Call to Order at 1:24 p.m.

Present: David Rainville, John Heppen, Dennis Cooper, Todd Savage

Guests: Regent Jeff Bartell, Craig Morris, Barbara Werner

Minutes of the September 30, 2009, Executive Committee Meeting: These minutes will be approved at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

Unfinished Business:

1. Engaged Leaders, Goal 4 – Claire Killian: Chair David Rainville says he has not heard any more from Claire Killian regarding this issue.

2. Special Election for Vacant Faculty Senate Seat (Junior At-large): An email list for doing this election is being created by DoTS.

3. Grade Changes: This will be addressed by AP&P.

4. Replacement of Susan Wiegrefe, CAFES (2009-2010), on General Education and University Requirements Committee (Mike Kaltenberg, Plant and Earth Science Dept.): This will be on the next Faculty Senate agenda.

5. Voting of Academic Staff on Faculty Personnel and Policies Motions and Motions About Curriculum and the Academic Plan: Rainville discussed emails from Patricia Brady and Al Christ, and this item will be on the next Faculty Senate agenda.

6. Salary Letters: These still have not been received.

7. Review of the Women’s and Men’s Swimming and Diving Teams and Outdated Procedures to Do So: There has been no answer on this from the Athletic Committee as of yet. The newly proposed procedures will be on the next Faculty Senate agenda.

8. Workshop on Policies and Procedures for Faculty Senate: This item will be addressed in the future.


10. Reorganization of IT Services: Rainville said there have been meetings to discuss this issue. He has also met with Brad Mogen, chair of the Technology Council. He will ask Lisa Wheeler to report to Faculty Senate regarding this issue.

New Business:

1. Visit of Regent Bartell:
Rainville asked if there were any questions that Regent Bartell wanted to ask before they began. Bartell noted some of his professional history, and said he was here to learn about campus and hear concerns that the Board of Regents should know about.

Rainville noted that the Health and Human Performance building is a campus priority. Bartell said as far as he knows, the building is going to move forward as planned. Rainville also said noted that tuition and income tax reciprocity are also important issues. Bartell said the regents support reciprocity, and that he understands the threat to both comes from Minnesota, not Wisconsin. He also asked for further background on the issue of income tax reciprocity.

Rainville brought up the issue of overall faculty morale, including furloughs and faculty compensation. He noted that it is understood that the furloughs were mandated by the Governor, not the Board of Regents. He also said that work expectations have not changed, and that the furloughs are perceived as pay cuts. Bartell said that he agreed, it is essentially a reduction in pay for those who do not have a conventional work week. He said that the Board of Regents tried to get some special consideration for the UW System, but were unable to do so. Rainville said that he believed that legal issues may arise when issues of tenure and promotion come up. Bartell talked about the economic times in general, and said he believed that the UW System is a special institution in the state.

Dennis Cooper said that reducing post-tenure review may be a small way to provide some reduction in workload. Bartell asked what the committee would do if they were Regents, and the committee responded that a suspension of post-tenure review during furlough time would be appropriate.

Rainville said that faculty salaries at UW-River Falls are nearly the lowest in the UW System, yet live in the highest cost of living area in the state. He said it has an effect on retention and the ability to recruit. He also noted that the repeated switching of available health care plans has an effect on campus as well. Todd Savage noted that the domestic partner benefit is still a taxable benefit.

Cooper talked about the bureaucratization of the UW campuses. He said that it seems like there’s been a great growth on the administrative side of campus, and that he became aware of it in the last ten years. He said he is concerned about this division, and what it means for campus – some recent decisions have made an impact on the faculty. Bartell said that the regents don’t tell campuses what sort of positions and structure they have. Cooper discussed the lack of a Dean of Students on campus. Bartell said he will try to raise the issue at the appropriate places.

Cooper said that as a campus UWRF is overextended, that we offer too many programs for an institution of our size. Bartell says he is concerned about programs as well, and asked this morning if they felt UWRF was getting away from core curriculum, and was told that the core curriculum is being promoted and followed. Heppen brought up the idea of cost-effectiveness among programs. Bartell asked who should fix the problem. Rainville noted that it is the campus, and that program prioritization is underway, but is not moving forward very quickly. He also said he feels there should be a more strategic process at the System level for choosing programs. Bartell said that he feels that the Regents are getting a little more stingy with approving new majors. He also said that the Regents rely on the Chancellor’s judgement.
John Heppen said that the Growth Agenda says to grow, but no financial assistance have followed. Bartell asked if the group feels that tuition should be raised. He said that he agrees about the finances and the Growth Agenda.

2. Minutes of the October 7, 2009, Faculty Senate Meeting: Kris Hiney has these.

3. Grievance Issue: Closed Session per Wisconsin State Statute 19.8(1)(c).

4. Motion from UCC: A discussion of the changes and a new proposed change to the Course Proposal form occurred. These will be on the next Faculty Senate agenda.
   a. Modified Course Proposal Form
   b. Modified Course Transmittal Form

5. Campus Climate Study: Rainville encouraged everyone to take this survey, which can be found at www.uwrf.edu/campus-climate.

6. Faculty Senate Climate: Rainville said he is concerned about the climate of the Faculty Senate. He noted several smaller issues that relate. He said that he feels the Executive Committee should set the example.

7. Agenda for October 21, 2009, Faculty Senate Meeting:

Miscellaneous New Business:

1. Meetings with Senior Administration: A schedule of these was included.

John Heppen moved to adjourn, and was seconded by Todd Savage. There was no dissention.

Adjournment at 3:26 p.m.