



2005-06 University of Wisconsin System Council of Academic Staff Representatives

Thursday, January 19, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Judith Blackstone, UW-Eau Claire
Deborah Veglahn, UW-LaCrosse
Frank Kooistra, UW-Madison
Mathew Sirinek, UW-Milwaukee
Bryan Bain, UW-Oshkosh
Rick Haskey, UW-Parkside
Cyndi Reuter, UW-Platteville
Kimberly Gould Speckman, UW-River Falls
Julie Schneider, UW-Stevens Point
Vi Jones, UW-Stout
Donna Dahlvang, UW-Superior
Michael Cohen, UW-Whitewater
Mary Jane Ederer, UW-Extension
Bill Steffenhagen, UW-Madison (ASPRO President)
David Blough, UW System Administration
Bob Jokisch, UW System Administration
Al Crist, UW System Administration
Ron Singer, UW System Administration

Absent:

Samantha Surowiec, UW-Green Bay
Dave Carlson, UW Rock County

Senior Vice President Cora Marrett began the teleconference by welcoming the Council members back for the new year and the second semester of the academic year.

The first item on the agenda was planning for the Academic Staff Leadership Conference. Kimberly Gould Spectrum noted that they have a balance of \$1300 from the conference last year which was held at UW-River Falls. Kimberly also noted that they put together a very detailed binder to make it easier for campuses to organize the conference in the future. There are normally between 100-200 attendees and speakers include President Reilly, Senior Vice President Marrett, and local legislators. It was suggested that creating an advisory committee to provide more direction on organizing the conference would be helpful. Kimberly, Bryan Bain, and Matt Sirinek volunteered for that committee.

Regarding the location for the conference, Cyndi Reuter volunteered UW-Platteville for 2008. Michael Cohen noted that UW-Whitewater has a major project at the University Center at

UW-Whitewater. Bob Jokisch will send a note to Council members to find out options and set up a schedule for future years. The option of holding the conference off-campus at a location such as Wisconsin Dells was also raised and will be investigated. Matt Sirinek brought up the possibility of tying the conference to the July Board of Regents meeting in Milwaukee and will explore it.

Bill Steffenhagen, ASPRO President, updated the Council on the Board of Regents Committee regarding Faculty/Academic Staff Disciplinary Process. The Committee met in December and will meet again next week. Major decisions from the committee include streamlining the process for review of faculty indicted or convicted of a felony and mandatory reporting of felony charges. The Provost plays an important role in this process in deciding whether there is a likelihood of guilt and whether the crime rises to the level of harm to the institution. If so, the Provost may recommend dismissal or removal from payroll to the Board of Regents. For academic staff, decisions are made by the Chancellor, so the Board of Regents does not need to take action.

Cora Marrett and Ron Singer discussed with the Council how to get input from Academic Staff. Council members noted that there needs to be time to get clarification on questions raised by academic staff. It was also unclear what timeline was needed if an administrative rule change was sought. Council members requested getting the Committee recommendation and timeline for academic staff input as soon as possible after the Board meeting. Council members will also e-mail Bob Jokisch when their Campus Academic Staff Executive Committee meetings are scheduled.

Bob Jokisch then gave an update on the Resident Assistant Working Group. The President established a working group to look at the role of RAs in residence life programs and their relationship with student residents following a controversy regarding the role and rights of RAs on one of our campuses. The Working Group, which was comprised of residence life representatives from each campus and three student representatives, completed its report last week. The report includes five principles that are being used to get comments from a broad audience within and outside the UW System. A web site was established to solicit public comment. The President will then take these comments along with the report to the Chancellors and Regents in developing a systemwide policy to guide activities by Resident Assistants.

Highlights of Roundtable:

- UW-LaCrosse: alumni donated \$1 million to new academic building
- UW-Milwaukee: asked for input on pay plan distribution, new discriminatory policy, System cuts, and workload for teaching academic staff
- UW-Oshkosh: commenting on vision for institution
- UW-Parkside: kick off of Equity Scorecard Project
- UW-River Falls: issue of orientation and ongoing training for academic staff
- UW-Stevens Point: New academic staff committee on budget to give input on cuts; University Center will be off-line
- UW-Stout: Interviewing for CIO; budget forum for campus
- UW-Superior: Focus on morale and inclusion for academic staff; new Provost

- UW-Whitewater: new chancellor is reorganizing strategic planning and budget committee
- UW Extension: Creating a blog to share what is going on across Extension; new Chancellor starting in May.
- UW System Administration: Academic Staff Committee met with President Reilly to discuss how System Administration is handling its budget cuts; Staff Recognition Awards for classified, academic staff, and President's Award of Distinction.

Cora Marrett noted a few items on the Chancellors' meeting agenda, including Holistic Admissions, TABOR, and the Wisconsin Covenant. Details of the latter have not been completely developed.

Associate Vice President Al Crist then provided an update on SB452 regarding collective bargaining for faculty and academic staff. Al gave testimony yesterday on SB452 to the Legislature. The Board of Regents has not yet taken a position on the bill. They are in the process of getting feedback from governance groups. The cost to the UW System would be as high as \$2.5 million annually for collective bargaining. Concern was raised about the bill separating faculty and academic staff in pay plan.

The teleconference was ended by reminding the Council members that the next meeting will be a face-to-face meeting on Thursday, February 16 in Madison.