Members Present:

Members Absent:
Jan Adams, Jose Alvergue, Ari Anand, Lisa Coen, Grace Crickette, Jeff Erger, Peter Hart-Brinson, Pat Kleine, Sean McAleer, Daniel Schumacher

Guests:
MJ Brukardt, Margaret Cassidy, Emily Herwig, Mary Hoffman, Debra Jansen, Carmen Manning, Marc McEllistrem, Nichole Owen, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek

The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:02 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 via an online Teams meeting.

1) Approval of the November 24, 2020 University Senate minutes
   • Approved as distributed

2) Administrator Remarks
   • 61 days of in person instruction took place fall semester
   • This added a lot of work and burden to our faculty, instructors, and staff
   • Thanks to VC Warren Anderson and VC Grace Crickette for spearheading our COVID response
   • Chancellor is optimistic about spring
   • Planning to come back in person February 1st
   • We will have no spring break but will end a week early
   • Spring return should be positive
   • Asking students to come back a week early so they can be tested twice before returning to class
      • Students will not be charged anything more for that extra week
   • Regular testing with the Blugold flight plan and the app has made a positive difference
   • Many appropriations run out at the end of the year so hoping to have everything we need for spring semester before then
   • Students who are on campus get tested once a week and off campus students get tested every two weeks
   • We are seeing a drop in the number of first year students
   • Last year at this time we had 214 enrolled freshman who had not yet registered for spring but right now we have 425 who are not yet registered
      • We are reaching out to students
   • Provost Kleine and Chancellor will be virtually having commencement next week
      • It will be different but hopefully special
   • Foundation is giving entire class of 2020 a Blugold spirit award
   • Monday a link will be sent so you can join the virtual commencement if you want to
   • Tomorrow at 5 the Chancellor will have a briefing
      • Is a good way to share information and answer questions

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• We are in a decent position compared to other universities
• Hope all of you take time to unplug after the semester, especially during our 11-day break
• We will continue to keep an eye on everything
• Hoping we will be in person come February 1st
• CDC moved quarantine from 14 days to 10 days and possibly as little as 7 days with a negative COVID test
• We might be eligible to get early vaccine
• CoNHS is prepared to be on the front lines for administration
• Haven’t gotten a report back on those students who dropped out
  • Freshman class was also down by 9%
• 3 types of testing in spring
  • Antigen, PCR and a take home test
  • Bimix test is an antigen test that has been reliable
  • Looking at a spit test

3) Reports
   a) Report from University Senate Chair Weiher
      • Motions that have been approved/received by the Chancellor:
        • 2019-2020 Comprehensive Salary Plan Revisions
        • Resolution Opposing Biweekly Payroll
        • Winterim Service-Learning Suspension
      • At our last Senate Executive Committee meeting we discussed
        • Spring Break update was given
        • Consult on the Search and Screen Search for the Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion and Student Affairs
        • Talked with a representative from the UW System Women, Gender and Caregiving Taskforce
        • Information hub was discussed and encourage all to participate in their upcoming survey
        • Spring Enrollment Update
        • APC decided not to move forward on disallowing registration due to few cases, implementation issues and it prohibits registration via a course update
        • Taskforce evaluation rubrics were developed to help employees and evaluators have a conversation and context on how COVID has impacted our work
        • Would like to see the rubrics brought forward to supervisors
        • ASPC and FPC was asked to look into those rubrics
   b) Faculty Representatives Report – Senator Peterson
      • Met Friday
      • Most of the discussion centered around COVID and enrollment numbers
      • May be allowed to delay tenure and promotion
      • Discussed financial impacts on campus
        • Whitewater is looking at enormous losses with funding
        • Looking at emergency program closure process as they might close ¼ of their departments
        • $5 million loss this fiscal year and $12-$15 million on the following fiscal year
        • There is a need for program prioritization
      • The joint session was very disorganized with most discussion centered around making meetings more organized
      • Most campuses reporting much larger drops in spring enrollment compared to fall than UWEC
   c) Academic Staff Representatives Report – Senator Case
      • Updates from each campus with most being COVID and budget related
      • Some looking at lay-offs
      • Hoping Interim UW System President Thompson works with shared governance as this happens
   d) For the Record: Academic Policies Committee
      New CIE Placement in PUCV Chile

Without objection, this item will be entered For the Record
4) New Business
   a) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee
      Suspension of Service-Learning for Spring and Summer 2021

Debate
   - Those that voted against this motion were because it was thought that students still had time to complete this requirement and didn’t want service learning to be undervalued
     - Students also have practicums so why can’t we also complete service-learning
     - We have also not asked for other graduation requirements to be waived
     - Seems a little early to suspend these requirements for summer
     - We have given students time to plan
   - In this virtual age our students can still do things virtually
     - Is a way to be involved in our communities
   - Curious if there is any sort of middle ground where students can be able to petition
     - This would be a waiver is for all
       - For efficiency purposes seems to make sense to make it a blanket waiver
   - Work can be done from home or from a dorm room for service-learning
   - Associate deans stated that from around Thanksgiving there were more than 525 students who have not completed service-learning with only 50 some opportunities listed
   - Activities that could have been a part of the course can’t be done so the students already get credit for that
   - Is about living up to the spirit of the course
   - Faculty have made modifications and adjustments as we move through this
   - Is not equitable to all students
   - There are multiple opportunities for students
   - Concerns about virtual service-learning
     - Learning with service opportunities is being in an organization and meeting those clients and learning about poverty
     - Virtual opportunities might have service but not learning
   - Appearances
     - Concern about students not having that break to catch up mid-semester
     - We are doing in person classes and yet we can’t have spring break
     - If we can’t send message that it can be virtual then it seems hypocritical
     - Only seems like it is because something we value so its ok
     - We have online opportunities for service-learning
       - Students can be helping the EC school district with data on homeless program and poverty in our district
   - Still a capacity concern
   - What proportion of students create their own service-learning
     - Not sure if the 500 of those still required will have those requirements taken care of via coursework
     - Senator Johnson could look into this
   - Students have much stress and have sick and dying family members and we will be without staff members for support, so this sounds like this is a reasonable option at this time
   - Advisors have never seen the students so stressed about their registration and family situations right now
   - Senate should prepare to debate the value of service-learning on our campus
   - High impact practice might come to Senate
   - If students want to volunteer at Memorial to help guide vehicles for COVID testing as well as be a contact tracer those opportunities are available

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

VOTE on MOTION: PASSED

5) Announcements
   - The next meeting of the University Senate is scheduled for February 9, 2021
   - Remember that we will be nominating and electing the Vice-Chair elect so if you have question please reach out to Chip Eckart, Chair Weiher or Tanya Kenney
     - Information on the position and the time assignment for that can also be found on page 24 of the FASRP
   - PPPC met on Monday and will have a campus-wide listening session for supporting cessation and prevention on January 28\textsuperscript{th} from 1-2:30 pm
• Zoom meeting materials were shared
• Supporting Cessation and Prevention: Toward a Commercial Tobacco-Free Campus draft proposal was shared
• This is a listening session and would like to get input so please come to the discussion
• UPC draft proposal
  • Is troubling that initiatives are implied on personnel decisions and plans are being decided that impact undergraduate education
  • University Senate is the body that approves or endorses such plans through APC
  • Two bullet points were read that impacted curricula
  • UPC is collecting information from stakeholders but the process of collecting is not shared after that data collection phase
    • There is no formal process
  • UPC is an appointed committee by the chancellor
  • Identity discussions are about liberal education, not lead innovation in health sciences and well-being so this is troubling
  • In an environment where we are reviewed there is a concern that this could be used in a way that is not how we intend
    • If your unit doesn’t connect with this then they might have a problem
    • It puts pressure on departments
• Senate should be driving this process, not UPC
  • Since this is reshaping the university then Senate should have a voice
• This plan should come through Senate
• UPC is trying to revise the draft document and UPC will bring a more complete document to Senate in February

MOTION by Senator Peterson for Senate to endorse the University Planning Committees UPC 5-year Strategic Plan goals for distinction from the draft document dated October 14, 2020, seconded

Debate
  • Concern that a new version will be out in February

VOTE on MOTION to take place at the second reading in February

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary to the University Senate