



# 2003-04 University of Wisconsin System Council of Academic Staff Representatives Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 20, 2004 from 9:00 -1:30 p.m.

## **Human Resource Issues**

*Dr. Al Crist*, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources

The pay plan forwarded by the Office of State Employment Relations (OSER) was approved by the Joint Committee on Employee Relations (JCOER). Due to this action, the pay ranges have to be adjusted with OSER. UW System Office for Human Resources is working on the details, which include figuring out to which employees should receive \$250 lump sum payment.

In addition, JCOER approved the parity for health insurance. The state will refund employees the overpayment in mid-July. June checks should reflect new insurance rates.

In the 2005-07 budget, UW System will request 300 more faculty.

## **Plan 2008 Phase II Update**

*Tess Arenas*, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Senior Advisor to the President for Academic Diversity

The campuses should have received letters alerting them to the beginning of Phase II of the Plan 2008 proposal. The priority is to reduce the achievement gaps from PK-16. Drafts are due December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The other priority is assessment and Arenas encourages campuses and departments to adopt good outcomes.

There will be a best practices conference in fall. More information to follow.

Academic Staff representatives -- especially UW-Whitewater Representative Therese Kennedy -- ask that the Fact Book for the UW System reflect gender and ethnic breakdowns for academic staff, as well as faculty.

## **Conference Update**

*Mark Skutley*, UW-Stout Representative

Plans for the 2004 Academic Staff Leadership Conference are going smoothly. There may be a change in keynote speaker: The US Department of Education may not be able to send the higher education representatives.

For more information, go to: <http://www.uwstout.edu/faculty/senates/sas/conference.html>

## **Legislative Update**

*Margaret Lewis*, Associate Vice President for University Relations

TABOR may still be on the agenda for the Legislature in June. Contact your legislators and tell them the impact on student access and the quality of education they will receive if state tax support is reduced further.

The UW System is assembling its budget. In an April poll, 57% of Wisconsin residents thought the UW System had a budget increase or stayed the same. The public is not aware of the \$100 million net cut to the UW System. Talk with neighbors and friends about the impact of the cuts. Additionally, try to attend town hall meetings and county fairs and speak with your legislators. Attend events where the Governor will be. Join with other groups to sponsor and participate in candidate forums. Share the message that higher education is at a crossroads and needs their support.

## **Presidential Search and Screen Committee members**

*David Olien*, Senior Vice President for Administration

The committee was going to meet on Thursday, May 20. A decision should be made by late June or early July.