Members Present:

Members Absent:
Ali Anand, James Boulter, Lisa Coen, Rebecca Dienger, Mary Elger-Lonzarich, Jeff Erger, Brad Gehrke, Pat Kleine, Daniel Schumacher, Paul Thomas

Guests:
MJ Brukardt, Doran Brewer, Margaret Cassidy, Mary Hoffman, Debra Jansen, Bridget Kurtenbach, Corry Mahnke, Nicole Owen, Paula Lentz, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, Louisa Rice, Alex Smith, Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn, Jake Wrasse

The regular meeting of University Senate was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:01 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 via online Teams meeting.

1) Approval of the University Senate February 22, 2022 minutes
   - Approved as amended
   - Minutes changed to reflect that we won volleyball, not basketball

2) Administrator Remarks
   - Moment of silence was taken in solidarity on the tragic events happening in Ukraine
   - Had some incredible athletic events happening lately
     - Women’s Hockey earned their 4th consecutive spot in the NCAA division 3 tournament
     - Men’s hockey won their 4th WIACC tournament championship
     - Women’s Basketball fell short by 3 points in the final seconds of the second round of the division 3 basketball tournament
     - Swimming, indoor track and wrestling are all competing for national championship
     - All the sports have gotten off to great starts
     - Thanks to faculty/instructors for allowing these student athletes to be able to miss classes for these national tournaments
   - Tomorrow the forum series continues as well as our theatre productions
   - Mayo Clinic Health System announced their commitment to a build sports medicine and imaging clinic at the Sonnetag Center
     - The new facility will make for stronger opportunities for athletes and students
   - Chancellor Schmidt will be in Madison tomorrow for Research in the Rotunda
     - We are fortunate to have been selected of only 60 in the country to be in a similar event in the US Capital this spring
     - Thanks to the faculty and staff for providing undergraduate research opportunities
   - Next Wednesday Chancellor Schmidt will be walking with System President Thompson to take the first step in making the new science building a reality
     - Will soon be taking down buildings to make preparations for the new science building

www.uwec.edu/usenate/
• Will be hosting a reaffirmation day on how we can all serve our students better and make transfers better for the students
  • Expect updates
  • Thanks to Mary Hoffman for her help with this event
• Will have a spring break this year as well as Circa and the Viennese Ball
• Today is International Women’s Day and UWEC would like to recognize and ensure that all women on our campus should thrive
• Question on OMA + BB
  • No reduction in funding
  • Modifications are resulting from feedback
    • PowerPoint shown on what those changes are
      • Revert back to original timeline
      • Current staffing
      • Leadership/supervision
      • Weekly standing meetings
      • 6 interns
      • 3 days for open houses
  • Since Brewer will be demolished, we are working on multiple options
  • One fte was moved from BB to SSD due to a surge of demand but then the Student Senate funded an additional position for several years
  • No money/funding has been reduced
  • Are making progress towards helping all underrepresented students on our campus

3) Reports
   a) Report from University Senate Chair Weiher
      • Last week at senate executive committee
        • Some exams that given at student testing services were lost for about a week, and after Chair Weiher brought this to VC Crickette’s attention, they were delivered the next morning
        • Mechanisms being put in place so this doesn’t happen again
        • We talked about possibly writing a resolution regarding the assembly bill attacking EDI courses; there was a very lukewarm reception
        • We will continue to look at this
        • You can ask students for a virtual meeting if they refuse to put a mask on in your office space
        • There are concerns about staffing in ORSP
          • This is an on-going discussion
        • VC Crickette confirmed that the amount of leadership training is going to be reduced a lot
        • UW-Eau Claire is working on a partnership with CVTC, Stout and River Falls that allows CVTC to begin offering an associate of arts degree for easy transfer to our campus
          • There was some concern about competition with our Barron County campus; VC Felz believes these are different audiences
        • At a previous meeting VC Crickette suggested that we might move the University Ethics C. to a new home; not with senate executive committee
          • We had a discussion with VC Crickette about the University Ethics Committee as actually mainly a financial conflict of interest compliance committee
          • We’re not doing everything the auditors expect
          • We’re still talking about it
        • Last Wednesday we had another meeting about Office of Multicultural Affairs and Blugold Beginnings with the chancellor, vice chancellor Diaz, students, staff
          • Once again our hour long meeting lasted at least 80 minutes
          • The VC announced some changes in response to input from others
            • Any merger won’t happen until after the end of this semester
            • Only 1 BB staff will be moved to OMA at this point
            • The other(s) will rotate over to OMA as needed
            • 6 students will be invited to every other weekly staff meeting
            • VC Diaz will serve as interim director
            • The chair of student government said “thank you, this is what were looking for”
          • Clearly not all the demands / concerns have been met, but some progress has been made and there’s another meeting scheduled next week
        • Chair Weiher is on an NSF panel for next 3 days
Will be making recommendations on funding grant proposals in the area of population and community ecology
- These are super interesting, exciting, and exhausting
- If you ever get the chance to do one, I highly recommend it, even though you will at times regret it - like I am right now
- The last time I was on a panel, I decided to stay an extra day and so by chance, I got participate in the march for science
  - Take time to do other things, besides the meeting

4) New Business

a) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee

Debate
- None

WITHOUT objection we will suspend the rules and vote on this today

VOTE on MOTION: APPROVED

b) First Reading: Motion from the Academic Policies Committee

College of Business to establish a new major: Business Communication
- In the APC responses: what were the EDI issues
  - Throughout the College of Business, EDI specific content is intentionally imbedded and is a learning objective in specific courses
- Comprehensive vs. a standard minor
  - Bachelor of Business Administration degree students will have to complete a 29 credit BUS core plus the credits for BUS Communication major so then is a comprehensive

Debate
- Communication & Journalism Department would like more time to discuss
- A timeline was shared in the chat
- This major is one that students have been asking for
- April 13th is the deadline for submitting material to the BOR

VOTE on MOTION: POSTPONED

MOTION from Senator Amethyst to introduce a Resolution in condemnation of the merger of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Blugold Beginnings, seconded

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire University Senate Resolution in condemnation of the merger of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Blugold Beginnings

Spring 2022

Whereas the University Senate is the deliberative body representing the faculty and staff of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire;
Whereas, in October 2021, the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Student Affairs was in conversation about merging the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and Blugold Beginnings;

Whereas conversations indicating these two programs were in the process of integration became publicly known as of February 10, 2022;

Whereas UWEC Student Senate passed resolution 65-R-25, condemning the merger of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and Blugold Beginnings;

Whereas our mission statement includes “An inclusive campus community that challenges students to develop their intellectual, personal, cultural, and social competencies”;

Whereas these two programs serve historically marginalized groups on our campuses;

Whereas these two programs are both critical components of our commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and the improvement of campus life for marginalized student identities at UWEC;

Whereas these offices have also served as safe spaces for students, faculty, and staff of color on our predominantly white campus;

Whereas these spaces have proven vital to affinity groups during political and societal strife;

Whereas student voices have been excluded from the decision-making process regarding this merger;

Whereas faculty and staff voices have been excluded from the decision-making process regarding this merger;

Whereas University Senate approved on November 12, 2019 a Resolution on Improving Retention of Faculty, Staff, and Students of Color at UW-Eau Claire;

Be it therefore resolved, the University Senate does not support the current timeline and plans for merging the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Blugold Beginnings;

Be it further resolved, University Senate supports Student Senate Resolution 65-R-25;

Be it further resolved, the Chancellor, Vice Chancellors, and all campus leadership should publicly include faculty and staff voices in decision-making to the greatest extent possible, in every step of the decision-making process;

Be it further resolved, the Chancellor, Vice Chancellors, and all campus leadership should include student voices in decision-making to the greatest extent possible, in every step of the decision-making process, especially when decisions concern historically marginalized student populations.

Debate

- The Resolution was shared electronically with senators
- Sympathetic to this motion but this does not seem like something to condemn
- Not a supporter of a nonbinding resolution
- Applaud the students for their level of involvement as well as administrators for making requested changes
- This is mimicking past events that we have had on campus
  - We need to have our students and especially our students of color have a safe space
  - Hope we continue to support our students of color
- We should show support for the resolution that student senate passed
• Students who were in an “unpacking meeting” did not want VC Diaz at that meeting so it seems like the student senate resolution was only trying to get changes to happen and they were already happening as the VC has responded
• She is backing off on implementing so we should support our new VC
• There was/is anger over lack of input in the process
  • Things could have been handled better but resolutions are done when you are not getting anywhere, and VC Diaz is working on improvements
  • Conversations would solve this better than a resolution
• This would be an opportunity to pass a resolution for things that we wish to see versus condemnation
• Yet to be resolved are the student offices
• Comment asking: Have we considered that we have only seen change because the students passed a resolution
  • Change happened before the resolution passed the student senate
• Transparency earlier on would have helped
• We are continuing to have conversations
• Support of the infinity spaces is good to have reworked then to have staff of color in those spaces
• The physical merger was not the issue but the renaming of the area
• Faculty are always kept in the dark, so a good goal is transparency

MOTION withdrawn, seconded

VOTE on MOTION: WITHDRAWN

5) Announcements
   • The next meeting of the University Senate is scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Without objection, meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tanya Kenney
Secretary to the University Senate