University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

Considering the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, UWEC Senate Executive Committee suspended the Service-Learning Requirement for graduating seniors during the Spring 2020 academic semester. Given the continuous disruption to service-learning opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 for the current 2020 – 2021 academic year, the Academic Policies Committee is proposing the suspension of the service-learning requirement for the Fall 2020 academic semester for graduating seniors.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Credit Bearing Service-Learning courses provide students the opportunity to receive the credit anyway without service-learning taking place due to COVID-19 and restrictions.
2. Students wanting to complete a Non-Credit Bearing Service-Learning option should be provided a waiver (especially for graduates) to ensure equity for all students. Debate on whether waiver should be for Fall 2020 only or entire academic year.
3. There are over 100 different non-credit bearing service-learning options currently available during the pandemic that students can take advantage of that follow current COVID-19 restrictions. Students should do due diligence to explore these opportunities.
4. Emotional state of students and type of students impacted by the uncertainty of the service-learning requirement.
5. Impact on faculty workload regarding the service-learning requirement.
6. Impact on Associate Dean’s workload regarding the service-learning requirement waiver.

Pros of Recommendation:

Alleviates undergraduate students who are more stressed and concerned about a variety of things, including their family and friends during a pandemic. Alleviates workload concerns for faculty, administration, and community partners.

Cons of Recommendation:

none

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None
Committee Recommendation:

The committee approved the suspension of the service-learning requirement for the Fall 2020 academic semester for graduating seniors.

Graduating seniors completing credit bearing service-learning (S-L) courses that are unable to complete the service-learning component of the course will still receive the S-L credit.

Graduating seniors unable to complete non-credit bearing service-learning (S-L) projects, will have S-L requirement waived.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 7 for to 1 against on October 6th, 2020 (Date)

Recommends that:
The suspension of the service-learning requirement for the Fall 2020 academic semester for graduating seniors.

Graduating seniors completing credit bearing service-learning (S-L) courses that are unable to complete the service-learning component of the course will still receive the S-L credit.

Graduating seniors unable to complete non-credit bearing service-learning (S-L) projects, will have S-L requirement waived.

Implementation Date: 20/21 catalog

Signed: _

Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office