

**University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Executive Committee**

Minutes from March 31, 2020
Volume 56, Number 13

Present: Jasmine Case, Chip Eckardt, Elizabeth Glogowski, Bob Hooper, Marquell Johnson, Patricia Kleine, John Mann, Colleen Marchwick, Jill Markgraf, Bill Miller, Kristin Schaupp, James Schmidt, Pedro Sottile, Ryan Weichelt, Evan Weiher

Absent: Warren Anderson, John Haven, Geoffrey Peterson, Charlotte Sortedahl, Ka Vang

Guest: Mike Carney

A meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 via online (Microsoft Teams) meeting.

- 1) Approval of the University Senate Executive Committee Minutes of March 17, 2020
 - Approved as distributed
- 2) Approval of the University Senate Minutes of March 10, 2020
 - Approved as distributed
- 3) Ten Minute Open Forum
 - Enrollment
 - We have already seen a downturn in students putting down deposits for fall
 - We are concerned about this
 - Chancellor has had conversations about reserving cash at this time
 - May hold back on the investments that we had planned to make as well
 - We have three threats to the financial situations is
 - A decrease in fall enrollment
 - Retention rates
 - If state revenue collections go down, then that will also have an impact and we will probably get hit with that too
 - Other than Madison we are in the best financial shape
 - We will continue to watch this carefully and will slow down hiring
 - So far, we are down about 250 housing deposits right now
 - Many students are selecting schools closer to home that are less expensive
 - Looking to target various areas
 - This is truly uncharted territory
 - 102 dollars to cover the refunds is not being looked at
 - We decided to delay the Governor's Hall project until we have more cushion
 - We have an increase in 700-800 plan to return to campus housing than the year before
 - Blugold Buddy option is available to others besides faculty
 - Is good for retention
 - National Guard Students
 - What about when they get called up to serve
 - Our campus does an outstanding job to responding to this
 - Miranda with Veterans Office would be a good contact
 - Faculty were allowed to be flexible during "9/11" crisis
 - There is also a military leave of absence that can be looked in to
 - Final Exams
 - Doing exams in an asynchronous way would be encouraged
 - Instructors who have never done online exams might need training
 - Student Employees

- Made the offer to students that we would find work for them to do and some can work from home or on the grounds
- Also trying to interpret of what the new federal relief efforts and how they might impact the student employees
- Some work-study money is turned into an opportunity grant, which allows us to give the student the money instead of earning it
- More information should come out in the next several days that will be shared
- The students should go through our Career Services or our Safety Office

4) Reports

- For the Record: Academic Policies Committee
Credit Bearing Certificate in Analytical Reasoning

Debate

- None

Without objection, this item will be entered FOR the RECORD

5) New Business

- a) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee

Elimination of Geography Teaching Minor

Debate

- None

Without objection, we will suspend the rules and vote on this today

VOTE on MOTION: PASSED

- b) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee

Elimination of the Emphases in Social Studies, Broadfield Teaching

Debate

- None

Without objection, we will suspend the rules and vote on this today

VOTE on MOTION: PASSED

- c) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee

Elimination of Multiple Individual Science Teaching Majors and Minors

Debate

- None

Without objection, we will suspend the rules and vote on this today

VOTE on MOTION: PASSED

- d) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee

Elimination of the Geology, Earth and Space Science Emphasis Teaching Minor & Suspension of Major

Debate

- None

Without objection, we will suspend the rules and vote on this today

VOTE on MOTION: PASSED

- e) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee

Suspension of Special Education, Specific Learning Disabilities and Intellectual Disabilities Major

Debate

- None

Without objection, we will suspend the rules and vote on this today

VOTE on MOTION: PASSED

- f) First Reading: Motion from Academic Policies Committee

Creation of Public Health Prefix

Debate

- None

Without objection, we will suspend the rules and vote on this today

VOTE on MOTION: PASSED

- 6) Optional S/U Grading Discussion

- Many universities have been adopting some sort of pass/fail option
- Comments and thoughts on this as we should let Senate and the students know that we are talking about this
 - We should strongly consider making this optional
 - If we go with this option, then we also need to make sure that the students know what they are doing and the possible implication(s) of that
 - We are not worried about our system being able to handle this
 - International partners feedback indicates that they would not accept pass/fail so the option is important
 - Admissions stated that we should be doing what System does so we do not stand out and be as flexible as possible
 - Instructors can put in a grade then can switch to a passing grade
 - Many do not feel like it should be mandatory
 - Have to be aware of requirements when departments do not accept s/u as it relates to their major
 - Advisors should be talked to if students are considering this
 - We need to think about this carefully as students are purchasing learning, not credits
 - We have a chance to model for our students and this is where our students can have some real-life lessons
 - If there was an opt-in then it would be class by class
 - Can look at what APC puts forward next week as the students would like to know what we are doing
 - We need to make sure that we put thought into this
 - Petition from students (1700) was given to the Chancellor
 - Some students are taking classes to better their GPA so we need to keep that in mind

- 7) Announcements

- Executive Committee to meet again next week
- COVID-19: Doubling times are going up, which is good and the growth rate is going down so this is good
 - Wisconsin went from 2 days to 6 days for doubling
 - We are still experiencing exponential growth so we still need to social distance but there are some bright spots starting to show
 - We are way behind in testing so we need to keep that in mind
- Tiffany Lewis on Canvas as they discovered a problem so they corrected the issue so the response should now be acceptable
 - Concerns over stoppages as students are getting kicked out of exams and quizzes
 - Concern over the load so will need to watch this

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate