Members Present:

Members Absent:
Jose Alvergue, Wayne Carroll, Grace Crickette, Christa Garvey, Gail Hanson Brenner, Nichole Miller, Susan O'Brien, Jamie Tester Morfoot, Ka Vang

Guests:
MJ Brukardt, Mike Carney, Margaret Cassidy, Catherine Chan, Kyran Hamill, Mary Hoffman, Debra Jansen, Corrynn Mahnke, Teresa O'Halloran, Nichole Owen, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushieck

The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:01 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 via an online Teams meeting.

1) Approval of the December 8, 2020 University Senate minutes
   • Approved as distributed

2) Administrator Remarks
   • Welcome back to spring semester
   • Selika Ducksworth-Lawton received the 2021 Board of Regents Diversity Award and UW-Eau Claire’s Counseling Services is the recipient of a UW System Board of Regents Diversity Award for 2021
     • This is the first time that a campus been named for both awards
     • That is an amazing recognition
   • Dr. Martin Luther King celebration will be held virtually tomorrow at 5
   • Bias incident report
     • There was a recent social media post that was reported as a bias incident report
     • This does not support our mission
     • We have an intentional process for incidents like this
     • Shout out to our staff that work to eliminate this type of behavior
     • The Bias Incidence Reporting Team (BIRT) met and are working on this
     • Our goal is learning and restorative justice
     • FERPA does not allow us to release information on this matter but we have been responsive, and we are taking action
     • VC O’Halloran is reaching out to organizations on campus and will look at the Blugold Code of Conduct
     • Changes in code of conduct can be made
     • Dialog and learning opportunities are important and will be holding a training on how to use BIRT and Constitutional Studies for campus conversations
     • These are issues that reflect on our broader society
     • Restoration support will be a focus this semester
     • We will begin with the end in mind then figure out what it takes to get there as we are an educational institution, and we want to be an antiracist campus
   • At the Board meeting last week $6.7 million was approved for Haas
• Work will take place this summer and next summer and it should greatly approve the sound quality of that building
• We are back on campus this semester
• We have responded well to COVID and continue to follow the Blugold flight plan
• Students are safest being on campus and the testing and isolating is working
• This fall we expanded testing and are giving about 1000 tests a day
• All are encouraged to test as often as you would like
• Vaccines
  • We have two locations for mass vaccination clinics that are identified on campus
  • Working daily with the County Health Department
  • Most staff are eligible in the 1b category
• Next Tuesday at 5 there will be a Chancellor’s briefing that will include updates on enrollment as well as the budget and the 2025 Strategic Plan
• Draft to go out next week
  • It changed significantly

3) Reports
   a) Report from University Senate Chair Weiher

Without objection, Rahul Gomes will serve as the Computer Science representative

• Welcome new senators
  • Scott Clark
  • Rebecca Wyland
  • Rahul Gomes
• An updated strategic plan will be released on February 15th and Chair Weiher asked the University Planning Committee to come to Senate
  • They will be at our February 23 meeting to discuss and answer questions
• Chair Weiher has been to several University Emergency Response team meetings and meetings with EC County Health Department
• Most important items:
  • As you know there is a vaccine shortage, two weeks ago across the state there were requests for nearly 300,000 vaccine doses but only 70,000 were distributed
  • There is no transparency at the state level for how they are being distributed, but the head of the EC County Health Department, Leiske Giese, is on a taskforce that is looking into making the process more open and fair
  • The County health dept. website has a lot of information about vaccinations so check that.
  • Vice Chancellor Crickette has readied us to convert Zorn Arena into a mass vaccination clinic within less than 24 hours and the EC County Health Department is ready to assist with the logistics
  • Student Health has vaccinated our health care workers and some others in group 1A
  • VC Crickette is also managing the prioritization of people in group 1B; it based on risk so childcare workers and air handling maintenance and some others need to go next
  • Hoping a priority plan will be shared soon
• Over the weekend Chair Weiher read part of a preprint of a very carefully done study on student evaluations; bottom line only after controlling for student’s ratings of difficulty do student overall ratings predict student success in later courses
  • Chair Weiher will send out the link
• At our last Senate Executive Committee meeting we discussed the budget, but mostly vaccines
  • 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
• Chair Weiher complained to the Provost and Associate Vice Chancellor about the wording of the statement on attendance policy and grading because that is really the business of the Academic Policies Committee and they responded at the meeting
• Ryan Weichelt asked about how the two-week pay plan conversion in the summer and fall
  • Chair Weiher has additional information from David Miller and he will send it out soon as it might be of particular interest to those in 9-month positions

b) Faculty Representatives Report – Senator Peterson
• Met January 22
• Majority of the discussion was around COVID
4) State of search for UW System President
   - Late summer or early fall that search will be kicked off
   - Interim UW System President Thompson runs through end of 2021 so want search completed before contract expires
   - Will be going back to old model in terms of the size of the committee

   - Campus efforts on program prioritization
   - Some institutions may need to make dramatic cuts
     - Whitewater is not in good shape
   - The COVID App that is available on your phone so if someone has COVID and they are next to you then your phone notifies you – it actually works

c) Academic Staff Representatives Report – Senator Case
   - None

d) NCUR 2023
   - Will be hosted at UWEC in 2023
   - NCUR will be giving quarterly reports to Senate
   - Handouts given and the Executive summary describes the background, logistics, etc.
   - Hosting idea exchanges can’t be done in person so those will be held virtually
     - January 22nd one was held on academics and planning
     - February 19th there will be one on logistics and partnerships and it is open to all
     - March (date to be determined) we would like to open it up to students as well as we also want students to be engaged
       - Will also go to the Student Senate as they can have student leadership roles
   - Great opportunity for us and it will put us in the national spotlight
   - Is a good way to promote undergraduate research and it will facilitate growth and may create new collaborations and cross collaborations
     - Consider ways you can contribute through your research
   - Want to keep the excitement going
   - Share this information with our unit and departments to encourage faculty and staff to participate in the idea challenges and we strongly encourage you to volunteer for positions in a leadership role
   - Senate was asked to endorse and support the conference days to be noninstructional days as we want the students to be heavily involved and many institutional spaces will be needed for presentations
   - Questions:
     - If interested in a Voluntary leadership position can notify us through a survey in Blugold FYI or through the NCUR email at: ncur2023@uwec.edu
     - Can be used for questions or to show interest
     - All co-chairs are also available to be contacted
     - Many titles are vague and partly by design as the structure is still being developed but nothing is set in stone
       - Want campus community to express interest then we can design around that

4) Special Orders
   a) Nomination(s) and Election for Vice-Chair Elect

   University Senate Vice-Chair elect: Must be elected from among the current academic staff members of the University Senate
   Term: 2-year term, taking office July 1st and will serve on the Executive Committee

   Nominees:
   Chip Eckardt, LTS

   Elected as the Vice-Chair elect: Chip Eckardt, LTS

   b) Elections – Elections for University Senate and University-wide Committees

   Academic Policies Committee
   Continuing members:
   Marquell Johnson, Kinesiology, EHS
   Bill Miller, Accounting, BUS
Report of the University-wide Nominating Committee

Nominees:
Scott Clark, Geology, 2023
Rahul Gomes, Computer Science, 2021

Nominations from the floor: None

Elected to Academic Policies Committee: Scott Clark, Geology, 2023 and Rahul Gomes, Computer Science, 2021

5) Unfinished Business
   a) Second Reading: Motion from Senator Peterson
      Endorsement of UPC Strategic Plan

      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

      MOVED to postpone this motion indefinitely, seconded

      Debate on motion
      • None

      VOTE on MOTION to POSTPONE INDEFINITELY: PASSED

6) New Business
   a) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee
      Learning Disabilities, Minor – Teaching EA/A and MC-EA Suspension

      Debate
      • None

      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
      Emotional Behavioral Disabilities (EBD) 1-12, Certificate Suspension

      Debate
      • None
Without objection, we can suspend the rules and vote on this today

VOTE on MOTION: PASSED

c) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee Intellectual Disabilities (ID) 1-12, Certificate Suspension Debate

Debate
  • None

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 February 23, 2021

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Kenney
Secretary to the University Senate