

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Executive Committee

Minutes from October 4, 2022
Volume 59, Number 3

Present: Jasmine Case, Grace Crickette, Billy Felz, Abbey Fischer, Kent Gerberich, Elizabeth Glogowski, Gail Hanson Brenner, Bob Hooper, Marquell Johnson, Patricia Kleine, John Mann, Colleen Marchwick, Nichole Miller, Robin Miller, Kelly Murray, Kristin Schaupp, James Schmidt, Lisa Schiller, Pedro Sottile, Ryan Weichelt, Evan Weiher

Guests: MJ Brukart, Mike Carney, Margaret Cassidy, Catherine Emmanuelle, Mary Hoffman, Carmen Manning, Jill Markgraf, Sonja Meiers, Nicole Owen, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, Louisa Rice, Casey Rozowski, Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn, Teresa O'Halloran, Jake Wrasse

A meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Weiher at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 via online (Microsoft Teams) meeting.

- 1) Approval of the University Senate Executive Committee Minutes of September 20, 2022
 - Approved as distributed
- 2) Review of the tentative agenda for October 11, 2022 meeting of the University Senate
 - Approved as amended
 - Remove academic staff reps report
- 3) Open Forum
 - EDI concern with Sodexo
 - Concern over an unexpected ingredient that was found in some food that wasn't listed
 - Was a lack of labeling, unclear labeling and inconsistent labeling
 - This was an issue as it was potato salad and it included pork
 - VC Crickette will look into this
 - Marshfield primary care van
 - Is financed through a well-being grant through the state
 - The environmental impact would be the vehicle coming to campus as it is a gas vehicle
 - Concern that there seems to be a running generator, but that emission impact would be small
 - Our biggest carbon footprint is our travel
 - Finals week
 - Concern over no study day before finals
 - Because we can't start until after Labor Day and it wrapped around the weekend there was no good way around it
 - Students really do need a study day and we should amend the FASRP if we are not following the guidelines
 - Concern also noted for those that have in-person exams vs. those who give exams online as many students drop the class when they find out there will be an in-person class/exam on the last day of exams, so it is a contention for students
 - If we fix anything, then that also needs to be fixed
- 4) Consultation with VC Felz regarding the Director of Barron County position search
 - Delayed for another meeting
- 5) Discussion with Provost regarding staffing in Academic Affairs
 - Was asking for a proof of concept and was not looking for a new position
 - Provost gave an explanation on her rationale for the hire
 - Is for one year
 - AVC title was given, but it is not interim, so it was perceived that we added another administrator

- Concern that it wasn't an interviewed position
- Provost didn't give it the interim title because that means that we will actually fill that position and it will continue but it was not the intent to fill it permanently
- Concern over enrollment and how we need to plan to be smaller so can this be done in the year that it was given
 - There are a lot of things to get done but think we can do it in a year
- In Academic Affairs, the deans' offices lost associate deans
- LTS will be working more closely with us to simplify forms
- Proof of concept was for us to see what happens and see if this works
- Moving toward 2 vice chancellors in academic affairs
 - Trying to be more efficient
- Since the departure of VC Diaz, it is time for us to reflect on administration and is the system we have working as her departure is connected
- Support the notion of working to grow and support our own but that is not the only way
- VC Crickette is looking at efficiencies and how to manage risk, but we want to bring enrollment back
 - Budget forum scheduled for the 20th on financial planning
 - We have a plan for 3 years and it is clearly articulated
 - We have a robust financial forecasting model so we can better predict
 - We are fortunate as we may be lean, but we have reserves
 - We should be good for this year and next year, but we need to increase revenue and improve retention, along with strategic cost cutting
- Can understand why the provost did not want to do an internal search as she knew who she wanted to pick but because of that many concerns were noted, and these could have been alleviated had there been a search
 - Many unfortunate side effects from the timing, among other concerns
 - Should do due diligence on looking for the best person for that role
- Concern that by not giving interim in Geoff's new title it gives him an advantage on his resume (cv) and not the others, who actually went through a search
- Downsizing
 - Forecasting shows that if we are able to take some our funds and invest in things that will increase retention and improve recruitment and take a deep dive into spending, as we spend about \$44 million a year (27,000 invoices), and we can grow, then we won't need to shrink
 - If we can't achieve the targets, then we need to look at other things
 - Our plan is not to shrink on the people side and instead look at growth and make cuts in what we are buying
 - If so, we will be out of deficit in 2025
 - We are smaller so how do we adjust with the fewer students
 - 90% of our budget is people but it doesn't mean that is where we have to cut
 - We may need to reimagine and not get lost in nostalgia
 - We should reflect on our culture at UWEC too
 - Consideration of processes as they are quite onerous
 - Buy-in is always a benefit
 - More administration is usually more bureaucracy
- Thanks, from Provost Kleine for the conversation

6) Announcements

- None

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Neary
Secretary of the University Senate