

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

Minutes from February 2, 2021  
Volume 57, Number 8

Present: Jasmine Case, Chip Eckardt, Billy Felz, Abbey Fischer, Elizabeth Glogowski, Marquell Johnson, Patricia Kleine, Bridget Kurtenbach, John Mann, Colleen Marchwick, Jill Markgraf, Sean McAleer, Kelly Murray, Kristin Schaupp, James Schmidt, Charlotte Sortedahl, Pedro Sottile, Ka Vang, Ryan Weichelt, Evan Weiher

Absent: Grace Crickette, Geoffrey Peterson

Guests: Mike Carney, Margaret Cassidy, Debra Jansen, Teresa O' Halloran, Nichole Owen, Jean Pratt, Christina Prust, Charles Vue, Katie Wilson

A meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:01 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 via online (Microsoft Teams) meeting.

- 1) Approval of the University Senate Executive Committee Minutes of December 1, 2020
  - Approved as distributed
- 2) Open Forum
  - Legislative Fiscal Bureau Update Budget
    - Looks like we are coming in ahead so there should be no change in the cuts to UW System
    - We took cuts last fiscal year and this fiscal year so in the coming biennium, we will argue that we already took cuts
    - We will most likely not get restored any monies that were already taken from us
    - Concern that UW System falling behind in many metrics so discussions should be had, and we should be given autonomy in saving our livelihoods
    - We hosted a legislative hearing with citizen panel members on racial disparities and it was shared that education is a key to unlocking this disparity as we want to close the opportunity gap
    - They are taking away everything except the bare minimum needed to operate
    - Tommy Thompson is willing to fight for us
    - Only Missouri has cut less than us
  - Vaccinations
    - University is in the next phase
    - We have been planning and the distribution has been being discussed
    - Prevea wanted to host vaccinations on campus but in the end decided to use a church parking lot but they will still host vaccination clinics for our university
      - We are certified to vaccinate on campus
        - Will vaccinate faculty, staff and eventually students
        - Zorn will be used to run vaccination clinics and we have all the staff needed to run that
          - Will be teamed up with National Guards people as the Guards do all the administrative things so the professional can vaccinate
    - We can do 1000 vaccinations a day, so we just need the vaccines in hand
      - We have a plan but are waiting to get the vaccines
    - Everyone over the age 65 can now get vaccinated
    - We are part of 1B
    - Request that communication be sent on how we are prioritizing
    - The communication is a little disjointed
    - Would like to see as many as we can to get vaccinated
    - Is hard to schedule people as you never know how many doses you will get
      - In the State of WI: 269,000 requests were made last week but only had 70,000 available
    - In prioritizing the age 65 and older hopefully those that are deemed essential are also taken into consideration

- Many are but we still have to follow county guidelines
    - Does include all instructors and others who have face to face contact
  - Barron County campus is a vaccination site, and they are being handled out of that county office
    - We can help with the actual vaccinations if need be but do not think that will be needed
  - Pay
    - A nice template or form for how pay distribution will happen for faculty would be beneficial
  - COVID testing is going well as we are testing over 1000 people a day
    - We sent a letter of support from UWEC in support of a mask ordinance
    - Will be doing another university briefing on February 18<sup>th</sup> so will also meet with the Emergency Management Team on February 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Strategic Plan
    - The plan has gone through many changes
    - Feedback has been sought and many are excited about the plan that has been laid out
    - Will start to see a roll out soon and have more campus conversations
    - This is a five-year plan to try to get us ready for 2025
  - CVTC security incident
    - They were hacked and not able to get into multiple accounts
      - They just implemented duo authentication so that's good
      - The Department of Justice is now involved so it is a big deal
    - Where is UWEC with cyber security
      - We have duo authentication, but we are constantly hacked so we keep trying to keep ahead of the hackers
      - 30% of Russia's profits are ransomware attacks
      - We are in much better shape than CVTC
- 3) Review of the tentative agenda for February 9, 2021 meeting of the University Senate
- Approved as amended
    - Under new business add 3 new motions from APC
      - Learning Disabilities, Minor - Teaching – EA/A and MC-EA Suspension
      - Emotional Behavioral Disabilities (EBD) 1-12, Certificate Suspension
      - Intellectual Disabilities (ID) 1-12, Certificate Suspension
- 4) Statement on Class Participation
- Chair Weiher had gotten a complaint about a comment in the Blugold FYI
    - Students have the greatest level of success when they participate in classes in the format in which they were designed. The expectation for spring semester is that any student who is not ill, in quarantine or does not have a university-approved absence will attend class in the format directed by the instructor. It is important that students and instructors distinguish between attendance (simply being present in person or online) and participation (actively completing learning activities in person or online). **Instructors will not factor simple attendance into the grading formula.** However, they may factor in points for participation in activities or discussions in class. Students who are ill or in quarantine will be provided with opportunities to make up those points. Instructors will contact students this week to share information on when students are assigned to participate in hybrid classes in person.
  - The comment on attendance crossed a line
    - Seems like it should be a suggestion and we should be urged but Academic Affairs should not mandate us
  - Many faculty were challenged by the students last semester so near the end of the semester an email was sent to students urging them to participate
  - Student Senate and parents were also not happy with the Provost about this statement, but the intention was to reinforce the expectation that students attend class
  - UWEC is still in the position that if a student feels ill then they should not come to campus so in effect, excuses their absence for that day
  - If student missed class, then the student needs to be provided with alternatives, so we are trying to minimize this and disincentivize the absence
    - It was to put the control back in the hands of the instructor
  - We still expect the student does the work as this pandemic is not a free pass

- Concern that it was not brought through APC or shared governance
  - We all have different levels of interpretations so it will be interpreted differently
    - The intent of the message could be misinterpreted
  - Is about participation, not just attendance
  - Some appreciated the comment
- 5) Announcements
- APC is seeking new members so please consider your nomination

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Tanya Kenney  
Secretary of the University Senate