

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

Minutes from October 20, 2020
Volume 57, Number 4

Present: Warren Anderson, Jasmine Case, 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: Grace Crickette

Guests: Mike Carney, Margaret Cassidy, Debra Jansen, Nichole Owen, Jean Pratt, Christina Prust, 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 October 6, 2020
 - Approved as distributed
- 2) Review of tentative agenda for October 27, 2020 meeting of the University Senate
 - Approved as amended
 - Remove Faculty and Academic Staff Representative's Reports
- 3) Open Forum
 - Safety Planning
 - Since the last presidential cycle, we have learned a lot so have been working on safety planning
 - UWEC Police have been doing planning and have been coordinating with city elections group to ensure polling locations are secure
 - Want the campus to have safety and ensure access to our academic buildings
 - We are having tabletop exercises and will work through some scenarios, so we are prepared
 - In Barron County, the Barron County supervisors took action to remove funding for Embrace as they support Black Lives Matter
 - The sheriff also cut ties with this organization
 - As a campus, the land and buildings are owned by the County, so UW EC-BC is concerned about their funding being impacted as Barron County also supports Black Lives Matter
 - There are agreements with how the 2-year campuses are operated so this would be both a local and a System matter if they tried to pull funding
 - We all deserve the same level of protection
 - It was recommended that Barron County have conversations with VC Anderson to see how they can move forward
 - Academic calendar
 - An announcement will be coming out soon about spring break
 - Any more discussion on classes after thanksgiving
 - We are monitoring the data as many are concerned about the state of the state
 - The numbers on Mondays are generally higher as we cover a 3-day period but there are currently no UWEC hospitalizations
 - Looking at meals and activities for the students that stay on campus over Thanksgiving
 - Looking at additional testing too but first we just need to get to Thanksgiving
 - Concerned about Halloween as well as it's also daylight savings time so an extra hour is given
 - Many discussions are taking place and we are continuing to monitor
 - Centralizing IT services
 - The success of other centralizations have not been good and they have negatively impacted us so it is concerning to hear about centralizing IT services

- Kent Gerberich has been contacted by Chancellor Schmidt
 - Centralization isn't always cheaper or better so we are questioning if we can retain some local control, but our current financial system is archaic so in that regard Chancellor Schmidt does support the need for that change
 - We need one way to count tuition and populate fields and since most things will be cloud driven in the future things may not be so much Madison driven
 - Staffing to drive this model may be regional and Eau Claire might be a regional hub
 - We will watch this
 - Bookstore
 - Unknown if all students have gotten their books
 - Some departments have given up and found other ways to reach those students
 - Concern also noted about the Bookstore wanting students in by a certain time and it seems more leeway should be given considering the circumstances
 - Provost Kleine to follow-up
 - Chancellor Schmidt has not been sent a response from Barnes and Noble
 - UW System budget cuts
 - UW System Interim President Thompson is still looking at lower our numbers but 43-47 is what we are looking at
 - We have that set aside
 - Really looking at what the forecasts show
 - They are not solid, and the federal money will drift off the books so that will reveal some holes
 - Concerned about the base
- 4) Frozen Files Discussion
- Been having trouble getting vote codes from HR
 - No easy solution
 - Chair Weiher welcomes suggestions on how to move forward on this
 - FASRP may need to be revised when the Title and Compensation Study is completed
 - EDI restructure has impacted several academic staff so might also impact Senate representation
 - Senators can remain senators until their term expires
 - Geoff Peterson will check with other campuses that have combined senates to see what they do
 - Institutional research might be able to help
 - We need a sustainable solution
 - We are going with what we had before until we can figure this out
- 5) Discussion on PPPC's Tobacco-free Campus Policy Proposal
- PPPC has been meeting and working on a proposal to create a tobacco-free campus
 - Thoughts or suggestions on how people feel about this coming forward again
 - Concern that if we created a tobacco-free campus then smoking might develop in nearby neighborhoods as that is a problem on other campuses
 - Smoking cessation programs are available for students and may also be available to Sodexo
 - Students passed it by a narrow margin last time, so the Chancellor didn't support the change
 - Chancellor Schmidt's concern is about geography and topography
 - We don't want to push the smoking into Putnam park, the bluff or towards the river so if you ban smoking then the students will go to those areas
 - Also, if we push those smokers to the sidewalk on Park Avenue then it impacts the other students and the busses
 - We might make it worse for the nonsmokers as the smoking areas are not in main thoroughfares
 - At least now the smokers are not in main areas
 - Support the efforts to get smoking cessation programs and we should discourage smoking
 - Putnam Drive is operated by the University, so it complicates it
 - If it came to the University Senate then there would be a lot of information and backstory
 - Senate passed it before, but the Student Senate passed it by only very thin margins
 - We are trying to become more inclusive then we need to consider all students

- It is not our right to decide if people should be giving this up
 - They are outside, not inside, so it can be avoided, and it does not interfere with our right to free and clean air
- First generation and lower incomes already have obstacles so we should not overstep as these are many of our smokers
- The number of smokers is dropping dramatically but we do see a rise in e-cigarette usage
- It is an intentional strategy by the commercial tobacco industry to target the vulnerable populations
- A main concern is that people smoke by air intakes
 - Our current policy is not working as some air intakes go straight into office spaces
 - Better signage would help but Facilities is reluctant as it's not with their signage policy so it's been problematic as they say the signs would only be temporary
- We don't even have sufficient lactation rooms in all the buildings so this should supersede a tobacco-free campus
- If we adopt a Commercial Tobacco-Free campus then this would apply to smokeless tobacco as well
 - Chancellor amended our current policy to include e-cigarettes
- Chewing tobacco is an issue for Facilities, in terms of cleaning, so it impacts people but in a different way
- With a new Strategic Plan, it seems to make sense that this is coming forward again
- This policy would support people not starting
- Concern that many things are not enforceable

6) Announcements

- Safety on campus during and after the election
 - Some have heard about those days being CANVAS days or furlough days and others say they will lay low that day or will wait for the outcome
 - Caution given on how to discuss this with students as we do not want voter suppression with all our talk about voter safety
 - The City of Eau Claire is taking this seriously so we will have our voting locations safe
 - Traditional canvassing is not being done so we are already concerned about voter turnout
 - Many will treat election day like any other day
 - We have not had guidance from the university
 - It would be nice to hear about voter suppression
 - We take these things very seriously
 - Important that we provide education
 - The Library has voter information out as well
 - Chancellor Schmidt believes we will be prepared, and more information will be coming
 - We should all encourage early voting
 - The Library has what the students can use to get them through to vote as it's complicated
 - If they all wait for November 3rd then there could be issues
 - Students or staff could be sick on November 3rd so it's a good idea to vote early
 - Students should be reminded of this

Meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate