying to be all things for all people
- Says we offer masters or specialist level but really the mission statement shouldn't be doing that kind of thing
- Is a dated mission
- Needs to be articulate and clear
- Needs to recognize the greater society that we serve
- It addresses the common purpose of the institution
- Will probably be changed in the future
- Can change bullet points
- Committee was deliberative about what we and you wanted UWEC to be
- The committee then came to consensus about what words and phrases meant
- The committee received feedback and acted on those comments, although the committee may not have changed every word
- Of the feedback received about ¾ responded positively to new mission statement
- Is not perfect but does encompass what the UWEC community wants to be
- Captures spirit
- Differences are on specific words
- For the most part support was positive

## *Mission Statement*

- Bulleted items were kept off because bullets are explanation of the mission
- Mission is not a lengthy passage
- Currently people cannot quote the mission
- Bullets describe how we accomplish our mission
- Audience for the mission statement is all individuals that make up UWEC
- Senate would change the bullets as the bullets are owned by faculty and academic staff
- Gives more flexibility and is more usable
- Every word that has been argued about is what makes us distinctive
- HLC is about dealing with greater good and we want students to go out and carry our mark
- Encourages our students to contribute to society
- Sets a direction for our students
- Students were invited to respond to survey but not many responded – only received about 40 comments from students
- Didn't require their approval
- Should be proud of the students comments as they were overwhelmingly positive
- This statement was difficult to write so we should commend the University Planning Committee
- Verbs such as serve, prepare, and emphasize suggest something other than something that is really transformative
- The language puts the power in our hands except for last phrase as this ought to evoke what we are about
- We are not here to sell our mission
- Not seeing enough about intellectual virtues
- We're becoming a character academy
- Not all bullets support the mission
- The debate will never end
- In order to get something passed, the contradictory parts should be removed
- Some still like the current statement
- "Sense of the Senate"
  - 1 – Like the current long statement
  - 9 – Accept the proposed draft
  - 6 – Accept proposed draft with a little more editing
  - 23 – want short mission, but not the proposed one
- New eyes would be helpful
- Public comment time is required
- Will not happen prior to HLC
- Would be nice to have by BOR meeting in October
- Would be nice to have choices of mission statement to vote on
- Committee members rotate
- A couple of statements read/proposed by Jack Bushnell
- Jack Bushnell to provide consultation and lend expertise to the committee
- Need to do something with current mission and bring back to senate in early fall then to faculty and academic staff
- Keep the bullets as is
- 1 statement to be brought back in the fall
- May need to provide feedback in the summer
- People are to submit several complete thoughts
- Will need majority vote to pass

### Committee Recommendation:

To recommend that the University Senate approve the newly revised Mission Statement and accompanying bullets as presented, and that the accompanying bullets be published with the Mission Statement whenever possible.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

***Revised Proposed UW-Eau Claire Mission Statement***

We foster in one another creativity, critical insight, empathy, and intellectual courage,  
the hallmarks of a transformative liberal education  
and the foundation for active citizenship and lifelong inquiry.

We fulfill our mission through a pervasive university commitment to provide:

- Rigorous, intentional and experiential undergraduate liberal education for life and livelihood;
- Strong, distinctive professional and graduate programs that build on and strengthen our proud tradition of liberal education;
- Multicultural and international learning experiences for a diverse world;
- Exemplary student-faculty research and scholarship that enhance teaching and learning;
- An inclusive campus community that challenges students to develop their intellectual, personal, and social competencies;
- Educational opportunities responsive to the needs of our communities, state, region and beyond; and
- Academic leadership in transforming liberal education.

Implementation Date: Upon Regent Approval