

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Executive Committee

Minutes from November 16, 2021
Volume 58, Number 6

- Present: Jasmine Case, Grace Crickette, Olga Diaz, Abbey Fischer, Kent Gerberich, Elizabeth Glogowski, Marquell Johnson, Patricia Kleine, John Mann, Colleen Marchwick, Sean McAleer, Kelly Murray, Geoffrey Peterson, Kristin Schaupp, James Schmidt, Charlotte Sortedahl, Pedro Sottile, Ryan Weichelt, Evan Weiher
- Absent: Billy Felz, Jill Markgraf
- Guests: MJ Brukardt, Mike Carney, Debra Jansen, Mary Hoffman, Carmen Manning, Nicole Owen, Kim O’Kelly, Teresa O’Halloran, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, Alex Smith, Alex Sternfeld-Dunn, Linda Young, Jake Wrasse

A meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 via online (Microsoft Teams) meeting.

- 1) Approval of the University Senate Executive Committee Minutes of November 2, 2021
 - Approved as distributed
- 2) Review of the tentative agenda for the November 23, 2021 meeting of the University Senate
 - Approved as amended
 - Add an Academic Staff Representatives Report, a First Reading: Academic Policies Committee: 8th Approved Absence, FTR: Academic Policies Committee: Health Humanities Certificate and an EDI Update
- 3) Open Forum
 - Concern over the company that is providing UWEC with antigen testing as this company does not have a privacy policy or terms of use so if you sign in then you agree to the privacy policy yet there is not way to find out what you have agreed to
 - VC Crickette to look into this
 - Class withdrawal process concerns
 - During COVID UWEC had an eform process for students to withdraw from a class but some of those forms are being approved without the instructors’ permission
 - Students should speak with the faculty member as this is a retention issue
 - Blugold Central mentioned one example where the denial was inadvertently overlooked
 - Also a concern that students will put comments into the comment section/field and list the reason for withdrawing but we should not be asking students to put comments in as they do not know where the form is being routed
 - Also concerning that if the request is dormant for 3 days then goes to the chair but it should really be 3 “working” days
 - Provost Kleine has not followed up with an email (Transparent Design) since our last Senate meeting
- 3) EDI Strategic Plan Update
 - UWEC started a strategic planning process about a year before VC Diaz arrived
 - She started June 14th and then received the draft EDI plan on June 30th
 - After receiving that plan she put together an adhoc team on what to do with this plan as the plan was very long, passionate and detailed as it had 150 action items in it with strong perspectives and voices
 - The Adhoc committee consolidated it down from 7 priorities into 4
 - The vision is to have everybody see themselves in this plan and see how they can contribute to those goals as then we can align with the institution

- On an individual level, for example, it would be in performance review items as we do not want to duplicate items that we are asking for
- Questioning when this should be shared, when we proceed with drop-in sessions and basically begin working towards our goals
- Want to know the willingness of the campus
- Like the flexibility and that it is genuine
- Suggestion to see what our annual report where it asks what you have done with EDI
- Everyone is at a different place with EDI but would hate to see this process not move forward
- January is a good time for EDI work
- It would be disappointing if COVID resulted in a stop to any progress that has occurred with EDI
- It could be an invitational thing to participate then it is looked at as an opportunity
- Would be nice to know which trainings are the most popular and how many trainings have people done but whatever can be done with EDI and forward momentum should be done as the pandemic has taught us that we have a fair amount of inequalities
- Some may be interested in the policies and laws in the EDI areas so that could also be looked in to
- This would be a good thing to bring to Senate for additional perspective as there is widespread support for EDI
- This is significant and worthwhile but buy-in is important
 - Should be useful if added to our workload
- When the university adopted the requirement of EDI there was a concern that if turned into a requirement then it is just a box we check but it may be more effective though if we did require it
- EDI needs teeth in it but not sure this initiative would accomplish that
- VC Diaz will come to the next Senate meeting for an update

4) Transparent Design Initiative

- Chair Weiher Met with Mary Hoffman to talk about this
- Aware that there are many members of our community that are so valuable in this area so it might be helpful to see the two plans together
 - The details have not been worked out but this campus can do more than it does
- We need to be respectful that we are all in different places
- What do we want this campus to look like is what we should be asking ourselves
- Shared governance needs input before things go out
- We have members as part of our shared governance structure that at experts so when figuring out our benefits/downsides' shared governance is important
- Have some serious and worrying concerns about a one size fits all approach
 - Have pedagogy concerns and if we see ourselves becoming critical rigorous thinkers with a liberal education, then breaking things into little bits does students a disservice
- We should not be pushing a specific format as we need diversity in approaches to transparency

5) Faculty and Student Engagement Initiative

- Engagement has taken on a wider variety of thorns than what we do outside of class
- We should find out what we are doing before we say that we need to do more engagement as many areas have time to interact
- Would be nice to know how faculty/staff are being retained and supported
 - Retention and wellbeing has to be part of the conversation for all these initiatives
- Core labs are 50% bigger so hard to engage in the same way
 - There is frustration that we are investing in this new initiative when we used to do better with smaller classes

6) Announcements

- None

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Kenney
Secretary of the University Senate