

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

Minutes from April 7, 2020  
Volume 56, Number 14

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

Absent: Warren Anderson, Elizabeth Glogowski, John Haven, Ka Vang

Guest: Mike Carney, Mark Mc Ellistrem

A meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:01 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 via online (Microsoft Teams) meeting.

- 1) Approval of the University Senate Executive Committee Minutes of March 31, 2020
  - Approved as distributed
- 2) Ten Minute Open Forum
  - Budget Guidelines Clarification
    - We should all tighten our belt in regard to spending
      - No strict list on what we can or cannot have but should go through our chain of command
    - Parking fees will be prorated
  - Student employment
    - No new updates but can go to Handshake to see opportunities
  - Dean of Students notification on when student passes away
    - Comment that the Dean of Students should notify the instructors and the advisors when a student passes
      - UWEC is still following our policy but are looking at other ways to accomplish this
  - Technology Updates
    - Canvas is holding up
    - Teams is working too but Blackboard Collaborate on Canvas is being advised
- 3) New Business
  - a) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee  
Suspension of the Audit and Control 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  
Materials Science Rename and Academic Department Designation  
  
Debate
  - None

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

**VOTE on MOTION: PASSED**

- 4) Continued Discussion on Optional S/U Grading Discussion
- Adoption of S/U Policy impacts was discussed in APC where an optional opt-in approach seems to be more supported
    - Detail is requested in this policy and it should be done with advising of a faculty advisor
  - A policy will be sent to APC members and Executive Committee can be cc'd as well but this will only be a draft
    - Critique or feedback should be submitted
  - An e-form would also need to be constructed
  - Should also consider an opt-in but only after the semester ends
  - Specific coding/designation for COVID-19 would also be used
    - That may be a dramatic change for CAMPS
    - Questioning if this would be counted towards the total S/U that students are allowed
      - Language could have to be looked at to suspend this but this policy is only temporary and only specific to this semester so it most likely wouldn't apply
  - When grades come back from study abroad students can they come back to UWEC then change it to S/U
    - Since their main campus is UWEC then they should be able to opt in
      - Anything C or above most students would want to take the letter grade but it would still be their choice
  - We would have to make the decision soon if we were going back to online teaching in the fall
    - UW System has decided that all UW System schools will move forward after a decision has been made cohesively among the campuses
    - The expectations for students will likely go up if we go online for fall
      - We would default back to our online course structure, expectation and delivery
    - Think this S/U option is just unique just to spring semester but since there is a good chance that we might have flare-ups, we need to think about this
      - Worse-case scenario then we might have students with 3 semesters of S/U, for example
        - If this continues then we will not be caught by surprise
  - Some other UW Systems used either faculty advisors or ARCC advisors so this can continue to be discussed
  - Who votes on these issues/motions will have to be discussed
    - We have been trying to follow the "Senate" rules, but we should be open to allow all Executive Committee members to vote
  - There might be some dissent in going with the S/U option for our students as some might think that this will create character and build a stronger student
    - This shouldn't have a psychological toll on students
    - They paid for assessment on their learning
      - Not all students feel this experience is about building resilience
        - Many students have taken on additional hours to help their family out so they don't look at it as building resilience
        - Students want to experience this and make the decision after they see their grade
          - Is a way to reduce anxiety
      - Grades will still have to be given by the instructor
      - Instructors will not use this as a way out of being flexible
      - Many students will prefer the grade
      - Maybe changing the grading could be another option
        - A, B, C, D, F, no minuses
          - Students might aim for a C then end up with a D because they fall short so that is a concern
  - Questioning why should students come back next semester if we stay online
    - If students have found success in this experience, then that would be enough for them to come back in the fall
  - The onus is on use to make this a good learning experience for the rest of this semester
  - We want students to know that we have their back and that we can give them this option
  - Giving the option of S/U will not deter enrollment - that will be because of COVID-19

- Other institutions in the state and nationwide are doing this to support students so we need to support this
- We need to make the ramifications clear if we move forward with this
- Someone would need to get an unsatisfactory to retake the class
- This will all need to go through APC first
- Chair Weiher will work with Marquell on a statement on what we are looking at so it can be shared with the student body president

5) Announcements

- Summer and undergraduate research
  - Questioning if we should we be working with students or not
    - We can handle the social distancing but there is a financial implication
  - Right now UWEC is saying to go ahead but to follow the social distancing guidelines
  - We might need to rethink how we are doing things but we need to continue to do the core functions of the university
  - Until a message says that we are no longer doing student research then please continue
- Financial hit that UWEC might take relative to our sister institutions
  - Made a plea for stimulus funding for higher education
  - The federal funds represents about 10% of our loss to date
  - Madison and UWEC are in the best financial shape
  - We are currently looking at about a \$10 million dollar cut to our institution
  - If we end up not coming back in the fall (with 5-10% decrease in students) we project a \$30-35 million dollar hit
  - Having no travel will save us and if units/departments can not spend money then that will help us too
    - We have System emergency powers so we can move money between accounts, with permission
    - Hoping for some funds or a bailout to help
  - International students have been given permission to take online courses but concern over the continuation of that
  - Hope to make the online decision June 15-July 15

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Tanya Kenney  
Secretary of the University Senate