

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

Minutes from October 6, 2020  
Volume 57, Number 3

Present: Jasmine Case, Grace Crickette, Chip Eckardt, Abbey Fischer, Elizabeth Glogowski, Marquell Johnson, Patricia Kleine, Bridget Kurtenbach, John Mann, Colleen Marchwick, Jill Markgraf, Sean McAleer, Kelly Murray, Geoffrey Peterson, Kristin Schaupp, James Schmidt, Charlotte Sortedahl Pedro Sottile, Ka Vang, Ryan Weichelt, Evan Weiher

Absent: Warren Anderson

Guests: MJ Brukardt, Mike Carney, Margaret Cassidy, Debra Jansen, Carmen Manning, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, Katie Wilson, Linda Young

A meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:02 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 via online (Microsoft Teams) meeting.

- 1) Approval of the University Senate Executive Committee Minutes of September 15, 2020
  - Approved as distributed
- 2) Open Forum

**Without objection, next week's University Senate Agenda will be discussed**

- Review of the tentative agenda for October 13, 2020 meeting of the University Senate
  - Approved as amended
    - First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee will be rewritten to reflect: Proposal for the Suspension of service-learning requirements for students graduating 2020
- Racial Incident on campus
  - Is concerning that faculty and staff were not told ahead of time or given the professional courtesy of letting us know that those students involved in the racial incident on campus were allowed back in class
    - Our African American students on campus were also offended
    - We need to be more attentive on how we handle these issues in the future
    - Many attorneys have been involved so we may have had more of a healing time had that not happened but regardless, the names of the students cannot be put into an email so notification could not really be done
    - It went through the UW System process and the decision was considered a speech issue
    - Administration can only step in if the students appealed the decision but since the students got the decision they wanted then they did not appeal
      - Did not want to expose the institution too much further
    - We are looking at a review of our judicial processes so we can have some clarity and possibly make recommendations for adjustments
- University of Iowa has decided to suspend all diversity training
  - Haven't heard any talk of that happening in Wisconsin
- WPR did an investigation/report on tuition fund balances are down and many institutions are in bad shape
  - All but 3 universities have submitted their savings plans so am curious what does our savings plan look like
    - UWEC is not on a savings plan
  - The State of WI accounts for what they have in hand, not what they are spending vs. revenue, etc.
    - We cannot run the institutions like a lemonade stand
    - The federal dollars are running out so now things look short
    - They are snap shots in time

- The numbers do not really mean much because you cannot bank on it
  - They counted students loan money and tuition even though those are pass throughs
  - We are not on a savings plan
  - BME Incident
    - Have we thought about revising the Blugold Code to support or address some concerns
      - Want to observe the judicial process
    - We need to wrestle with these conversations as we have to keep improving
    - How do we deal with the freedom of speech issue and we need a sense of what we expect as a campus community
      - A big piece of the campus rejects restorative justice
        - Students may need to take a step away for reflection
  - Bookstore Issue
    - It is just a guess that some books are still on backorder
    - A letter to the CEO of Barnes and Noble went out yesterday or today
      - We are not done with this issue
    - The Library is still getting requests for scanning so it was suggested that we look at our current practices and see if we can find alternatives
      - Other universities in the state has the Library operating as the bookstore/textbook rentals
        - The VC for Finance area oversees this so may want to give her a little time to acclimate then bring this to her
          - VC Crickette put this on her agenda
    - The Bookstore contract ends this year
- 3) Consultation with Chancellor/Administration regarding a search for the Dean of Arts & Sciences
- Last Tuesday the Provost met with A&S and had well over 200 attendees
    - Talked about the FASRP and the composition of the committee
      - Also talked about representation of academic staff and university staff
    - A&S will use an election process
      - The ballots went out yesterday and are due by noon on Thursday
    - The other groups are going through a nomination process of some kind
  - When the notice was sent out the Provost included the job description and asked for ideas
    - The final description is approved by the Provost and committee
    - If you need another copy of that description, please email Jane Becker to request it
- 4) Consultation with Administration on altering spring 2021 calendar: remove spring break, finish the semester one week early
- Looking at different possibilities
  - Will be strongly encouraging students to be mindful
  - Many winterim classes are online
    - This year winterim is a shortened anyway so that's good then we will start in February as usual
  - Looked at spring break as many students, faculty and staff will travel and that would produce a really serious issue for this campus so would like to teach straight through, without having a break
  - Neighboring schools are not returning after Thanksgiving, but we will just power through
    - Our campus is doing well but we will continue to monitor and watch the situation
  - Over 10,000 people are using the app and if not using then they get pinged and get a phone call
    - Most of the symptomatic people know to get tested because of the app
    - Pings and calls are for students who are not complying
    - Contact tracers are getting through to people
      - The student body seems very much engaged in the process
    - Still looking at expanding testing on campus
    - Our initial target goal is to get up to 450 tests per day and would like testing to be available to be available to all students
      - If students have called then we have tested them
  - We have to vigilant as this could change overnight
  - Halloween lands on a Saturday this year so we are also watching that
  - It is our intention to finish the semester but we continue to look at many things

- The biggest marker is that we need to maintain safe classes and work settings
  - Most students are locked into a lease so providing a structured space on campus is good for the students as things are more contained
  - Faculty Reps were asking about Thanksgiving yesterday and it was found out that most schools are shutting down after Thanksgiving
    - After Thanksgiving, it is concerning for students to come back
      - Should consider allowing the students to remain out of the classroom so they have one modality
      - Concerned that students will not abide by not having spring break especially since we do not have attendance policies anymore as there are no penalties
      - Many students wish we would go online after Thanksgiving
  - We failed in our messaging in that we have different interpretations on our absentee policy
    - Teaching a large class in the spring is troublesome so clarification on the attendance policy might be good
      - A message about deterring travel would be good
  - Suggestion if we cannot have a week to give then perhaps a long weekend or something so people can get caught up and it would be good for mental wellbeing
    - That is being discussed but is problematic for so many classes
  - Many will work the syllabus so can have a breather so it's not a difficult week and can look at a strategy for exams
- 5) Announcements
- None
- 6) Consultation with the Chancellor/Administration regarding committee appointments to committees including the University Assessment Committee. Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes 19.85 (c) the committee contemplates going into closed session for the purpose of discussion.

**Without objection it was MOVED and seconded that the committee go into closed session under Wisconsin Statute 19.85 (c) for the purposes of discussion.**

**Motion PASSED without objection by Jasmine Case, Chip Eckardt, Abbey Fischer, Elizabeth Glogowski, Marquell Johnson, Bridget Kurtenbach, John Mann, Colleen Marchwick, Jill Markgraf, Sean McAleer, Kelly Murray, Geoffrey Peterson, Kristin Schaupp, Charlotte Sortedahl Pedro Sottile, Ka Vang, Ryan Weichelt, Evan Weiher**

Meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Tanya Kenney  
Secretary of the University Senate