

University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University Senate Executive Committee

Minutes from October 18, 2022
Volume 59, Number 4

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

Absent: Colleen Marchwick

Guests: MJ Brukart, Mike Carney, Margaret Cassidy, Mary Hoffman, Corry Mahnke, Jill Markgraf, Sonja Meiers, Nicole Owen, Jean Pratt, Jill Prushiek, Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn, 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 18, 2022 via online (Microsoft Teams) meeting.

- 1) Approval of the University Senate Executive Committee Minutes of October 4, 2022
 - Approved as distributed with updated attendance
- 2) Review of the tentative agenda for October 25, 2022 meeting of the University Senate
 - Approved as amended
 - Add First Readings from the Academic Policies Committee:
 - New Comprehensive Major: Art, Integrative Visual Arts [Code XXX-XXX] and Suspension of Comprehensive majors in ART (Art Ceramics, Art Drawing & Painting, Art, Art Graphic Design, Art Illustration, Art Photography and Art Sculpture)
 - Establish new prefix ENT [Entrepreneurship]
- 3) Open Forum
 - EDI
 - Got thoughts and feedback from the staff in that division and had a debriefing conversation with directors
 - Met with student governance and EDI
 - Will not rush the decision and will look at structure
 - Will appoint interim leadership
 - Some are questioning if Student Affairs should be with EDI or not
 - This will not impact other departments and the goal is to stabilize the work
 - Do not want a whole new perspective or agenda
 - Hope is that by the end of the 2023-2024 school year for an interim then we can further evaluate
 - There is energy around an EDI council to help advise the team
 - Have heard a broad range of thoughts about this
 - The goal is by November 1-November 15 would like to have the structure determined then go through a process to name internal leadership
 - Comment on the future of EDI-SA and the Affirmative Action office
 - People didn't have an avenue to access resources
 - Affirmative Action should be moved under another office
 - Some think HR and AA should be separated
 - Safeguard can go right to the chancellor
 - Affirmative Action is an island so they can feel away from all eyes
 - There are other paths
 - Concern about senates protocol and two readings for a motion
 - Concern that Senate is not viewed as just a rubber stamp as the decisions made there can have repercussions

- End of the year motions may need to be heard more immediately but otherwise there should be two readings as do not want people to be less thoughtful
 - Chair Weiher only tries to move a motion forward when there is no debate or conversation
 - All you have to do is object, so the mechanism is already in place
 - For efficiency it makes sense to not have a second reading
 - One can object if they want more time to think about it or go back to their department
 - The goal of the senate is not to nit pick as that is why we have sub-committees
 - Senate is a broader body so we shouldn't have to nit pick
 - We get the documentation in advance so we can look through it and determine if more feedback is needed
 - The process is working, and the point of the senate is to bring people together from different areas and different perspectives
 - Concern that new senators are not aware that they can have two readings
 - Many like the way it currently works in the senate as it only takes one person to object to take a look at it again and/or to slow things down
- 4) Consultation with VC Felz regarding the Director of Barron County position search
- Position description shared
 - Is a reopening/reposting of a search that got shutdown last year
- 5) Announcements
- A point of clarification on the final exam issue:
 - Technically, we are not allowed to start classes until after Sept 1, so Sept 2 is the earliest start date possible under current System/State rules
 - We are not required to wait until after Labor Day as was stated in the meeting
 - However, given that the 2nd fell on the Friday before Labor Day, this year we chose to start after Labor Day rather than on Sept 2, which led to the lack of a study day before final exams

Meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Submitted by,
Tanya Neary
Secretary of the University Senate