Senate Chair’s Report for December 8, 1998

Senate update

- **University Senate offices will be moving to Old Library 1134** on December 16th. The area is located on the south side of the hallway connecting Schovield and the Library.
- remember to initial the roll call sheet when you enter the room
- special notes concerning debate….
  1. If a member who made the motion claims the floor and has not already spoken on the question, he is entitled to be recognized in preference to other members.
  2. No one is entitled to the floor a second time in debate on the same motion on the same day as long as any other member who has not spoken on this motion desires the floor.
  3. In cases when the chair knows that persons seeking the floor have opposite opinions on the questions (and the member to be recognized is not determined by (1) or (2) above), the chair should let the floor alternate, as far as possible, between those favoring and those opposing the measure.
  4. A member who has spoken twice on a particular question on the same day has exhausted his right to debate that question for the day.
  5. Debate must be confined to the merits of the pending question.
  6. Members should address only the chair or address each other through the chair. Example: “Madam Chairman, I hope that the senator who last spoke will think of the probable consequences…” or “Madam Chairman, may I ask the previous speaker to explain…”

Open Forum Items from Senate Executive Committee Meeting minutes

- Four students have signed up for the 4-Year Graduation contracts
  - Not much response to marketing effort
  - Presentation to take place in December 8, 1998 University Senate meeting
  - Some felt ill-advised from start
  - Is optional for faculty and students
  - Issue does need to be addressed to decrease institutional obstacles
  - If you sign up, at least the problems are evident

- Smoking issue going before Physical Plant Planning Committee
  - Statistics are showing smoking increasing on college campuses
  - Fifty-foot ban may not be the best way to discourage smoking on campus

- Question brought forward from faculty member about where to go if did not receive extra-merit raise when knew were on top of department/unit list
  - Tom Miller indicated not all extra-merits are granted
    - Should be if on top of list
    - Check out with Provost/Vice Chancellor's Office to see if mistake was made

- Thanks communicated to Chancellor for comments at University Senate meeting about pay rates of administrators returning to teaching

- Resolution brought forward on behalf of faculty member concerning appropriate salary for individuals leaving an administrative position with a title above that of chair or director and being assigned to an academic department or non-teaching unit
  - Discussion
    - Administrative policy guidelines provide for negotiation within a salary range bounded by (a) the average salary rate of all faculty members of the same rank at the institution, and (b) 82 percent of the annual salary rate which would have been received by the individual had he or she continued in his or her administrative post
    - Senate can recommend policy; give Chancellor sense of feeling on this issue
Current resolution would have to be reworded and clarified
Perception is that salaries are way above normal and dollars are being taken from departments and other faculty
Could recommend maximum somewhat lower in that range
Eighty-two percent represents fiscal to academic year differential
System policy provides greater flexibility, being asked to take out the flexibility
May want to consider contributions individual made to institution
Raises concerns about recruiting administrators and back-up positions granted as part of deal at time of hire
These back-up appointments would affect FTE of departments if administrator assigned there
Although salary would come out of Academic Affairs, money from state is based on total salary pool

**MOTION** made, seconded and PASSED that resolution be recognized as brought to open forum, but Executive Committee will pursue no further
Maker of resolution will be notified of non action and informed that this can be presented to any Senator at any time to be brought up before full Senate

Items discussed with the Senate Chair

- The registrar’s office has received a rash of phone calls this week asking whether or not there is a study day before final examinations. As you no doubt know, there is no study day in the 1998-99 academic calendar. We are not sure how the rumor got started, but surmise that the source of the confusion may be the listing of both the 1998-99 and the 1999-2000 calendars in the Campus Directory (page ix). There IS a study day next December, so students may have misread the information, looking at Fall Semester 1999, instead of 1998.

As a result, there has been some concern that students may think they do not have to attend classes on December 15 (the date listed as a study day in 1999). You may want to suggest to the instructors in your department that they clarify this issue in their classes, especially those who teach classes meeting on Tuesdays.

Student Senate Resolutions

- Resolution 42-R-26, unanimously passed, supported the concept of striking a week from the 2000-2001 spring semester in order to insert an additional week before the 2000-2001 fall semester. Support was contingent upon the additional week in the fall semester being utilized primarily to advise not only incoming freshmen but also returning students.

- Resolution 42-R-25, as amended and unanimously passed, supported the placement of commencement on Saturday, December 23rd, 2000 and holding finals on Monday, December 18th through Friday, December 22nd in the 2000-2001 academic calendar. Reasons for passage of this resolution: (1) Student Senate, on behalf of the student body, does not support an academic calendar that places commencement prior to finals. Such a resolution opposing commencement prior to finals was passed in March 1998. (2) If finals were held on the weekend, students may have difficulty getting time off from work, especially close to the holiday season. (3) There might be problems asking faculty to host finals on the weekend which is typically their time off. (4) A study day is important and should be included before finals.

Faculty Reps Meeting, December 4th

Faculty Contracts extended over 30 days without pay. Wisconsin Statutes 109.03 states that "Every employer shall as often as monthly pay to every employee engaged in the employer's business … all wages earned by such employee to a day not more than 31 days prior to the date of such payment … The required frequency of wage payments provided in this subsection does not apply to: … (c) Unclassified employees of the University of Wisconsin system.

Faculty sick leave audit. Faculty use of sick leave audit may be coming in the future. Every chancellor signed a waiver in the late 80's stating that a standard reporting system would be used for sick leave reporting and that faculty abide by some type of 40 hour work week. There is some concern that a DOA audit may reveal some problems. The UW-System Fringe Benefits Committee is developing guidelines to find a common interpretation for when sick leave can and cannot be used.
Return of administrators to teaching positions. A copy of the wording from guidelines UPG-3 and UPG-4 (replacements for GAPP #19) for the return of administrators to teaching positions was distributed.

Pre-Retirement agreements. System personnel, George Brooks, presented a "Returning to Work after Retirement" fact sheet. A copy is available in the Senate office. The rules do not prevent discussing the willingness of one to return after retirement or discussing a supervisor's willingness to hire one. The KEY is that there can be no enforceable agreement established between the two parties – especially not in writing. Both parties must realize that a willingness to rehire DOES NOT constitute a contract and either party may decide differently after the person retires. If the retiring person decides to press the issue that he or she was given a commitment to be rehired, then the person loses retirement benefits from WRS and any payments made will be recovered by the DETF.

Optional Retirement Plan. George Brooks updated the group on the motion that required the Board of Regents to develop recommended legislation to establish an optional retirement plan for faculty and academic staff and submit such recommended legislation to the Legislature by June 1, 1999. This date causes some concern since it will require the Board to 'tip their hand' by discussing the legislation at the Board meeting in May. This will be before the date the full budget talks begin in the legislature.

Instructional Academic Staff Forum. System personnel, Larry Rubin, presented a working draft of ideas for an instructional academic staff forum, tentatively set for April 23rd. Its purpose is to provide a vehicle for further discussion of issues affecting instructional academic staff with an eye towards implementation of the recommendations contained in the Teaching Academic Staff Study accepted by the UW System Board of Regents on June 5th. Each UW institution will be invited to send a team to include individuals from the following groups: provosts, deans, department chairs, faculty, instructional and non-instructional academic staff, and representatives from the faculty and academic staff governance groups.

Faculty Instructional Development. Hal Schlais, Coordinator for Learning and Technology Development, gave a presentation outlining the UW System-wide Web-based Learning initiative. Brief details are available in the flyer distributed to each faculty on campus entitled Teaching with Technology Today. Full details are on the web: www.uwsa.edu/olit/utility/

Board of Regents Meeting to be held December 10th and 11th

Regent Hempel is leaving the board. She is from Green Bay.

Three item of major interest will be discussed at the upcoming Board of Regent's meeting:

- The annual accountability report - the original accountability report was 6 years ago. Many of the measures used are now outdated and no one knows why they are being done – including faculty contact hours. Now is the time to look at the requirements for the next report. One measure obviously missing is a measure of the use of technology.

- The annual report on Program Review and Planning will be presented.

- A panel of Provosts speaking on the Role of Accreditation. UW System is recommending that the Board of Regents develop a position statement expressing the UW System's understanding of the role of accreditation, to be distributed to accrediting bodies at the time of any review of a UW institution program. The document may be modeled on statements prepared by the CIC and NASULGC.

Have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday season.

See you at the next Senate meeting,
February 9th, 1999