Members Present:

Members Absent:
Robin Baker, Lori Bica, Cheryl Cutsforth, Larry Honl, Carol Koroghlanian, Brian Mahoney, Jill Pastrana, Geoffrey Peterson, Mehdi Sheikholeslami, Jeanne Skoug, Charles Tomkovick, Charles Vue, Sharon Westphal, Rebecca Wrzzer

Guests:
Donald Christian, Beth Ernst, Karen Havholm, Stephanie Jamelske, Kate Lang, Andrew Phillips, Jill Prushieck, Patricia Stoffers

The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Interim-Chair Harrison at 3:04 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2009 in the Tamarack Room of Davies Center.

I. Approval of minutes of December 9, 2008 University Senate meeting postponed until amendment language verified

II. Chancellor’s Remarks – Chancellor Levin-Stankevich
- Supposed to have Governor’s budget tomorrow but now it will not be out until February 17th
- Went to the Governor’s State of the State but still do not know what is coming as his staff doesn’t know where he will find the money
- Governor has made a number of statements in support of education
- Stimulus investment is likely to be bricks and mortar - some sort of capital investments
- In addition to that there is student financial aid: increasing Pell grants, increasing loan limits, and increasing the tax break for the Hope scholarships
- While the bricks and mortar are good the real problem we have will be operational dollars
- Real disconnect when the operational dollars are not there
- More layoffs in the immediate area
- UWEC’s Campus Kitchens project sends unused food into the community couldn’t have come at a better time for those that have lost their jobs and have fallen on hard times
- Don’t know how the Governor will divide the money
- Assured the Governor will spread the money around the state
- Wisconsin Taxpayers Association says that the deficit is much less than what the Governor is saying
- Reilly is working with the Governor to create a situation in which we have the least impact long term on the institutions
- May be $90-$110 million out of UW
- Any reduction that we would take would come out of one time funds instead of base funds, which are FTE
- Will be some impact on institution and tuition - in the Regents hands on the percentages
- How we deal with this on campus is important
- PEEQ is designed to make us question everything such as where to focus resources, where do we get the most bang for our buck, what do we need to protect, and where is there duplication
- State budget process will not give us the time table we planned on
- Redbook budget is due in April, we will have to incorporate whatever reductions are targeted at the University
- Will not have the full benefit of going through our PEEQ process or the new Budget processes
- Want to stay committed to those processes and look for as much flexibility as possible
- Need to buy time until the first level of tuition increases
- Want to make sure we provide for feedback and input; want to try to honor the processes if we cannot honor the timeline
- Shared Governance meetings have restarted and have discussed what we know about the budget
- UWEC is much more residential and primarily undergraduate compared to comparable institutions in terms of size
- We have a very one dimensional market - most rapidly declining market
- Identified areas that were market diversification for us: working with adults, expanding our role in non-traditional students, improving our retention, and identifying select graduate programs
- Continued that argument in the strategic plan
- Discussion based on enrollment-based funding
- That has not been the case in Wisconsin, currently, UWEC gets approximately 5% of whatever System gets
- Belief that enrollment-based funding is coming to WI
- What we do now is where we will be when that happens
- We grew by 286 FTE last year - 2nd highest growth rate in the System
- But when we talk about the budget it puts UWEC in advantageous position
- If we want to work at anything that will gets us additional funds then it will have to be put in terms of the system growth agenda
- Growing number of graduates and jobs that the graduates will get
- We have it as a goal in our strategic plan - will be second to none when we implement it
- Looking at a variety of models from Virginia Restructuring of Higher Education, Miami of Ohio, St. Mary’s of Maryland, and Colorado School of Minds
- Models of greater autonomy within System and the ability to use additional revenue to offset the cost for low to middle income students
- That kind of flexibility could give us one answer to some of the problems we have
- Governor staff likes “out of box” thinking and likes the notion of a pilot project
- Looking at a way to drive the institution to a market based pricing strategy and financial strategy
- All complicated by the time we are in right now - facing a time where there will be fewer choices
- Davies redevelopment project is one of a number of projects going on right now but there is a sequence of things that will happen over the foreseeable future with this project
- If stimulus money comes up it might move everything else up, including possibly the performing fine arts facilities as well
- Davies site possibilities right now are to redo this building, build on the other side of Little Niagara or the area between Schneider and Zorn
- Many considerations and must look at needing a new Children’s Center
- Must then begin construction on Davies site and begin construction on academic/student services building and we have to do all that and start a master plan for foot prints where everything should be
- One potential stimulus project is Garfield Avenue
- One goal is that we do not want to lose any more parking
- In the next 8 years we will have significant problem with parking
- Would like to keep traffic off of Garfield Avenue
- Waterfront area is a gem and would like to protect that
- Davies could also be repurposed
- 27 years and counting since we have had a state funded building
- Would be beneficial to hold on to the space and add as much as we can

Upon amendment language verification, minutes of December 9, 2008 approved as amended
III. Unfinished Business
Second Reading – Motion from Academic Policies Committee
Proposal for Testing Accommodation for Students Who Are Non-native Speakers of English

Continued Debate
- Intent is that students can request extra time if they are entitled to it
- Would like to see certification done at the beginning of the semester like those with special needs and then there would be some consistency
- Could ask Academic Skills and the Disability Office to coordinate as they are working on that right now
- Each faculty member would be responsible to arrange for the extra time
- Most of the tests are given in the Department Office, open classroom, conference room or faculty office
- Not to be thought of as a disability

Vote on Motion 45-AP-06 as amended: Motion PASSED by University Faculty Senators

IV. New Business
- None

V. University Senate Chair’s Report – Interim-Chair Harrison
- Senate action of last May to change the handbook language in Chapter 5 related to Promotion Eligibility to Senior Lecturer has been approved by UW-System
- Senate actions approved by the Chancellor include: Comprehensive salary Plan 2009-2011; changes in 6.02 related to Grievances; The Middle East Studies minor; implementation of a Materials Science Comprehensive major; changes in the Geography Curriculum involving deleting the emphases in the Standard Major: Geography, Liberal Arts and renaming the emphases in the Comprehensive major

VI. Faculty Representative’s Report – Senator McAleer
- Three-year bachelor’s degrees
  - News report on this issue had some faculty concerned that there was a system-wide initiative to move in this direction as a matter of general policy; this is not the case
  - Students can already do this
  - At this point, a three-year model for all degrees is not being contemplated
  - Some reps favor more focus on retention than graduation and more cooperation between the colleges and the comprehensives versus transfer credits
  - President Reilly suggested that this was not primarily a cost saving issue, but rather a matter of trying to think “outside the box”
- Course repeat policies
  - Discussed the issue of students repeating courses both as an academic issue and as a drain on resources
  - Some reps wondered whether there should be a unified, system-wide policy on this issue and whether students should be charged differential tuition for repeating courses
- Cost of textbooks
  - Reps discussed that faculty were somehow responsible for the high cost of textbooks
  - UWEC’s rental fees have exceeded the system average by 19.7%
  - This has been passed along to Student Senate
- Salary Issues
  - 4 issues discussed
    - The absence of any negative news about the 2% increase due in June
    - President Reilly believed that the 2.5% increase he recommend to the Regents was the best we could do in the current economic climate, and that asking for more would generate bad PR
    - That System Policy on legislation enabling faculty to vote on whether to decide to bargain collectively is now neutral
    - Regents will consider expanding benefits such as tuition remission and domestic partner benefits at the February meeting
Budget
Freda Harris of UWSA gave an update on the budget. Current projections are for a $5.4 billion deficit for the 2009-2011 biennium. There is still nothing specific; things should become clearer in early February, when the Governor presents his budget.

Student Evaluation of Instruction
UW System Director of Operations Review and Audit, Julie Gordon, informed us that her office was contemplating a review of and subsequent report on system-wide practices of student evaluation of instruction was in the works.

Will be meeting again February 27, 2009

VII. Academic Staff Representative’s Report – Senator Brockpahler
Several reps asked that President Reilly look more closely at the implementation of UPG 3.05, which is a multiyear contract; Academic Staff reps drafted a letter to go to President Reilly.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2009 and it is a video conference so if anyone is interested in attending contact Jen Brockpahler.

VIII. Reportable items from Committees

Executive Committee – Interim-Chair Harrison
- Executive Committee has met twice since the last University Senate meeting.
- In the first meeting the Chancellor provided an overview of the Budget Principles, plans for pilot testing some projects in support of the gold arrows, and plans from a slight reorganization of the duties once assigned to the Vice Chancellor for Administration, Finance and Facilities.
- In the second meeting the committee heard an update on Learning Outcomes and an update from the Mission Task Force.
- Also discussed was a concern about the handling of book orders.
- This concern was relayed to Candy Wilson. She requested that any concerns be brought to her immediately.
- Next meeting of the Executive Committee will be February 17, 2009.

Academic Policies Committee – Senator Hollon
- Met twice and currently conducting reviews for History and Language.
- Information Systems Control minor will be coming to Senate.

Budget Committee – Senator Eckardt
- Met a couple of times now bringing members up to speed on how the budget process is.
- Next meeting will be on the 26th.

IX. Special Reports
A. PEEQ – Marty Wood
- PEEQ reports were due one week ago yesterday; most of them are in.
- At this stage the immediate supervisors are reviewing those reports.
- They are being given until about the middle of the month to give feedback.
- When this period is over there will be some negotiation and conversation with the supervisor and the department about the veracity or rigor of those reports.
- At the end of April the final versions of those reports will be forwarded to the team.
- In 1 ½ days of training/retreat the team members worked on pilot PEEQ reports and they learned so much in this period about the processes, procedures and evaluations.
- They impressed those who were involved in the design of the process.
- We gained from this and the members of the evaluation team have an amazing level of confidence.
- We can trust that they will do as good of job as we can hope for.
- It was as if we were designing the plane as we were flying it but are no longer fearful of the crash and burn because of the quality of the people on this team.

B. General Education Reform Committee – Kate Lang
- Thanks everyone who participated in town meeting.
- Comments from last Fall were that people wanted breath and integration.
• Comments from this Spring were that they loved the bundles, they wanted us to focus on big questions, and that they wanted more flexibility
• Because of that the committee worked very hard to put together another draft
• Not ready to bring it to campus as we need more eyes to help us work out some of the kinks
• Don’t want to bring forward if it won’t work
• Want to use as many standing committees as possible
• Three areas where we ask for volunteers: Wellness, Global Perspectives, and Immersion
• Willing to take more volunteers through Thursday
• Really do need help and need more eyes

C. Mission Task Force Presentation
• The following process will be used to facilitate the adoption of a revised mission statement for UWEC:
  • Today the Mission Taskforce will present the proposed revised mission and gather input and reactions to the proposed revised statement
  • The Taskforce will then accept comments, suggested edits, and language changes for the next 3 weeks
  • March 3rd the final draft of the proposed mission statement will be presented to the Executive Committee for review and for a motion to adopt the proposed mission statement
  • March 10th the motion to adopt will have a first reading at the University Senate. On the Senate floor the debate and vote will be to either adopt the proposed mission statement, to not adopt the statement, or to send the statement back to the Taskforce. Editorial comments and suggested language will be ruled “out of order” at that time

“Process” accepted without objection.

• Request to develop/examine a new mission came out of the Higher Learning Commissions Criterion 1
  Taskforce, which was charged with looking at the alignment between the University mission and the actions that the University has taken
  • Did a lot of focus groups, where we talked to community members, talked to alumni, students, faculty and staff
  • Common note was everyone knew what common purpose was at UWEC and what makes it special but almost nobody had any idea on what the mission was
  • Another comment was that it sounds like any other University of Wisconsin
  • That is because it came from a template and you simply fill in what makes you special
  • If UWEC wants to be one of the most distinctive Universities in the upper Midwest then we need a more distinctive mission
  • University Planning Committee developed a taskforce to develop a more distinct mission
  • Based around lived mission, based around student learning, great reputation of student/faculty interactions, professional programs that serve the region, and experiential learning and civic engagement
  • Looked at those components and wanted to make the mission both distinctive and short enough so people can remember it
  • Looked at other mission statements from around the country and we found that those that were short and to the point were more memorable and set them apart
  • Met as a Taskforce for a number of months and have developed a draft mission statement and have presented this to University community
  • This is what we think fulfills what our lived mission is
  • The 29 words in the box on the pink sheet is what will be presented to the Regents for approval

UW-Eau Claire Mission Statement

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.

• What is not in the box is not our mission so we reserve the right to change that right here at UWEC
Some statements are taken directly from the strategic plan
Suggestions will be taken with an open response over the web
Comments/discussion:
- Statement box is kind of bland; nice sounding but hard to remember
- Have a broad piece and then specific pieces that are under our local control
- Very contested words: Public good, leaders, transformative learning, equitable
- The word equitable doesn’t seem to be leadership
- Leader is someone who effectively influence his/hers peers
- Tomorrow’s Leaders wording used seems to speak of the traditional student that we already have as opposed to the non-traditional student; seems exclusive
- We are going through a cultural change and in a year or two or five we are educating tomorrow’s leaders no matter what age they may come to us
- We are a diverse community and will bring different definitions to these words
- Expected to read the word “socially just”, not the word ethical
- Transformative comes from the strategic plan and transforms them into the leaders and makes us distinctive
- This document should be brought to those with a different perspective
- Will go to the public after we accept the language
- “Cultural” should be added to the 5th bullet as it is in our strategic plan
- Uncomfortable with the wording “more equitable world” in our mission statement
- Is social justice fundamental to our mission
- If goal is to make UWEC distinctive then we need to hold ourselves accountable
- Students not required to take any classes that would fulfill the last sentence in the mission statement to demonstrate equity
  - UWEC has cultural diversity requirement
  - Foreign language requirement
  - This mission is aligned with the strategic plan
  - Some values are so important that making a course requirement wouldn’t be enough and question how does it work toward a more equitable world
- Adaptability should be central in this mission

X. Miscellaneous Business - None

XI. Announcements
- Next University Senate meeting is scheduled for Feb 24th

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary to the University Senate