Minutes of the UWRF Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting for March 6, 2012

Present: Marshall Toman (Chair; CAS); Todd A. Savage (Secretary; CEPS); Dennis Cooper (At-Large; CAFES); Hossein Najafi (At-Large; CBE); Patricia Berg (CAS)

Agenda – March 6, 2012

The 2011-2012 UWRF Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 from 2:07 p.m. to 3:12 p.m. in the History Seminar Room, 305 Kleinpell Fine Arts Building.

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

1. Call to order

   The meeting was called to order by Marshall Toman (Chair) at 2:07 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes from the February 22, 2012 meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

   Pat Berg moved to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2012 meeting of the Executive Committee; Dennis Cooper seconded this motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Reports

Chair’s Report (Marshall Toman, CAS)

In an informal conversation with Jennifer Willis-Rivera (Chair, Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention Committee), I received a verbal report regarding the activities and recommendations of the RAR committee, which includes a potential action item to be considered by Faculty Senate in the near future. We will address this matter further under “Miscellaneous New Business” on today’s agenda.

As a point of information, Steve Kelm (Chair, Academic Programs and Policies Committee) has contacted me about several program changes that will be forwarded to Faculty Senate for its action at a future meeting.

I will be in Madison for the rest of the week, where I will attend the UW-System Board of Regents meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2012 and the Faculty Representatives meeting on Friday, March 9, 2012. I will report out on these meetings at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate on March 21, 2012.

Vice Chair’s Report (Marshall Toman, CAS)

No vice chair’s report was presented at today’s meeting.
Unfinished Business

1. Committee Appointments
   - Technology Council (CEPS)
   - Program and Audit Review Committee (CEPS)

   No action is being taken on these committee appointments at the present moment.

2. Motion from the ad hoc Committee on Veterans Recognition (Sandy Ellis, Chair) that the following language be placed into the Faculty and Academic Staff Handbook in Chapter 3, section 4 (the Vice Chair will title and renumber appropriately). This motion will take effect on a date yet to be determined. (Note: Need information from Academic Standards regarding this proposal; this committee will continue to work on this language in spring 2012).

   “Veterans graduating from the UWRF should be recognized with red, white, and blue tassels attached to their caps at commencement. Eligibility for the red, white, and blue tassels would include any graduating student currently serving in the military, having served in the military, or who has received a ROTC commission.”

   This motion is in on-hold until further notice.

New Business

1. Motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Marshall Toman, Chair) for the consent agenda to appoint [faculty volunteer name forthcoming] as the faculty member to the newly-constituted University Differential Tuition Oversight Committee. Volunteers: Sandy Ellis, Tim Lyden, Marina Onken.

   Hossein Najafi moved to have Marina Onken appointed to serve as the faculty member on the University Differential Tuition Oversight Committee; Todd A. Savage seconded this motion. The motion passed by consensus of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Dr. Onken’s name will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate for its consideration at its next meeting.

2. Disposition of request from UWRF Student Senate President Tyler Halvorson: “Attached is legislation that was passed by the Student Senate regarding the credit cap on UW-River Falls Freshman. I request that Faculty Senate take this legislation under consideration.” In response to this request, the following motion will be forwarded to Faculty Senate for its consideration at its next meeting:

   Motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Marshall Toman, Chair) to charge the Academic Standards Committee (Terry Ferriss, Chair) with investigating the advisability of modifying the per-credit maximum load of UWRF freshmen to 18 credits.
3. Spring 2012 Faculty Senate Elections.  
   A discussion took place regarding the recent “test elections” conducted in electronic format via Qualtrics. Based on this discussion, a decision was made to conduct the official spring 2012 Faculty Senate elections electronically.

Miscellaneous New Business

1. Motion from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Marshall Toman, Chair) to approve the draft measurements for the three goals of Pathway to Distinction at its March 21, 2012 meeting. The measures will be forwarded to the members of Faculty Senate by Friday, March 16, 2012 for their review ahead of this meeting.

   In discussing this potential motion, the following concerns were raised:

   - In terms of increasing the number of entering first-year students with composite ACT scores above 25, how will this goal be accomplished?
   - Graduate education and goals pertaining to the programs and students associated with this area are not included explicitly in the measurements.

2. Motion from Jennifer Willis-Rivera (Chair, Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention Committee) of adding an ex officio member to this committee, a position that will be non-voting in member.

Adjournment

Hossein Najafi made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Todd A. Savage seconded this motion. This motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.