

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE  
UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING  
VOLUME 57, NUMBER 4**

**October 27, 2020**

**Members Present:**

Jan Adams, Warren Anderson, Roxanne Backowski, Robert Berg, James Boulter, 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, Nichole Miller, Tamara Miller, Kelly Murray, David Nesvacil, Susan O'Brien, Neil Ostlund, Geoff Peterson, Linda Pratt, Barb Ritzinger, Jim Rybicki, Kristin Schaupp, Lisa Schiller, James Schmidt, Daniel Schumacher, Alyssa Slaby, Charlotte Sortedahl, Pedro Sottile, Tom Sulzer, Andrew Suralski, Jamie Tester Morfoot, Ka Vang, Isabel Walters, Ryan Weichelt, Evan Weiher, Katie Wilson

**Members Absent:**

Jose Alvergue, Ari Anand, Wayne Carroll, Lisa Coen, Grace Crickette, Bill Miller, Dalete Mota, Jonathan Rylander, Thomas Storm, Charles Vue

**Guests:**

Mike Carney, Margaret Cassidy, Sue Fondrie, Mary Hoffman, Debra Jansen, Carmen Manning, Nicole Owen, Jill Prushiek

The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:02 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 via an online Teams meeting.

- 1) Approval of the October 13, 2020 University Senate minutes
  - Approved as distributed
- 2) Administrator Remarks
  - Early voting currently has no waiting
  - Last week Friday the chancellors had a meeting with Dr, Birx
    - There have been advancements with testing and vaccines but the vaccines for wide-spread use will most likely not happen until next summer/fall
    - She feels that the universities are part of the solution, not the problem, as we care about other people and we all follow the rules, including with isolation
      - Boston University is testing twice a week for all faculty, staff and students and only a handful of people have gotten COVID
      - Madison is taking a similar approach to spring semester
      - Chancellor Schmidt is looking at other testing that is much more economical
        - The federal government has purchased all the tests so hoping to get some of those
      - Dr. Birx believes that by capturing the young people that we can do a lot to prevent the spread
        - She believes we can slow the community spread
  - COVID
    - Eau Claire County has had a spike in cases
      - Based on the data, here at UWEC, there were only 32 students in the last 7-day period
        - By comparison we have done well
          - We are in the top 15% for the websites for sharing COVID numbers/information
    - Concerned about Halloween as well as the end of daylight savings time
      - Been working with the residence hall staff and have been reminding students about the offerings on campus as we are trying to keep the students here on campus
      - Working with public health and Katie Wilson to knock on doors for those that have violated in the past for parties and violations
        - We are putting a lot of effort into this

- Also talking to tavern owners as well
- Thanksgiving is also a concern
  - Hope students can keep gatherings to immediate family as well as hoping that some will stay on campus so are working with Sodexo for meals
  - We will expand our testing hours leading into Thanksgiving and then when the students come back they can have a rapid test
- Encourage people to vote early
  - We will be hosting a polling site on campus in the Zorn arena
  - There are a few homes that are included in our polling location
  - Are addressing safety concerns and have had table-top exercises
    - Working collaboratively with UWEC Police, the EC Police Department and City Hall
      - Should have a peaceful and safe election
      - Post-election scenarios have also been completed
- 2% pay increase
  - It is supposed to take place in January
  - We are still planning for it, but it may or may not happen
  - Chancellor still advocates for the increase and is hopeful that it will come through
- COVID
  - Madison has testing for all faculty, staff and students and we are Looking to accomplish this in the near future
    - Bi-flex testing for twice a week is heavily being looked into according to Interim President Thompson
    - The test may be free, but we pay for the staffing and accounting etc. of it
  - If students do not get tested, then they may lose their housing contract
  - Getting people with COVID out of circulation is working out well in terms of numbers
  - Many are concerned about Thanksgiving
    - We will watch carefully
    - Mayo models the spread, and their model has been frighteningly accurate so will also watch that
    - Our campus environment has been safe so that is good, but we also don't want to unwittingly spread to our community
    - We are open until we are not
  - Spring break is longer, and people go places where students tend to stay closer to home for Thanksgiving
    - Cautions will be going out to students and we will do testing before they leave and after they come back
  - Grateful to all those working with the testing as they have gone above and beyond
  - Concern that Wisconsin has high numbers so if they go home it is a major concern
    - It is generally two weeks before people get sick after being exposed so worried about that
  - It would be gutsy for a student to take spring break anyway
- UWEC financial well-being and enrollment
  - November 12<sup>th</sup> the chancellor expects to have a town hall meeting and will do an update then with some modeling
  - The enrollment decrease that we anticipated did not happen so that is good
    - Many application fees are not being collected plus we have act options so thus far our numbers look good, but we do not know if they will continue so we don't want to get our hopes up
  - We might end up with another state cut
    - State revenue is down so expecting another cut next year
      - The cuts keep getting smaller because there is less and less that they can cut

### 3) Reports

- a) Report from University Senate Chair Weiher
  - We discussed how the Barron County Board of supervisors cut funding for a county domestic violence support group due to their support of Black Lives Matter
    - There was concern that the Board might try something similar with their support of the Barron Campus
      - VC Anderson clearly stated that we are supporting the faculty and staff and that the County Board can't push around our faculty on that campus
  - The Board of Regents have been discussing a consolidation of LTS
    - The chancellor outlined problems with heterogeneous financial systems, but that recording does need to be standardized

- Will see where this goes
- Bookstore
  - Apparently, the Bookstore just gave up on some students
    - Their contract is up at the end of this year so will see what is decided as other options are being thought about
- We also discussed the idea of going tobacco-free on campus as the Physical Plant Planning Committee asked for our input
  - There may be further action from PPPC, but Senate has previously already endorsed a tobacco-free policy
- Safety Planning has been happening for election concerns
  - Participated in an election security “table-top exercise” with administration, university police, and the head of emergency management from UW Madison
  - It was a good meeting and administration is taking security very seriously
- Also, there was a Health Dept. meeting last week
  - As far as EC County, there is spread across all age groups and hospitalizations are rising
    - Even so, our on-campus students have been doing pretty well and it’s clear that our students are not the main cause of the high number of cases in town
- We are not tobacco-free as there are still outdoor designated smoking areas
  - Chancellor feels the current policy is working well

#### 4) Special Orders

##### a) Election for Faculty Complaint, Grievance and Termination Review Committee

1 Vacancy for **tenured** Faculty (Tenured with a Vote Code 1)  
3-year term

##### **Nominee:**

**Tenured Faculty: Jianjun Ji, Sociology**

**Additional nominations from the floor: None**

**Without objection, the rules were suspended to allow Jianjun Ji to serve on the Faculty Complaint, Grievance and Termination Review Committee**

**Elected to serve on the Faculty Complaint, Grievance and Termination Review Committee: Jianjun Ji**

##### b) Nominations from the floor for Chair-Elect

##### **Nominees:**

Evan Weiher, Biology

**Election to take place at the next University Senate Meeting**

#### 5) Unfinished Business

##### a) Second Reading: Resolution on the November 3, 2020 Election and Its Aftermath

**Resolution was Seconded**

Continued Debate

**MOTION to postpone indefinitely, seconded**

- Main concern is the mental and emotional health of the campus community and this action would not address that
- We need to be prepared to support one another
  - We always protect and help our students
- An email that came out from the chancellor stated that we will be receiving additional information from Counseling Services but we have not seen that
  - VC Anderson will be sending email(s) out tomorrow morning but it will be directed towards students
- It would be good to know how to handle a classroom post-election
  - The resolution is very factual and quite even handed and do not feel that it was not embellished

**VOTE on MOTION to postpone indefinitely: PASSED**

6) New Business

a) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee

Education Studies Department Name Change

Debate

- Drifting towards advocacy is not listed as a con and it could be a con for critics
  - Departments can bring forward a name change
  - It is not a con if the experts chose to go in that direction
  - Might attract the type of future educator they are trying to attract
  - It is just the department name sake, not course names
  - Education, as a whole, has been criticized as a political hack and changing the name should not generate that much more criticism of education
- Concern that it might cause confusion for students on what that department is
  - This is guided by DPI so if a student were to go out and search for licensure it would still take them to the appropriate place as it will not change our prefix
- Contested nature
  - PI 34 addresses justice issues so to be responsible it addresses educating for equity and justice
    - Is part of our calling and we have an obligation to fight whatever fight comes along because of that
      - It is our responsibility

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

**VOTE on MOTION: PASSED**

b) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee

Watershed Institute for Collaborative Environmental Studies Program Name Change

Debate

- None

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

**VOTE on MOTION: PASSED**

c) First Reading: Motion from the Compensation & Budget Committee

2019-2021 Comprehensive Salary Plan Revisions

- Language to address legislature budgeting would be beneficial
  - This is a stop gap measure but could be addressed in later plans
- Assuming this is possible we want to make this as easy to administer as possible

Debate

- This is only for 2019-2021 and it is really for the January 2% that we are addressing
- System and regent policy mandate minimums for professorship but not for academic or university staff

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

7) Announcements

- The next meeting of the University Senate is scheduled for November 10, 2020

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney  
Secretary to the University Senate