Chair's Report for April 13, 1999

Senate update

- Important links for current issues found on the Senate web site: [http://www.uwec.edu/Admin/Usenate](http://www.uwec.edu/Admin/Usenate)
  - Compensation Plan 1999-2000
  - Budget Strategies (also available in Senate Office)
  - NCA Self-Study Report Draft
  - Faculty & Academic Staff handbook
  - Instructional Academic Staff draft report (also available in Senate Office)
  - UW-System policies covering copyright issues and intellectual property rights
  - Quality through Diversity-Plan 2008 (also available in Senate Office)
- Remember to initial the roll call sheet when you enter the room

Open Forum Items from Senate Executive Committee Meeting minutes

- In light of discussion in University Senate on February 9, 1999 regarding service-learning criteria, faculty have been surprised at being overruled by Service Learning Director
  - Committee suggested recommending problems be discussed with interim provost
- Results of faculty and academic staff survey regarding pay will be shared with faculty reps and system staff
- Other issues, such as teaching load and workload, were brought up in comments
- Chair's note: comments will be summarized and provided to the full Senate at a future meeting

Other Items from Senate Executive Committee Meetings

- Five-Year Plan discussions (see handout)

Items from Student Senate

- Leadership of the Senate has changed. The new President is Eric Kasper. Stefanie Pelke is Vice President.
- Passed a resolution in Support of Continuing Differential Tuition.
- The Technology Commission is discussing creating an award for recognizing faculty who do a good job integrating technology into the curriculum.
- Intergovernmental Affairs has organized a letter-writing campaign in support of funding for libraries and is sending a group of students to speak before the Joint Finance Committee at the hearings this week.
- Student Services Commission is discussing the idea of suggesting GF parking hours be reduced.
- Most of the meeting was spent discussing the resolution in Opposition to Placing Restrictions on the Ability of Students, Faculty, and Staff to Smoke Outside Building Entrances. Considerable debate occurred over the pros and cons of such a resolution. The resolution passed by a vote of 21-5-1. The students believe that something can be done about smoking, but don't believe the University Senate's solution is the right solution. They expressed concern and were very vocal about how the policy was adopted - adopted by the University Senate without student input when more students than faculty will be affected by the motion. Some students felt passage of the motion showed defiance of the concept of shared governance.

  In support of the University Senate - no students approached the University Senate office asking to speak on the issue. Agendas noting the discussion of the smoking policy were distributed to the President of the Student Senate and to the student liaison whose role is to attend the meetings of the University Senate and communicate back to the Student Senate on issues of importance to students. Meeting notices for the Physical Plant Planning committee and University Senate meetings were distributed as required.

  In support of the Student Senate, the recent change of leadership and change in student liaison occurred during the time most of the discussions about the smoking policy were being held.

  As chair, I will pursue ways to improve the sharing of issues and ideas between the Student Senate and the University Senate.

Faculty Reps Meeting

- The University of Wisconsin System Initiative on the Status of Women is a one-year project designed to evaluate all aspects of university life as they relate to the status of women students, staff, faculty, and administrators. A Committee on the Status of Women is conducting a study of employment, including hiring and retention; academic and curricular initiatives; classroom and campus climate; and services available to members of the university community. Such a study was last undertaken by the 1980 System Task Force on the Status of Women. This new initiative looks at what progress has been made in the 18 years since then, and will make recommendations about areas in which additional
progress can be made as the University moves into the 21 Century. Updates can be found online at: http://www.uwsa.edu/acadaff/status/home.htm

• Discussion of Letter from Senator George (see handout). Recommendation to thank him for his willingness to support the lifting of the $12,000 compensation restriction. Ask for his support in ensuring that the Fiscal Bureau maintain the wording presently in the budget lifting such restriction.

• Bills working their way through the legislature (some with limited support):
  - 1st day health care coverage
  - tuition-waiver for spouses and children of EMT’s killed in the line of duty
  - financial aid increases tied to tuition % increases
  - ban of smoking on every square inch of UW campus property
  - requiring sprinklers in dorms
  - tuition tax credits for businesses paying for education of employees seeking degrees

• Court ruling: payroll deductions for parking fees can be taken prior to calculating taxes.

• Current law working through legislation: Caregiver Law - requiring background checks on students working in caregiver situations. System would prefer the background check be optional. The student studying in a professional area requiring background checks could have the option of doing a background check now or have the background check deferred until graduation. Senator Moen from Eau Claire is supporting a mandatory background check for caregivers - including students.

Board of Regents Meeting

• The 1998 Budget Bill authorized an actuarial study of the impact of an Optional Retirement System on the Wisconsin Retirement System and required the Board of Regents to submit recommended legislation to create an ORS to the legislature by June 1, 1999 regardless if the Board supported the idea of an ORS. The Board passed principles for guiding the drafting of such legislation. (see handout)

• An overview of the Occasional Research Brief (ORB) on The Graying of the Faculty in the UW System was presented. "In 1997-98, 35 percent of faculty systemwide were age 55 and older, about half (51%) were between the ages of 40 and 54, and less than 15 percent were under age 40. … On average, the faculty at the UW Comprehensive institutions were somewhat older than the faculty at UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee with 36 percent of the faculty age 55 and older and less than 15 percent under age 40. … Based on historical retirement rates in the UW System, 2,384 faculty members systemwide are projected to retire over the next decade. This represents close to 40 percent of the total number of UW System faculty in 1997-98."

Regent Orr observed that the quality of replacement faculty will determine the quality of Wisconsin education and stressed the importance of being competitive when recruiting new faculty. He noted that the system's competitive position in this regard is not strong. Regent Orr stressed that, since the reputation of a diploma rests on the current quality of the institution, this matter is of concern to alumni and current students, as well as the next generation.

The full report is available in the Senate office and should soon be available online at: http://www.uwsa.edu/opar/

• Request from Board of Regent's President, San Orr - to please write to your legislator about continuing appropriation. (see handout) Besides supporting continuing appropriation for tuition, you may want to support the following initiatives recommended in the Governor's 99-01 biennial budget:
  - $7.3 million to bolster libraries as a statewide resource by investing in new books and electronic resources.
  - $4.9 million to provide funding for training an additional 200 student Information Technology workers and career development in the IT field.
  - $2 million for student and career advising to help increase freshman retention and timely graduation, while improving career prospects.
  - $732,600 for Plan 2008 to increase the number and diversity of qualified college applicants through pre-college programs and other efforts.
  - $3 million for International Education to enable Wisconsin to compete globally through expanded foreign language programs and Study Abroad opportunities.
  - 1 % GPR position authority to allow institutions a little flexibility in the number of positions
  - 6 % annual increases in state financial aid for UW-System students.

• The University of Wisconsin System's partnership with the Community of Science (COS) allows access to over 3,000 UW System faculty and staff experts, as well as over 100,000 individual faculty members nationwide. This directory includes faculty and staff from all disciplines -- from the sciences to the social sciences to the humanities. If you
responded to an email request for information within the last, you may be listed in the directory. You can check your listing by accessing the directory online at: http://www.uwsa.edu/xpertise.htm