

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Executive Committee

Minutes from March 16, 2021
Volume 57, Number 11

- Present: Jasmine Case, Grace Crickette, Chip Eckardt, Billy Felz, 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
- Guests: Ann Aschenbrenner, MJ Brukart, Mike Carney, Margaret Cassidy, Mary Hoffman, Debra Jansen, Paula Kleintjes-Neff, Troy Kozma, Corry Mahnke, Nichole Miller, Teresa O' Halloran, Leah Olson-McBride, Nichole Owen, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, Louisa Rice, Denise Stewart, Dang Yang

A meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:01 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 via online (Microsoft Teams) meeting.

- 1) Approval of the University Senate Executive Committee Minutes of March 2, 2021
 - Approved as distributed
- 2) Open Forum
 - COVID Relief Bill
 - Governor Evers doubled the UW System request so in the end what we get is in the base budget
 - No guidance on Phase 2 or 3 funding
 - Legislature says System is getting COVID funding so why give them more funding
 - We took many hits that we need to replenish
 - The Department of Education has not given guidance on what we can spend against that money
 - This money is only for setting expenses against it
 - It is only for reimbursement
 - Working on gathering and documenting expenses and loss revenue and will submit that to System
 - We are including: State lapse, tuition loss, refunds, loss in our general operations and auxiliaries
 - Right now, we will not have enough expenses to off set the total amount
 - Some of the comprehensives have expenses that fell outside that “window” that we were given
 - Trying to have the other waves include additional dates
 - Looking at putting in a FEMA claim
 - Summer bridge programs could possibly be funded
 - Looking at how to use this summer to get students up to speed
 - ½ of most dollars are designated for student grants
 - Once Senate approves a request to develop a major it does not come back through Senate
 - Go into PIM system to get updates on where it is at
 - Capital Budget
 - Primary investment in Haas school and for HVAC
 - Music Project is already contracted
 - CARES Act
 - Do not have guidance on that money
 - Will try to stretch it out
 - Audit of Athletics
 - Outcome is not out yet as COVID has been respected
 - Chancellor will follow-up

- Book Store employees are not wearing masks
 - Antigen Testing
 - Concerned about race/ethnicity as it is being requested but concerning as this is being shared with a 3rd party
 - Data is going to the federal government (Department of Health of Washington DC) and it is for medical research so that is why they are asking
 - Should be concerning for students
 - We can raise this as an issue
 - Do not want this identifying information shared beyond research
- 3) Review of the tentative agenda for March 23, 2021 meeting of the University Senate
- Approved as amended
 - Change motion title from PPPC to reflect: Supporting Cessation and Prevention: Toward a Comprehensive Commercial Tobacco-Free Campus
 - New Business additions:
 - Establish a new major in Bioinformatics
 - Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Minor-Early Childhood/Adolescence Rename
 - Elimination of Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Minor EA/A & MC/EA
 - Add the language on the second reading motion and change the title as follows: **MOTION from the floor by ~~Senator Murray~~ for Senate to endorse the UPC 5-year Strategic Plan**, seconded
- 4) Discussion with UPC on Strategic Plan
- Origin of focus on health sciences and human well-being
 - Came out of a number of conversations across campus
 - Also looked at our own institutional strengths and opportunities
 - It started when Chancellor Schmidt asked about points of distinctiveness
 - Guidepost goals
 - Meant to apply to all campuses but are mostly aspirational
 - Barron County can have a conversation on how those goals will be translated at Barron County
 - Perhaps language on progression
 - The strategy was to keep the numbers consistent
 - Growing enrollment and collaborating all divisions
 - Is meant for the high-level divisions but everybody can contribute
 - Strategic budgeting system
 - Plan UW is a new program that allows you to budget and forecast out for 5 years vs. putting together a budget book
 - It shows revenue and expenses for each department
 - It can show patterns
 - Concern that the undergraduate focus might be too narrow
 - Questioning why we cannot be the high impact practice campus in the upper Midwest
 - We will not abandon high impact practices
 - We are a national leader and have an opportunity to be part of the NCUR 2023 conference
 - Key thing is to encourage more two-year programs to become more active in undergraduate research
 - Valuable when we are recruiting students
 - Questioning what we defining as research
 - Perhaps we can look at research more broadly
 - Secondary research might help more people see a place where they can expand
 - Questioning if the plan affects the way we direct funding
 - Funding is wholistically looked at
 - Strategic priorities of the university are always tied to funding

- Being inclusive of other HIPS can be immersions and supporting existing programs, distinctive partnerships, etc.
 - We tried to keep research as broad as possible
 - We need to scaffold research skills in various ways
- EDI integration
 - Many are already being done but they aren't being identified as EDI
- Liberal Education
 - Want EDI integrated into our campus but concerned with us veering from our primary purpose of a university as our mission for the university is inquiry of truth
 - EDI and making decisions about programming and curriculum on how to make access equitable that is data driven
- Sustainability and health and wellness focus can be seen as fitting together
 - Don't want to lose our liberal education focus
 - We need to do that work so we do not run the risk of saying this is our priority and liberal education is playing a supportive role
 - We need more connectiveness
 - Why are we not able to move towards a distinction in health and well-being
 - We are not designated as a liberal arts college
 - 40% of degrees are from A&S so 60% aren't
 - Concern is that we are not saying that we will do both
 - Seems that this is a deliberate shift in direction
 - Concern over the health and well-being focus because it is feared that unless staff relate their courses etc. on this focus then they will not be replaced
- How does our strategic plan work with the UW System Plan
 - We are aligned with the UW System Plan but at the same time we are mindful that UW System is standardizing programs
 - Yes, we want to align with System goals, but it also sets us up as in institutional leader
- We are giving two messages that we are trying to be broad, yet we want you to focus
 - We need a clear statement on where the budget priorities are
 - Liberal Arts and this plan cannot be done as we have budget priorities
 - Concern that "Do we hire on need of the department or on the Strategic Plan"
 - Healthcare to be replaced with human health and well-being and we need better examples
 - It doesn't matter the intentions of what the plan are if the chairs of departments are fearing they will have trouble in making decisions
 - Academic Affairs use standard metrics that come out of the University Plan
 - Every department cannot meet all our priorities
 - The purpose of the plan is to have strong enrollment in 2025
 - Personnel position request decisions are based on where the students are and where they're taking their classes
 - Resources follow the student's interests
 - Students take classes across the university so that strengthens your department
 - Enrollment numbers are aligned with this plan
 - Seems like a self-fulfilling prophecy
 - We want to be distinctive so System doesn't tell us what our focus will be, so this is the catalyst for why we went this way
- UPC will meet with the other governance groups and will solicit feedback from the campus as a whole

5) Announcements

- If you haven't done so already, please take the Caregiving survey and feel free to attend the Systemwide caregiving forum set for March 26

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate