

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Executive Committee

Minutes from September 7, 2021
Volume 58, Number 1

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, Ryan Weichelt, Evan Weiher

Absent: Olga Diaz, Ka Vang

Guests: Nancy Borth, MJ Brukardt, Margaret Cassidy, Sally Eckwright, Emily Herwig, Mary Hoffman, Debra Jansen, Sue Kleusch, Brandon Knuth, Carmen Manning, Jaden Mikoulinskii, Nicole Owen, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, Justin Schilling, Denise Stewart, Linda Young

A meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:01 p.m. on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 via online (Microsoft Teams) meeting.

- 1) Order of Business
 - Approved without objection
- 2) Approval of the University Senate Executive Committee Minutes of May 4, 2021
 - Approved as distributed
- 3) Consultation with Chancellor Schmidt (and Student Senate leaders Jaden Mikoulinskii and Justin Schilling) on changes to the Chancellors Executive Staff (USC was invited)
 - A position description was shared
 - The funding/budget for this position was set aside two years ago for this position and also retained some funds from when Mike Rindo retired
 - Mayo conservatively is willing to spend \$122 million in joint research activities
 - Chancellor would like Mike Carney to assume the position until a national search is completed
 - Mike Carney currently spends approximately 30% of his time in his current position working with Mayo as well as additional time needed for Barron County
 - Academic Affairs can make it through January 1 without replacing Carney but then will fill after that
 - Will look at the essential services then decide how Academic Affairs will move forward
 - Barron County would like to talk to the Provost about their ideas
 - BOR approval is not needed for this position
 - Student Senate is in favor of this position
 - This is important for the Mayo role but also for nurturing new partnerships
 - This is for broad partnerships, including both UWEC, Barron County and Foundation
 - Marshfield and Rice Lake should also be mentioned in the position description
 - Basically 30% of Mikes role focuses on Mayo so that will follow him to his new position with the remaining to still stay in Academic Affairs
 - Mike Rindo had the title of assistant chancellor on this campus
 - Reporting lines to stay the same
 - This is an interim role, so we can make adjustments before we search for a permanent position
 - The organizational chart would have one box with nothing below it and the line will go straight to the Chancellor
 - This position will start October 1, 2021
 - No objections noted
- 4) Consultation with VC Felz on the organization of Enrollment Management

- With vacancies, we could look at how to reorganize
 - Overloads have previously been granted but the salary has not been determined
 - The people in the position have the skills but it is felt that these combinations work for future applicants as well
 - No objections noted
- 5) Review of the tentative agenda for the September 14, 2021 meeting of the University Senate
- Number of academic staff to be elected for University Senate at-large will be corrected
 - Vice Chair elect position will not be an elect as will start immediately
- 6) Open Forum
- Next week Tuesday from 9-11 on the UW System President Search Committee will have an open forum/listening session on campus in the Dakota Ballroom
 - All sessions on all the campuses will be open (WebX)
 - Barron County
 - Concern that IAS health insurances have lapsed
 - This is not the first time this has happened so think we should look at a different process as this is challenging for Barron County staff
 - VC Grace Crickette and HR Director David Miller will be meeting to address this
 - Interim UW System President Thompson
 - Calling for a taskforce to reexamine every aspect of higher education within the state
 - His idea is not well defined so support among colleagues is not happening
 - Wait to see until we get a new System President
 - Mask exception process
 - If an exception is made, then the student will not be coming to our classroom
 - The Dean of Students website has a portal that can be used if the student is not wearing a mask
 - Last year there were two cases that were granted an exception
 - Membership of the review committee is a group of 3, including LaRue Pierce, Dr. Frodle and Vicki Thomas
 - Employees go to HR for exception requests
 - There shouldn't be very many exceptions granted this year as UWEC only granted 2 exceptions last semester
 - VC Diaz and Pierce are looking at how to relay the information on this
 - If the student is not in a room, then will they learn how they did pre-covid
 - System developed this in case we are legally challenged
 - Ideally, if someone is granted an exception, then we need to figure out what they need to function and if that includes the library then maybe we need to have a note or a card on their phone that shows that they have an exception
 - Medical reviews are done on all who request an exception
 - Zero exemptions so far this academic year
 - Thank you for reinstating the mask mandate
 - Last year, the student process was not disclosed to us
 - What is the process for when a student lets us know that they have tested positive
 - Contact LaRue Pierce and the contact tracing team
 - If a student is symptomatic then refer the student to Student Health
 - COVID leave for staff
 - System says it is a no go
 - Is there anything the UWEC campus can do
 - Many can work remotely
 - Can be looked at by VC Crickette on a case by case basis
 - Can take sick leave or vacation or etc.
 - Must exhaust current sick leave
 - Total Title and Compensation Study
 - Have been many complaints
 - The appeal process should go through a panel

- VC Crickette will meet with Chair Weiher to go through that
- A flow chart has just been given to us by System on what that formal review should look like
- VC Crickette and HR Director Miller will come talk to the deans about this
- Instructors and faculty are not included
 - Lecturers are still experiencing a change
 - The dean's, associate vice chancellor and the Provost will sit down to get this clarified then they will send something out
 - Some have been denied a home loan because they're not employed full-time/permanently

7) Announcements

- None

Meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate