The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:01 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 via an online Teams meeting.

1) Approval of the February 9, 2021 University Senate minutes
   • Approved as distributed

2) Administrator Remarks
   • Congratulations to WISYS Innovator of the Year, Liz Glogowski
     • Her work involved Polymers to decrease the environmental cost of paints and stains
   • Thank everyone to helping us all stay safe
   • COVID
     • UWEC is testing nearly 1000 people a day in Zorn Arena and we maybe get 4 positives a day so that is pretty good with all things considered
     • Our campus vaccination site is ready to go once we get the vaccinations
   • Racial and Restorative Justice appointments were announced
   • Please support this important work if they reach out to you
   • The announcement of the recent State budget was outstanding news, but it has not yet finalized
     • Chancellor Schmidt will continue to advocate for higher education
   • The capital budget is now out but our Health Science building was not included
     • Shout out to the community and the Chamber of Commerce for their support
     • We will still move forward with the planning and Chancellor Schmidt will still want to plan out a firm calendar for the rest of this process in hopes of keeping it moving forward
   • Interim System President Thompson is talking about merging the two-year institutions with the technical colleges, but these are preliminary talks as no proposals have been brought forward
     • Will learn more as the conversations proceed
   • Thompson announced that System will move to at least 75% in person instruction the fall
     • Feel confident about what the fall can look like
     • We put safety as our number one priority
     • We will work for an engaged presence
     • UWEC led UW System in offering face to face courses as we were already at 66% so questioning what we are trying to shift to get to the goal of 75%
       • Chancellor Schmidt we would like to look like fall 2019 as much as possible

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• Hybrid courses were developed as not every student could be in class due to physical distancing, so it is UWEC’s hope to go back to normal capacity
  • Basically, all our hybrid courses would be back to face to face as those were online because we couldn’t be in class
  • The hope is to have them back on campus
• Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Science building are just arbitrary cuts in the budget as the building is designed as one building so the phases don’t matter as we only plan to build one building
  • Concern about Phillips failing so could start building without the allocation for the second phase and that funding
• Governor Evers just announced vaccination sites in the State of WI so they are making a commitment
• Question on how UWEC plans to follow the CDC recommendations on social distancing if we are coming back in the fall
  • Our hope is everyone can be vaccinated prior to fall
  • We are looking at the smaller classrooms and what we can do to help with congestion
  • Department by department things will be different
  • Will look at where face-to-face makes a difference
  • Want to provide supports and are trying to work through some of those issues
• Questioning if there will be any additional resources for sophomores as they didn’t experience a normal freshman experience
  • Retention efforts are underway and will keep this in mind
  • Our freshman do not know what our “normal” used to be
• International Student processes are unknown, but the Chancellor offered to help in any way possible
• Part of UWEC’s 4.8 million deficit will be covered by the CARES Act otherwise we will cover a piece of it with some reserves that we have
  • Housing deposits and tuition deposits are down so that is not good
• Another Chancellor briefing will be scheduled in March

3) Reports

a) Report from University Senate Chair Weiher
  • Chair Weiher met with leaders of the system-wide taskforce on COVID, caregiving and equity policy
    • This is largely about flexibility to work from home and to adjust, in a nutshell, they’re seeking support from shared governance to both endorse their recommendations and more formally ask the administration to take steps to increase flexibility and equity
    • More on this in the near future
  • Chair Weiher also met with shared governance leadership (both University Senate and University staff) to discuss the same issue
    • We don’t see this as something to put in the handbook, but it is something that the faculty need to use their tenure protections to lead the discussion on behalf of academic staff and university staff
    • A week from Friday the Senate leadership team has its monthly meeting with the Chancellor and the Provost and we will be speaking very candidly with them about this issue
  • The UPC made some additional changes to the strategic plan and is going to release it later this week so we had to put off their presentation/discussion until the March 9 University Senate meeting
  • At Senate Executive Committee we discussed:
    • Some discussion on Tommy’s comment to merge 2-years and the technical schools
      • Chancellor made it very clear he and the provost are not in favor of that; Barron campus is in the black financially
    • Some BOR members and some chancellors liked Ray Cross’s “blueprint” which essentially calls for a system-wide provost that would control academics at the System level
      • We sent the BOR a resolution against the blueprint
    • There was a question about how to deal with students who insist on taking spring break
      • Please see Vice Chancellor Crickette’s email on this
  • Strategic Planning Process
    • UPC sent out a questionnaire for information gathering but Chair Weiher does not know what happens after that so he will find out the process and report back
  • Senate does have this on the agenda for March 9th

b) For the Record: Academic Policies Committee
  i) CIE: UASC Program in Portugal
Without objection, this item will be entered For the Record

   ii) CIE Summer Program Kansai Gaidai, Japan

Without objection, this item will be entered For the Record

   iii) CIE: Cancellation Venice, Italy

Without objection, this item will be entered For the Record

   iv) CIE: Cancellation Peru

Without objection, this item will be entered For the Record

   v) CIE: Cancellation Valladolid, Spain

Without objection, this item will be entered For the Record

4) New Business
   a) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee
      Rename Elementary Education Major

Debate
   • None

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 March 9, 2021

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary to the University Senate