



2001-02 University of Wisconsin System Academic Staff Representatives Conference Call Minutes April 18, 2002

Human Resource Issues

George Brooks, Associate Vice President for Human Resources

The Group Insurance Board is examining the co-payment provisions of the health insurance plans as part of their study of the rising costs of health insurance premiums.

Early Retirement is in the Senate Democrats budget package. The provision proposed \$56 million in savings. The conference committee is currently debating the budget and it remains to be seen whether the proposal will be included in the final budget package.

Legislative Update

David Miller, Assistant Vice President for University Relations

The conference committee met Tuesday and Wednesday, but has not taken up or passed any specific motions. The conference committee will continue meeting until the budget is formulated and then it goes (briefly) to each chamber to be passed and then on to the Governor.

Communication with your legislators is encouraged. Summary of talking points will be posted on the website.

Budget Update

Debbie Durcan, Vice President for Finance

Travel restrictions are still in place. Please keep track of the events that you and your department are canceling or not planning so that we may tabulate those.

Budget Update -- Part Two

Freda Harris, Assistant Vice President for Budget & Planning

Planning for the 2003-05 budget is underway. President Lyall is holding private briefings with the Regents to discuss priorities. Some of these include expansion of programs in nursing, health care and teachers' education, as well as quality improvements to technology, international programs, libraries and undergraduate education. The undergraduate education request will be primarily focused on initiatives that improve retention.

Next year's budget request will include requests for any unfunded portions of the 2001-03 Economic Stimulus Package, determinant upon how much funding is included in this budget adjustment bill. It will also include requests for new institutional initiatives designed to stimulate the state's economy.
