

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING
VOLUME 57, NUMBER 3**

October 13, 2020

Members Present:

Jan Adams, Warren Anderson, Roxanne Backowski, Robert Berg, James Boulter, Wayne Carroll, Jasmine Case, Bart Dahl, Chip Eckardt, Mary Elger-Lonzarich, Jeff Erger, Abbey Fischer, Ashley Galoff, Christa Garvey, Wendy Geniusz, Peter Hart-Brinson, Kent Gerberich, , Liz Glogowski, Gail Hanson Brenner, Ryan Harrison, Abby Hemmerich, Thomas Hilton, Jarrod Hines, Robert Hooper, Heather Iverson, Marquell Johnson, Jennifer Johs-Artisensi, Chris Jones, Pat Kleine, Carol Koroghlanian, Charlie Krula, Bridget Kurtenbach, Ellen Mahaffy, John Mann, Colleen Marchwick, Jill Markgraf, Sean McAleer, Barb Meier, Bill Miller, Nichole Miller, Tamara Miller, Dalete Mota, Kelly Murray, David Nesvacil, Susan O'Brien, Geoff Peterson, Linda Pratt, Barb Ritzinger, Jim Rybicki, Jonathan Rylander, Kristin Schaupp, James Schmidt, Alyssa Slaby, Charlotte Sortedahl, Pedro Sottile, Thomas Storm, Tom Sulzer, Andrew Suralski, Jamie Tester Morfoot, Ka Vang, Ryan Weichelt, Evan Weiher, Katie Wilson

Members Absent:

Jose Alvergue, Ari Anand, Lisa Coen, Grace Crickette, Neil Ostlund, Lisa Schiller, Daniel Schumacher, Charles Vue, Isabel Walters

Guests:

MJ Brukardt, Mike Carney, Margaret Cassidy, Mary Hoffman, Debra Jansen, Carmen Manning, Nichole Owen, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, Anna Ziebell

The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:01 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 via an online Teams meeting.

- 1) Approval of the September 22, 2020 University Senate minutes
 - Approved as distributed
- 2) Administrator Remarks
 - Center for Racial and Restorative Justice – VC Anderson
 - Provides a tremendous amount of opportunity
 - Is a new concept
 - We will be looking for faculty and staff to develop research to help lead the conversation around racial and restorative justice so that everything we do is through that lens
 - The main initiative is engagement
 - There is excitement but the spotlight is on our faculty, staff and students
 - Is a good time to take the lead on this nationally
 - The University Foundation is vocal about providing support
 - We have seed funding for initiatives
 - Not having a space will not slow us down
 - Want to create things to change our landscape
 - This is an exciting thing
 - The recent speaker, Roxanne Gay, was wonderful
 - Race is a heavily charged topic so weaponizing students is concerning
 - We should teach and educate as much as possible
 - We need to educate our students on all things around EDI
 - We want to give them all the tools they need to engage in conversations and so they are well rounded in all nuances
 - COVID App
 - There are consequences or discipline for faculty, staff or students who have not completed the app
 - Institutions can put processes in place to provide a safe learning environment
 - The message that went out is to make sure everyone knows that we need to use the app

- Is an employment process
 - Students who do not comply get intervention as a first step and then it goes all the way up through suspension and expulsion
 - Faculty and staff can have a letter in their file or get a written reprimand
 - The goal is not to put anyone into a terrible situation
 - The process is easy and we have given out PPE and enhanced our testing so it is simple to follow our protocol
 - This allows our campus to stay open face to face
- Entering your information into the app
 - Concern that hunting season is approaching as is fall and winter camping and if people cannot log into the app then what do they do
 - You can notify HR if no phone or internet but the app will also work on or off line or you can also call the COVID hotline or send an email to VC Anderson and let them know you will be out of town then can put the data in when you get back

3) Reports

a) Report from University Senate Chair Weiher

- Last week the University Senate Executive Committee consulted with the on the Dean of Arts and Sciences search; there was a vote on faculty membership on the search committee last week
- We also consulted on nominees to the Assessment Committee
- Most importantly, we consulted on the spring 2021 calendar
 - The Provost explained her discussions with the Chancellor and deans
 - Announcement is not out yet, but the plan is to start the semester as usual, skip spring break, and end the semester one week early
 - There was considerable discussion, but not much opposition
 - Major concerns included the idea that some will take spring break anyway
- I want to thank Senator Markgraf for asking for a detailed accounting of the bookstore contract and policies
 - Vice Chancellor of Finance, Grace Crickette, will be looking into this, but we need to give her a little time to do so
 - The Chancellor sent a very pointed letter to Barnes and Noble, noting that our contract ends at the end of this academic year
- Chair Weiher has been going to the weekly UWEC/Eau Claire Co. Health Dept. meetings and we are at the point where the meetings are kind of routine
- Chair Weiher will look into what happens if the contractual period for faculty and staff is shortened

b) For the Record – Academic Policies Committee

Proposal for Virtual International Internships

Without objection, this item will be entered For the Record

4) Special Orders

a) Election for Administrator Review Committee

Administrator Review Committee

Continuing members:

Tarique Niazi, Sociology
Seungbin Oh, Accounting & Finance
Norah Airth-Kindree, Nursing
Katie Ritland-Clouse, ARCC
Sherrie Miles, LTS
Greg Falkenberg, Facilities
Jackson Schmidtke, International Education

1 Vacancy

(1) Instructional Academic Staff (IAS) Vacancy
3-year terms
IAS Vote Code: 4 or 6

Report of the University-wide Nominating Committee

Nominees:

IAS: Christopher Jones, Barron County

Additional nominations from the floor: None

Without objection, the rules were suspended to allow Christopher Jones to serve on the Administrator Review Committee

Elected to serve on the Administrator Review Committee: Christopher Jones

5) New Business

a) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee

Proposal for the Suspension of the Service-Learning Requirements for Students Graduating in 2020

- EC-BC is in favor of this motion
 - Recommendation is for graduating seniors and also includes associate degree students
 - Students at either campus
- No cons listed but one person dissented
 - Under points discussed it stated that there are other opportunities that students can take advantage of so the dissention was because they didn't want Service Learning to be viewed as an "other"
 - The con is not listed because it is part of the points discussed

Debate

- None

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

VOTE on MOTION: PASSED

b) First Reading: Resolution from Senator Hart-Brinson

**University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
University Senate Resolution
on the November 3, 2020 Election and Its Aftermath**

WHEREAS, the integrity of the November 3, 2020 election is already being undermined by unsubstantiated allegations that mail-in voting will be fraudulent¹;

WHEREAS, one of the two major candidates for President has, on multiple occasions, refused to commit to accepting the validity of the election results or to a peaceful transfer of power²;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly increased the proportion of Americans voting by mail and may affect voting behavior on Election Day³;

WHEREAS, a thorough, accurate vote count is likely to be delayed for days or weeks in some states because of laws that prohibit counting absentee ballots prior to Election Day⁴;

WHEREAS, U.S. intelligence agencies have repeatedly warned of systematic efforts at election interference from foreign actors⁵;

¹ <https://www.factcheck.org/2020/09/trumps-repeated-false-attacks-on-mail-in-ballots/>

² September 23 and 29, 2020

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/elections/absentee-ballot-early-voting.html>

⁴ <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/vopp-table-16-when-absentee-mail-ballot-processing-and-counting-can-begin.aspx>

⁵ https://www.scribd.com/document/474711820/DHS-Russia-Intel-Sept-3-2020-Voting-w-Redactions#from_embed ;
<https://www.dni.gov/index.php/newsroom/press-releases/item/2139-statement-by-ncsc-director-william-evanina-election-threat-update-for-the-american-public>

WHEREAS, social media platforms constitute a communication ecosystem that is unprecedented in its openness to communication from both domestic and foreign actors, and in which false information spreads farther and faster than truth⁶;

WHEREAS, the experience of the 2016 Presidential campaign and election by students, staff, and faculty at UW-Eau Claire was disruptive of campus activities and mentally and emotionally draining for many members of the campus community, especially those with marginalized identities⁷;

WHEREAS, the above evidence suggests that both November 3, 2020 and the days and weeks following the election may be uniquely stressful and difficult, both for members of the campus community and for the United States as a nation;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the University Senate encourages all staff and faculty to strive to be as accommodating as is possible and reasonable to the mental and emotional health needs of students, colleagues, and employees under their supervision during and after the 2020 election;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Senate encourages all staff and faculty to strive to uphold the highest standards of professionalism while also supporting the mental and emotional health needs of members of the Blugold community, including campus community members of color who face heightened risk and stress due to social unrest and the pandemic;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Senate encourages all staff and faculty to strive to create a supportive and safe community that preserves the University Mission and allows all students, staff, and faculty to learn, work, and thrive in peace;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Senate encourages the UWEC Administration to take steps to safeguard the safety and health of all students and employees during this divisive time.

Debate

- Concerned that this has a partisan spin that we should avoid
 - Then we will also need to be accommodating to all students
 - We are to remain bipartisan
- Agree with the spirit of this but it is not comfortable as it seems political
- Would be a bad thing for us to do
- UWEC is also a polling place so we need to be aware of the vicinity of Zorn Arena
- The ingredients are there for a destabilizing time and it could get worse
 - Would like for us to be prepared
- This should be our role all the time
- Many face a heightened risk their whole life
 - Our lives exist both on and off campus
- Questioning if there was an event that prompted this
 - We had an event on campus not too long ago and many bad and unfortunate things happened
- The campus should be neutral
- Our students are always number one so do not see a need for this resolution
- This doesn't impact true policy as it is non-binding
 - If you're going to create something, then it should be something that holds people/administration accountable
 - We need to make a statement where we can encourage them to participate in the civic process but more clearly state our goals
 - Need specifics on what we are looking for so we can measure it
 - This resolution is a response to feelings of unsafety
- Would be useful to investigate the safety protocols that are in place
 - Campus Safety needs to be prepared

⁶ Vosoughi, Soroush, Deb Roy, and Sinan Aral. 2018. "The Spread of True and False News Online." *Science*, 359, pp. 1146-1151. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/359/6380/1146>

⁷ <https://www.spectatornews.com/campus-news/2016/11/students-verbally-assaulted-while-trump-rally-was-on-campus/>

- Actionable items are important and need to be considered
- Understand the concerns expressed but concerned about making campus the focus of protests
- Senate could support people not coming to campus that are not on campus
- As a polling location and as the student's residence is a good idea to get the police involved
- Students can exercise their civic duty beyond voting
- Would love to see the resolved comments come from an administrator
- This is politicizing and it brings more attention to the university and we do not need that
- Do not want to stir a hornet's nest
- Thanks for all the comments and feedback
- Even if this is voted down, if we do what the resolved clause says then we are in better shape
 - Is good that this might stimulate action and conversation
- Collectively we can have conversations in departments and units
- Administration and public safety can develop a plan to keep the campus safe both pre-election and post-election
 - Chair Weiher to ask administration
- Mail in voting is being encouraged so the turn out numbers will be lower but still expect a high turnout then a plan for the long lines should also be thought about
 - Do we have a way and a method to control the lines as we do not want to impede our students ability to get to classes
- Reminder that elections have come and gone and as it relates to the social unrest, it has always been here but now it is being welcomed and received
- Students of color are struggling for multiple reason so being asked for direct feedback is not encouraged
- Hoping to attract professionals and students that have a more welcoming side
- Most of our motions are also not binding as they need to be approved by the chancellor
 - Senate has a lot of power and everything we approve goes to administration, so they still see it
- We need to be prepared

VOTE on MOTION to take place at the next University Senate Meeting

6) Announcements

- At our next meeting, we will be asking for nominations for University Senate Chair-elect
 - Chair Weiher plans on self-nominating
 - We will have the election during our first November meeting (November 10th)
 - This election will be for a term that begins in summer 2021 running to 2023
- The next meeting of the University Senate is October 27th via an online Teams Meeting
- Student Evaluation Concerns
 - Concern that student evaluations are being administered this year
 - Wondering if we can make evaluations optional or change them
 - There is a Regent policy that says that student evaluations need to be administered on a regular basis
 - Individual DPC's would need to go to the academic affairs
 - While required to include student evaluations, it does not say how
 - Would like it taken into account for how difficult the year was
 - Want them to be used in a comparative way
 - DPC's in the departments make the decision on what is included and that those evaluative tools are not used during this period of time
 - If documented then should be ok
 - For this year we are not using spring but will use fall
 - But if want to include spring then you can

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary to the University Senate