

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

Minutes from April 20, 2021  
Volume 57, Number 14

Present: Jasmine Case, Grace Crickette, Chip Eckardt, Billy Felz, Abbey Fischer, Elizabeth Glogowski, Marquell Johnson, 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

Absent: Patricia Kleine

Guests: MJ Brukart, Margaret Cassidy, Debra Jansen, Ellen Mahaffy, Teresa O'Halloran, Nicole Owen, Jean Pratt

A meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 via online (Microsoft Teams) meeting.

1) Approval of the University Senate Executive Committee Minutes of April 6, 2021 and April 7, 2021

- April 6, 2021
  - Approved as distributed
- April 7, 2021
  - Approved as amended
    - Those who were present, absent and guests was removed as a snapshot image was provided

2) Open Forum

- Summer guidance and expectations
  - No intention of changing anything before the end of the academic year
  - No travel has been discussed
  - It has been confirmed that research labs will be working
  - Mask requirements and social distancing information will be coming out soon
  - We will have a review process and committee that allows us to evaluate each event that takes place on campus to document what it is and the risk and mitigations to be put in place
  - Continuing testing is ongoing in McPhee
  - We are testing those enrolled in any camps and/or conferences on campus
  - Continuing with infectious disease control
  - Will follow CDC and public health guidelines
  - The CDC is allowing for domestic travel, if fully vaccinated
  - Helpful links are provided for foreign travel on the FAQ page
  - Field work and driving to the site location is dependent on if people are vaccinated
    - VC of Finance and Administration is willing to work through a plan with you if needed
  - Financial restrictions wouldn't be decided until August
    - We need to see where enrollment comes in
      - Because of the federal funding we received then we are hoping that we will be ok
- Question on the legislation introduced by two republican senators about Community Colleges being able to provide Associate Degrees
  - Curious if UW System will have a say in this as concerning for our other branches
  - You may be helping the technical colleges financially, but it is harming the technical education
  - It costs more to teach technical education and we already have 26 campuses in Wisconsin
    - This is about the enrollment problems the technical programs are having
    - Fewer students are going to college than 10 years ago so why do we offer these classes at additional campuses
  - UWEC, UW Stout and UW River Falls oppose this
- Laptop Accessibility Program feedback was sought

- Personal devices were not delineated
  - Concerns over departmental software programs
    - Would hope that students would be supported with whatever their programs need
      - Key server software can be used but this could be an issue
  - Students purchasing their laptop after already paying \$2400 might not be that attractive
  - The perk of a university supported system is that there is basically a warranty for a new laptop
  - The student perspectives were to increase the supply with library checkout program and consulting with Foundation for additional funding resources
  - Concern with International or nondegree students
    - Hope there is some provision as that would be a heavy burden
  - Specialty software could be a problem as can be in excess of \$2000 per computer
  - Some General access labs are 24-hours so would the laptop checkout program have 24-hour access
  - Might be nice to know what colleges require laptops
  - LTS wants permission to figure out the numbers
  - Should talk to individual departments about their concerns
  - Labs and teaching stations might be lost and that is a concern
  - The library laptop loan program could be more long term, but it hasn't been explored
  - Question on Mac versus pc or what happens to those who are undeclared or what about students that already have a high-end computer
    - Would there be an opt out option
      - Would almost exclusively be opt-in to balance it out across everybody
  - Stout and Winona have been consulted as well as student perspectives
  - LTS is interested in expanding helpdesk space to accommodate
  - Library would have to investigate what is needed
    - At peak times the library has all their laptops checked out
  - A Barron representative has been at the Technology Committee meetings
  - It is pointless to have a laptop if you do not have wi-fi so more wi-fi can be added for the dorms but when the students are at home, we have no control
    - Concern that it could be more costly to students
  - Part-time students would most likely be included
  - Many students would opt to have their own computer
  - We need to think about administrative rights and what would be allowed
  - Until we have a greater demand then a long-term checkout program in the library could solve this problem
  - We would follow UW System mandates for security on the computers
    - Concern that the students wouldn't be administrators of their own computers
  - The special needs of different programs can be supported
  - If this passes University Senate then it gives LTS permission to seek out costs from vendors and set-up resources as well as forming a committee formed to look at policy, then a rollout in 4-5 years
  - We have proctoring software, so cameras are needed
  - This would be a part of their tuition so students may get financial aid
  - This would most likely be a semester fee of approximately \$800
  - If this is a tuition add-on, then we also might need board approval
  - The university should consider providing a laptop to struggling students
  - This item will be pulled from the University Senate agenda
- 3) Review of the tentative agenda for April 27, 2021 meeting of the University Senate
- Approved as amended
    - Remove First Reading of the Technology Committee Laptop Accessibility motion
    - Under New Business add First Readings
    - From APC:
      - Motion to Suspend Three Education Minors (Language Arts, Minor - Teaching Middle Childhood/Early Adolescence Suspension [930-402]; General Science, Minor - Teaching

Middle Childhood/Early Adolescence Suspension [120-403]; Social Studies Minor-Teaching Middle Childhood/Early Adolescence Suspension [500-403]

- Motion to Establish New Minor Criminal Justice Equity and Inclusivity, Liberal Arts [XXX-XXX]
- Motion to Accept Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) as fulfillment of UW-Eau Claire Liberal Education Core Requirements

#### 4) University Senate Executive Committee Membership

**MOTION to replace this sentence “There shall be at least one member from each of the colleges” with this sentence: There shall be at least one member from each of the colleges, the Barron campus, and the library, seconded**

##### **Debate on motion:**

- Faculty would not need to be included in the language
- Concern that Senate and Executive Committee are underrepresented as a whole
  - If we are representative, then it should be in proportion, so we should think about how we want representation to work
    - Academic Staff are drastically under-represented, so we need to look at this in a much bigger picture
  - Would argue that we would be better served to look at the data and make changes on what representation means
- The point to this motion is to look at those who are disenfranchised, and we are not changing the numbers of faculty members on that committee
- The library and Barron do not have representation unless they are on the committee as at-large members
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**AMENDMENT to increase the Academic Staff members on the University Senate Executive Committee from 4 members to 9, seconded**

##### Debate on AMENDMENT

- There is no mandate to have a faculty majority
- UWEC is shared governance and Academic Staff are underrepresented
- Concern that Academic Staff would most likely not fill those extra positions
  - But they should be given the opportunity
- Senate does not need to be perfectly balanced
- Most state senates are population based
- Would be nice to have a smaller committee investigate the representation on the Executive Committee
- More voice to academic staff would be good
- The number 9 puts us one below the number of faculty
- Concerned that Executive Committee members need to be senators so unless you increase senators then the pool is decreased on those that are eligible
  - There are currently 28 academic staff members on Senate

**VOTE on AMENDMENT: FAILED**

##### Continued Discussion

- If a representative is from Barron County then do they double count
  - No, as they are not a representative of a department

**AMENDMENT that we eliminate the at-large seats and allocate the faculty or academic staff seats to be based on the numbers, as follows: 3 additional members for A&S, 1 to Nursing, 1 to Education and 1 to Business, seconded**

Debate on AMENDMENT:

- Does not change the size of the committee
- Those disenfranchised are not trying to pack the Executive Committee
- Questioning if the details in the spirit of what we want
- Would be good for Barron and the library to have seats on the Executive Committee and this would be good to have done before the end of the year

**VOTE on AMENDMENT: FAILED**

Continued debate

- Can be faculty or staff but prefer that it is a faculty member
- Should Marshfield have a seat as well
  - But they are part of a department
- We need more conversation on composition
- There was a feeling of sentiment that we would like to iron this out and have more time to consider
  - Don't want this motion to get bogged down with the other issues and it will get lost
- We need to understand what exactly we are voting on

**MOVE to suspend the rules and vote on this today, seconded**

**VOTE to suspend the rules: FAILED**

**Second reading on this in two weeks**

- 5) Announcements
- The Derek Chauvin verdict is in

Meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Tanya Kenney  
Secretary of the University Senate