

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE  
UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING  
VOLUME 57, NUMBER 5**

**November 10, 2020**

**Members Present:**

Jan Adams, Warren Anderson, Roxanne Backowski, Robert Berg, James Boulter, Wayne Carroll, Jasmine Case, Grace Crickette, Bart Dahl, Chip Eckardt, Mary Elger-Lonzarich, 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, Dalete Mota, Kelly Murray, David Nesvacil, Susan O'Brien, Neil Ostlund, Geoff Peterson, Linda Pratt, Barb Ritzinger, Jim Rybicki, Jonathan Rylander, Kristin Schaupp, Lisa Schiller, James Schmidt, Daniel Schumacher, Alyssa Slaby, Charlotte Sortedahl, Pedro Sottile, Thomas Storm, Tom Sulzer, Andrew Suralski, Jamie Tester Morfoot, Ka Vang, Charles Vue, Isabel Walters, Ryan Weichelt, Evan Weiher, Katie Wilson

**Members Absent:**

Jose Alvergue, Ari Anand, Lisa Coen, Jeff Erger, Bill Miller

**Guests:**

Ann Aschenbrenner, MJ Brukart, Mike Carney, Margaret Cassidy, Billy Felz, Rod Freitag, Mary Hoffman, Debra Jansen, Troy Kozma, Carmen Manning, Leah Olson-McBride, Marc Mc Ellistrem, Brent Opall, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, Louisa Rice, Dang Yang, Linda Young

The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:02 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 via an online Teams meeting.

- 1) Approval of the October 27, 2020 University Senate minutes
  - Approved as distributed
- 2) Administrator Remarks
  - COVID
    - An email was recently distributed from the Chancellor's Office providing updates
    - We recently saw a spike last week of 25 new cases
      - We somewhat expected a rise from Halloween
    - We are dramatically increasing testing and decided that all on campus students are to be tested weekly
    - Started antigen testing on Thursday with some new Federal partnership dollars
      - Received additional staffing to do this
        - Credit given to System President Thompson for obtaining those federal resources
      - We are segregating the testing process from the rest of the building and this testing also extends to asymptomatic testing
    - We continue to watch what is happening but right now we are following our calendar
    - Encourage those to be tested before they leave for Thanksgiving and then again when you come back
    - Working the best as we can to keep things safe
    - No evidence of transmission in the classroom or the work environment
    - We continue to work with the experts, and they feel the students are safer on campus as they are then in a structured environment
    - Weekly testing is recommended, and it is no cost, and the testing is open
    - If the antigen test is positive, then PCR testing will be given 15 minutes later
    - Have consulted with the Executive Committee and will consult with the students as we may not have a full week off for spring break
      - If we decide to alter the calendar, then administration will come back to the Executive Committee
    - Antigen testing for domestic partners is allowed
      - Basically, the testing is for anyone in the employee's household

- Concern that the Health Department recommends that after a visit with family for Thanksgiving that you should quarantine or stay home for 14 days and testing is only one mechanism used to mitigate
  - Seems like we will have no choice on going virtual after Thanksgiving if we follow the guidelines of the Health Department
  - We have the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest cases for UW campuses so moving remotely needs to be taken seriously as the “wait and see” approach seems to bring us more cases
  - There is a lot of anxiety over COVID and all are encouraged to not travel but if we follow the protocols then we think our classroom environments are safe
    - Worried about peer pressure of not wearing a mask when the students go home so it’s better if they stay here
      - We will continue to watch
    - Understand that uncertainty creates anxiety but there is also a concern that students do not do as well with online schooling
    - There are so many feelings on how to proceed and we will not please everyone
  - One professor said 80% of his students plan to travel for Thanksgiving so it is not realistic to ask them not to travel
    - Thanksgiving is a superspreading event
  - The Mayo Clinic data isn’t good so curious what types of evidence would be persuasive
    - We look at where the spread is, for example, the dorm, classroom, labs, etc. and we have not seen spread in those areas or with our off-campus students
  - Today we have had 5 positive tests
  - Chancellor Schmidt might be more liberal with our snow policies being we are more online than we used to be in the past
  - Concern that there is a gender imbalance for caregiving, so it is likely to impact women more than others so as UWEC weighs everything then hope that this gets taken into consideration
  - Thank you to all the work that faculty and staff have been doing as they have been bending over backwards
  - The positivity rates on our Dashboard are only reflecting the PCR tests
    - Only asymptomatic people take an antigen test
      - Asymptomatic people take the antigen test and if that comes back positive then they are (within 15 minutes) given a PCR so that is why we only report the PCR results
        - We don’t want to double count people
  - People report that the antigen testing went smoothly
  - Students who are roommates in a dorm are considered a household
    - Dorms have not been a source of great threat so that is why we pushed for off-campus students to have the testing as well
  - Antigen positives are considered probable even if positive so that is why we only use PCR tests for positivity rating
  - Face to face teaching at the beginning of a semester is different than at the end of the semester as it is viewed that the “stuff” at the beginning is way more important and it is our responsibility to consider the community as every student that leaves will be traveling back to their home county
    - By students being here we have that structure that the students need in addition to the social pressure to wear a mask and they have testing available to them
  - Racing for Justice speakers is happening tonight
    - The announcements were not in Blugold briefing or in the calendar so need to word out to the community
    - More communication will come out about the upcoming speakers

### 3) Reports

#### a) Report from University Senate Chair Weiher

- At Senate Executive Committee we discussed the following:
  - At the previous Senate meeting, an administrator (a dean) provided some additional information regarding a question on a motion
  - They included with their comments they advocated for the motion
    - Chair Weiher reminded guests that we welcome their input, but please do not speak for or against a motion
  - We talked a lot about Thanksgiving & returning to class
  - We talked about faculty and staff mental health and morale over the election and after and the discussion broadened to the state of higher ed
  - We also discussed the two-week payroll plan and passed a resolution against that plan
    - We will hear more later as the resolution will be presented

- Chair Weiher met new Regent Kyle Weatherly but Chair Weiher wasn't "able" to attend the lunch meeting
  - No motions have been signed/returned
- b) Faculty Representatives Report – Senator Peterson
- Met with System last Friday
  - The biweekly pay plan got the most discussion
    - System determined that there are cost savings to move everyone to biweekly pay
    - It would start in February and the concern is that all deductions will be taken out of first check then then deductions would be split after that
    - This timeframe makes it difficult for many to adjust their budgets prior to implementation
    - System said they would provide sessions to teach you how to talk to your lenders
    - Might not happen in February anyway due to technology issues
- c) Academic Staff Representatives Report – Senator Case
- No report as they will be meeting on Thursday
- 4) Special Orders
- a) Election for Chair-Elect

**Nominee:**

Evan Weiher, Biology

**Without objection, by acclamation, Evan Weiher is elected as the Chair-Elect**

- 5) Unfinished Business
- a) Second Reading: Motion from the Compensation & Budget Committee

Continued Debate

- None

**VOTE on MOTION: PASSED**

- 6) New Business
- a) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee  
Course Repeat Policy
- There could be an additional need for a student who is continuing to further their education so they might need to take a course
    - Approval could then be granted by a department
      - If a student had a good case, then it may be approved
  - This gives the department the option
  - This is not about a repeat but about a student trying to game the system
  - This doesn't mean that a student can't repeat a class
  - Some courses automatically flag in registration, but all courses are not set up that way, so this is an attempt to catch some of those that get through the system
  - It leaves the decision-making process to the department and the student as it will not automatically happen
  - The decision lies within the college's discretion
  - Some majors have a GPA requirement for admission, so some students need to retake classes to be admitted to that major
  - Concern over placement of this language
  - This is a case by case basis as we don't want unintended consequences

Debate

- Language isn't clear on what the policy is intending
- At the discretion of the department or college it may be allowed
- Concerned about how it would be used for general prerequisites as sometimes content is not overlapping
  - Is discretionary to the departments/deans
    - Could make a case for lack of connectedness

**MOTION to amend the language to read:** Enrolling in a course that is a prerequisite for a course already passed may not be **dis**allowed by the department or college offering the course, and place this in the registration part of the catalog in addition to the repeat section, seconded

Debate on amendment

- Could go back to APC for clarification

**VOTE on AMENDMENT: FAILED**

**MOTION to send back to committee, seconded**

Debate on motion to send back to committee

- None

**VOTE on MOTION to send back to committee: PASSED**

- b) First Reading: Motion from the University Senate Executive Committee Resolution in Opposition on the Implementation of Biweekly Payroll
- The implementation in February was because they thought they could get it done by then
  - After February, the benefits will be divided but in February they aren't implementing this until after the first paycheck so that is why they will take all deductions out of one check
  - Sick leave reporting every two weeks went unanswered, but it seems probable
    - Concern that it adds workload to the chair
  - Seems they need more time to sort this out
  - UW System Shared Services has had problems with other things that they have implemented so concerned that we are doing this in the middle of the semester

Debate

- Time is of the essence
- HR had no mention of deductions being front loaded
  - System HR very clearly said that yes, that was a problem with the February check
  - David Miller may not have known this when he sent out the email, but he should be made aware of this as well as share other implications and clarify how reporting is to be done

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

**VOTE on MOTION: PASSED**

7) Announcements

- The next meeting of the University Senate is scheduled for November 24, 2020
- After adjournment there will be a discussion with UPC on the Strategic Plan and feedback will be solicited

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney  
Secretary to the University Senate