Members Present:


Members Absent:

Jose Alvergue, Lisa Coen, Gail Hanson Brenner, Tamara Miller, Susan O'Brien, Linda Pratt, Jim Rybicki, Jonathan Rylander, James Schmidt, Charlotte Sortedahl, Thomas Storm, Tom Suizer

Guests:

Mike Carney, Margaret Cassidy, Mary Hoffman, Debra Jansen, Carmen Manning, Jill Prushiek, Denise Stewart

The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:01 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 via an online Teams meeting.

1) Approval of the April 13, 2021 University Senate minutes
   • Approved as distributed

2) Approval of the April 13, 2021 University Faculty and University Academic Staff Spring Meeting minutes
   • Approved as distributed

3) Administrator Remarks
   • Comments from Provost Kleine
     Last week was fantastic as sometimes being virtual is often impersonal but we had a personal touch as we could really look at the students’ posters more in-depth so thank you to the faculty and mentors
     • Commend all of you for loading up your presentations
   • COVID
     Currently about 800 people are being tested per day and we have had 3 days in a row with no positive tests
     Tommy Thompson just announced that students can get their first shot on campus and their second shot no matter where they go
     No incentives for vaccines can be offered
     CDC guidelines to be coming out on those that have been vaccinated and wearing masks
   • Yesterday we announced a partnership with Hewlett Packard Enterprise
     In addition to a supercomputer, we were also able to get a donation from them
     This is a game changer in our ability to analyze data
     With the announcement there were 2 videos linked that included what this means for UWEC and what we will be able to do with this
     Provost Kleine read us her thoughts on 2020 and 2021, which may end up being a potential book
     Considerable respect and gratitude for you all
   • Summer process for guests: trying to make it through the academic year but changes are expected for summer
     The summer camps are all going

www.uwec.edu/usenate/
• Will follow all safety protocols
• New Science Building
  • Concern that a new plan just came out, but we need this building to work for the faculty that work in that building
  • The entire plan was not thrown out, but a lot of square footage had to be removed to meet cost estimates
  • We had to cut out 13,000 square feet so it removed a passageway at the south end of the building
  • The flow will be redirected throughout the building
  • Some “neighborhoods” had to be flipped/moved
  • It does require how we rethink the building due to space and budget requirements
  • Plans have been changing weekly but there will be a mechanism for feedback
  • The work is being finished this spring semester then the design team will spend the summer finalizing it
  • 10% is where the plan will be at when we return in the fall
  • Feedback from others, not in the building, will be after the 10% design phase
• Summer appointment for the bi-weekly pay schedule
  • That should be indicated in your summer contracts as it goes into effect July 1
  • Provost Kleine will check with HR
• Parking
  • Request on changing the Phillips lot from s to f or f/s
  • The target date for Hibbard construction is May 23
  • VC Crickette to contact Parking

4) Reports
   a) Report from University Senate Chair Weiher
      • At Senate Executive Committee we had a very long meeting
      • We briefly discussed summer research safety protocols, and in a nutshell if everyone is vaccinated then small groups will be allowed
      • An official statement from Academic Affairs is forthcoming
      • Then as usual, senator Johnson asked the Chancellor a multi-part question about the possibility of full Associate’s degrees at the technical colleges
      • The chancellor doesn’t support the idea because it will reduce technical education (it’s often more expensive) and it creates a lot more redundancy across the system
      • We talked finances, but the real answers will come in mid-May
      • Then we had a long discussion with Senator Mahaffey who chairs the Technology Committee on a plan that would provide laptops for every student
      • There were a lot wide-ranging questions and push back from the Executive Committee and so the Technology Committee is going see if they can address the issues before coming forward with any proposal
      • We also had a long discussion about membership on Senate Executive Committee in terms of expanding the mandate for one member from each college to also include mandating one member from the Barron County campus and one from Library (because they aren’t in a college)
      • Again, there were a lot of wide-ranging questions and some push back, but also suggestions that we should look at other issues such as increasing Academic Staff membership and mandating more proportional representation from across the colleges
      • Senator McAleer noted that two-thirds of the Philosophy faculty are currently on the Executive Committee
      • In the end, we made no recommendation and will continue to discuss the ideas
      • Just to be clear, Barron County and Library currently have seats on the Executive Committee
  • I met with new employees to brief them on University Senate – this is the first time I’ve been asked to do this and I think it’s a really good thing
  • At the meeting with EC County Health Department there was some concern because about 1/3 of students have been vaccinated
  • Those numbers are based entirely on the protocol app and they are self-reported
  • And next week, I will be putting on the regalia and recording a welcome message for graduation
  • I don’t really miss speaking to a packed Zorn arena crowd – but graduation is kind of fun
b) Faculty Representative’s Report
   • None

c) Academic Staff Representative’s Report
   • None

5) Unfinished Business
   a) Second Reading: Motion from Compensation & Budget Committee
      Compensation Plan 2021-2023
      Continued debate
      • Plan includes 9-month minima, not 12 so where can we find that information
      • In past pay plans it has never appeared, but it would be prorated
      • It is not known what the formula is for projecting out 12 months
      • Wisconsin.edu has a document that you can use to figure it out
      • The percentages do not match

VOTE on MOTION: PASSED

6) New Business
   a) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee
      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] (attached)
      Debate
      • None

Without objection, we can vote on this today

VOTE on MOTION: PASSED

   b) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee
      Motion to Establish New Minor Criminal Justice Equity and Inclusivity, Liberal Arts [XXX-XXX] (attached)
      • Why is this necessary as a separate minor and not being included in an existing minor
      • We do not have a criminal justice minor, only a major
      Debate
      • None

Without objection, we can vote on this today

VOTE on MOTION: PASSED

   c) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee
      Motion to Accept Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) as fulfillment of UW-Eau Claire Liberal Education Core Requirements (attached)
      Debate
      • None
Without objection, we can vote on this today

VOTE on MOTION: PASSED

7) Announcements
   • We have in person meetings scheduled for the fall, but we might have a conversation with the Executive Committee and put out a poll to see what senators would like to do
   • We have had the best attendance ever since we have been meeting virtually
   • We could also look at hybrid type meetings
   • There is no pending business next week for Senate so next week the University Senate Executive Committee will be meeting
   • Thanks for your hard work, attendance and input over this last year
   • Tom Hilton is retiring so congratulations to him and thank you for his years of service

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary to the University Senate