



2004-05 University of Wisconsin System Academic Staff Representatives Conference Call Minutes

Thursday, January 20, 2005
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

9:00 Legislative Update

Margaret Lewis, Associate Vice President for University Relations

Governor Jim Doyle delivered his "State of the State" on January 12. The address had positive references to the University. Although the Governor mentioned a plan to provide tax credits for those paying for college, the University would prefer a plan that would target the most needy.

To address administrative efficiency, President Riley has proposed combining the business functions of Extension and 2-year institutions. He has proposed having one Chancellor for both. A press release can be found at:
<http://www.wisconsin.edu/news/2005/r050119.htm>

The report is at:

<http://www.wisconsin.edu/news/2005/01-2005/uwc-uwexreport.pdf>

Representative Rob Kreibich has proposed pairing each 2-year college with a 4-year university for administrative purposes. The press release is at:
<http://www.wispolitics.com/1006/kreibich.pdf>

Currently, there is no bill draft or report to detail how the pairing would occur.

February 8 is the date of the Governor's Budget Address. After the Governor's address we will need to communicate with our legislators and the Joint Finance Committee. David Olien indicated that we may need to have an emergency teleconference. Budget information will be on the Legislative Relations website:
<http://www.wisconsin.edu/budget/index.htm>

The TABOR bill may be dead, but Lewis suspects that there may be some effort to limit spending by a constitutional amendment.

9:30 Human Resource Issues

Al Crist, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources

The River Falls Chancellor Search and Screen should be completed by June. Finalists may be found at:

<http://www.uwrf.edu/pa/2005/0501/0121051.htm>

The Whitewater Chancellor Search and Screen Committee has been named:

http://www.uww.edu/npa/news_releases/story.php?id=670

It could be into fall before we have a pay plan.

The fact that the classified staff do not have a contract is a problem. Having union members pay part of their health insurance premiums seems to be the "sticking point." When it is finally settled, no one is sure where the money for all of the back pay will come from.

10:00 Federal Relations Issues

Kristine Andrews, Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations

Andrews began by describing some of the goals of her position: To increase Wisconsin's visibility in Washington, to build partnerships with the Wisconsin congressional delegation and to assist campuses so they can effectively engage in federal relations.

One of the tools that Andrews uses for the congressional delegation, their staff and the myriad of higher education partners is the Federal Relation Binder. Last year's binder may be found at:

http://www.uwsa.edu/univ_rel/govrel/federal-priorities/

This tool has helped communicate the key funding priorities of the UW System, including Pell Grants, TRIO programs, NSF funding, to name a few. Also identified are key legislative initiatives.

Academic staff are encouraged to help locate potential federal funding opportunities and communicate them to Andrews at kandrews@uwsa.edu.

10:30 Forum and Discussion among Academic Staff Representatives

Bruce Beck, Convener