

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

Minutes from November 17, 2020
Volume 57, Number 6

Present: 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: Warren Anderson, Grace Crickette

Guests: Mike Carney, Margaret Cassidy, Jean Pratt, Christina Prust, Katie Wilson

A meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:01 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 via online (Microsoft Teams) meeting.

- 1) Approval of the University Senate Executive Committee Minutes of November 3, 2020
 - Approved as distributed
- 2) Arts & Sciences Dean Search Committee membership rules
 - From Wayne Carroll: On behalf of my staff and faculty colleagues on the Dean Search Committee in the College of Arts and Sciences, we would like for the Provost to be given permission to appoint an additional person to our search committee in order to provide another voice representing diverse and underrepresented perspectives in our search. We are strong advocates for EDI initiatives in the university community, and we recognize that our advocacy can be even more effective if these voices are heard more clearly on the committee.
 - This is an irregular request but since the faculty voted for the faculty members on the committee and the Provost could only appoint one additional member it was asked that they would like the Provost to appoint one more member to ensure diversity
 - This plus one will come from A&S and fit a diversity category
 - We have representation of gender and the plus one should come from A&S
 - This seems to be becoming a habit so perhaps we need to look at revising the FASRP language
 - If we want this avenue open for administrators, then we need to make a change to the rules
 - It is unfortunate that this is a continuous trend
 - This needs to be an intentional lens to ensure we don't have to have these continuous conversations
 - Sometimes the way people vote dilutes other people
 - This is a symptom of a lack of diversity
 - Applaud the committee for trying to right this wrong

MOTION to allow the Provost to add an additional member to the A&S Dean Search Committee, seconded

VOTE on MOTION: PASSED

- 3) Open Forum
 - Holiday Break
 - Looking at how we can save some dollars at the university so looked at the upcoming holiday break
 - Our last regular day is December 23rd and then we are back in session on January 4th
 - That is an 11-day period between those days but 9 of the 11 days, the institution is not regularly open, so the Chancellor is proposing closing the university over this time period as we would then have some environmental savings (\$40,000-\$60,000) as we can turn the heat down

- The savings would come back directly to us
- Comment on how this might impact Admissions as this is a popular time for prospective students and their parents to come visit the university
 - Chancellor Schmidt to check with Admissions
- This proposal is supported because during this timeframe is often a struggle to staff offices
 - Our 12-month employees and our university staff are always the ones to support the offices during this time so they would appreciate this
 - Concern about Registrar's Office in terms of and degree reviews, etc.
 - Many staff can work remotely
 - Phillips Hall can't unplug instrumentation or impact the humidity in the building
 - Phillips Hall would probably be left as is
 - Need to remember the Residence halls and the support for students that cannot leave the campus
- Chancellor will also get feedback from university staff
 - Winterim class instructors will need to let LTS or departments know far enough in advance so they can schedule any support they may need
- Barnes and Noble
 - Chancellor Schmidt recently met with Barnes and Noble
 - The impact was explained and what a steep hill they must climb as they have lost face
 - Sounds like they will provide free shipping labels and discounts as well as reimburse us 100% for all the student and staff time
 - We will still evaluate if this contract works for us or if we will look at self-operation, but they are taking this matter very seriously
 - Chancellor explained to them all the barriers that UWEC and the students encountered
 - Barnes and Noble is preparing a communication to fall faculty, staff, and students
- Weiher asked VC Crickette to come talk with us but that will most likely happen next semester
- Open Classes
 - Looking forward to spring semester and the possibility that we might have seats open in certain classes so would be nice to allow employees to register
 - Would start Spring 2021
 - Maybe registration could happen earlier
 - This would be an employee benefit
 - There is a limit of \$5000 in tuition because then it's a different tax situation
 - Would allow up to 5-credit course(s) per term
 - Your supervisor would approve it and determine the compensatory time, but time should be able to be made up
 - Early registration allows time to alter schedules
 - This is for courses for credit, but faculty used to be able to sign up for a class that was not for credit
 - May have been form through the Registrar's Office and it didn't require a supervisor's permission
 - Provost Kleine to look into this
 - Is a way for staff to pick up some skills and it supports lifelong learning
 - Special course fees would still need to be paid
 - The employees will have to get a decent grade
- Spring Break
 - Did not announce yet that there will be no spring break, but it was felt that students may need some mental health days during that time
 - Those days will not be on a Monday or a Friday
 - Need to roll out whatever we do out quickly as people are already making plans
 - Labs go all week long so this would not go over well
 - Nursing clinicals for undergraduates could be impacted in both Eau Claire and Marshfield
 - We are better off just cancelling it and moving forward as this would create more chaos than it solves
 - This would be too complex to pull off
 - Is a good gesture from administration but this will not work

- Random days off makes things more difficult
 - This modality is difficult, so feel like the students need time off and the days off would be published
 - The students asked for 3 days and then we could end the semester 2 days early
 - Concern mentioned of the possibility of more suicide attempts if the students don't get time away
 - This is an impossible year
 - Concern that some faculty would cancel the whole week if one of two lab days were cancelled
 - Labs might be out of sequence, but we are dealing with that now with Thanksgiving as that always throws the labs off
 - This is just moving that lab experience to a different time for the student
 - We are shifting days, not cancelling
 - COVID testing site
 - Appreciate the extension of the additional satellite site at Memorial High School
 - Email about getting rid of Skype and the h drive for students
 - We do use those drives so hoping we are not getting rid of the other drives that we use everyday
 - Will probably not get rid of the local drive, but the problem is that we can't afford to give students that kind of disk space
 - COVID
 - COVID rates still increasing so curious if there has been any indication that the COVID leave will extend past the end of the year
 - Not known as it is connected to Cares Act funding
 - Chancellor can ask but assumes that its tied to federal legislation
 - Questioning what the institution can do to support our people if no additional funding is allocated
 - If quarantined, then you can work from home if you are able
 - We are working with System to allow faculty and staff to use sick leave and still allow the donation of sick leave
 - We have expanded testing
 - Final exams are scheduled but some students don't have final in their schedule since their class was moved to online and this is problematic as the class doesn't even have a listing
 - Provost Kleine to follow up on this
- 4) Review of tentative agenda for November 27, 2020 meeting of the University Senate
- Approved as amended
 - First readings from APC
 - Course registration policy
 - Winterim service-learning requirement suspension
- 5) Announcements
- Marquell Johnson is seeking reelection to school board so he is asking for signatures so please contact him if interested in signing

Meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate