

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Executive Committee

Minutes from September 1, 2020
Volume 57, Number 1

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

Guests: MJ Brukart, Marc Goulet, Kelly Holzer, Debra Jansen, Teresa O'Halloran, Katie Wilson, Linda Young

A meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:01 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 via online (Microsoft Teams) meeting.

- 1) Discussion of Order of Business for the 57th Session of the University Senate
 - No objections to this order of Business
- 2) Approval of the University Senate Executive Committee Minutes of August 11, 2020
 - Approved as distributed
- 3) Review of the tentative agenda for September 8th, 2020 meeting of the University Senate
 - Add Order of Business for 57th Session
 - Nominees will come in later in the week and will be updated on the agenda prior to distribution
 - Remove Academic Staff Representative Report
 - Approved as amended
- 4) New Business
 - None
- 5) Open Forum
 - Bookstore has hundreds, if not thousands of books that belong to the students that are not distributed
 - Do not know how quickly this will be resolved so many faculty are angry
 - Chancellor Schmidt will try to get answers
 - A retirement in the bookstore may be part of that backlog
 - Students were told to order the books and have them shipped so they shipped them to the bookstore to avoid charges so perhaps that too may be part of the problem
 - Budget negotiations regarding our next cuts
 - Chancellors have not been updated in two weeks
 - Tax collections are down only 2% so hoping that is a good sign
 - UM Amhurst made some serious cuts so would not want that to happen to us
 - Is unclear what the allocation of the cut would be
 - We (UWEC) will be down about 2.2% in enrollment and it could get worse, but we are still in a better place than most
 - Soon an announcement will be going out announcing the new VC for Administration & Finance
 - Will start Monday, September 21
 - Well done to the search committee
 - SHS Update
 - In process of implementing a testing plan
 - Looking at ways to improve the process and to test outdoors
 - Have contact tracers and are addressing the concerns of the staff
 - We are in alignment to other schools and CDC recommendations
 - Will continuously evaluate the protocol

- MAYO is not going to participate in our testing as they could not meet the needs of the testing protocol so that impacted what we were going to do
- Will now work with Marshfield labs
 - They can do about 10,000 PCR tests per day
 - Change was relative to organizations having access and capacity to the tests
- Rooms with movable chairs and tables
 - Questioning if we are or plan to put tape marks on the floor so the chairs and tables are not moved
 - Facilities staff are to ensure the seating arrangements so as they clean, they should be putting them back to the appropriate space
 - It would be reassuring to the staff and students to see where the desks/chairs go
- Temperature and symptom monitoring app
 - What if one has no access to the internet
 - Will have a dial in way to submit your information
 - On the 3rd day of no response you will get human intervention
- Test turnaround time
 - PCR test is 24-48 hours
 - Antigen testing is about an hour
- When do we reevaluate where we stand in terms of remaining open or going virtual
 - We will have a public dashboard available this week where we will look at many aspects
 - Meetings with Health Department 3 times per week
 - An outbreak is 2 or more people testing positive so will monitor hospitalization rates
 - Some things to monitor
 - Capacities of hospitals beds
 - Are infections spreading to faculty and staff
 - Was an outbreak due to a large party
 - If we transition to virtual it is because things are moving regionally, and it is a domino effect
 - There isn't a number but we will monitor
 - How will we be responsible in our communication
 - Is part of the contact tracing protocol
 - We follow HIPPA guidelines when sharing information
 - Wondering if someone is just quarantining and how much information should we share
 - Should have a staffing model in place if running short and shifting roles and responsibilities
 - Encourage people to work from home, when possible
- Launching a Search for the VC of Enrollment Management

Without objection, we will consult with the Chancellor on this search

- Same position description as was previously used
- Hoping to be able to recruit yet this fall
- Believe the Dean for A&S will be launching soon too but will need to meet with the college first
- Mary Hoffman was also recently named for an interim appointment for two years
- Concerns that we are filling high level positions when other positions are filled as interim so concerned about the optics and morale
 - That is partly why this position has been held so long
 - The issues around enrollment with COVID-19 don't get easier
- The Search Committee should be knowledgeable about the previous people in this position as we need leadership in this role
- Staff in enrollment did a great job recruiting without a VC so why do we need to fill this now
 - This is meant to bring together processes and services
- University staff requested that the selection of names be postponed until September 15 so a special meeting does not need to be called
 - Chancellor agreed to postpone

- 6) Consultation with VC Anderson on EDISA restructuring plan
- VC Anderson has 13 direct reports and want to be structured in a way that creates synergy, so he looked at 4 key areas
 - Athletics and Recreation and Sports Operations was with Mike Rindo and as soon as a replacement is named then those areas will move back
 - Looking at adding one new FTE position
 - Many concerns that additional administration is being hired and not student contact positions
 - VC Anderson hopes that this position would be self-sustaining as it would be grant funded
 - Those offices operate effectively so may not need day to day oversight but would like one person to coordinate all the grant funding
 - It would be supervisory but coordinating the day to day
 - Comments that it doesn't seem to be a benefit to have them coordinating
 - Concern that input from staff is not being considered
 - People feel unable to speak up as they have no place to go and are not feeling comfortable
 - There is a broader issue that needs to be addressed
 - The Shared governance expectation is transparency
 - Many times things are not shared with the units before coming to Senate
 - VC Anderson thought things were confidential so didn't realize that they weren't so he had a misunderstanding of the process
 - Some TBD's may be a form of function
 - Some roles may be changed to address the TBD positions
 - The new structure has no new lines or positions – at least not this year
 - Access and Opportunity will be searched for in the future
 - Many are concerned about hiring another administrator role
 - Questioning why SHS is being moved
 - Looking at having a Center for Education and SHS fits into that
 - The only change is who they report to
 - No funding changes
 - More comments about the concern of adding an additional administrator since Administrator salaries are too high when we are not being covered in so many other areas
 - The idea that we would hire someone to coordinate the areas that they are covering well on their own is disturbing
 - Administrators are not understanding what is happening on campus
 - Many faculty positions are remaining unfilled
 - Blugold Beginnings is being moved and Jodi Thesing-Ritter started that so hope it was by her request that it is removed from her oversight and not VC Anderson's
 - VC Anderson wanted Jodi Thesing-Ritter to mover over to take on other duties
 - Concerns that we have given her awards for her work in that area and now we are moving her

7) Announcements

- None

Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate