



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

Thursday, May 18, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Judith Blackstone, UW-Eau Claire
Samantha Surowiec, UW-Green Bay
Deborah Veglahn, UW-LaCrosse
Frank Kooistra, UW-Madison
Jon Lenichak, UW-Milwaukee
Ann Marie Johnson, 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
Dave Carlson, UW Rock County
Mike Wilson, UW-Extension
Bill Steffenhagen, UW-Madison (ASPRO President)
David Blough, UW System Administration
Bob Jokisch, UW System Administration

The session began with a joint meeting with the Faculty Representatives and President Kevin Reilly. President Reilly started the session by discussing his Communications Initiative. He noted that states that have a higher percentage of its population with baccalaureate degrees have higher income per capita. 24% of Wisconsin's population has a baccalaureate degree compared to the national average of 27%. Minnesota has 32-33% of its population with a baccalaureate degree and is \$4000 ahead of us in terms of income per capita. Wisconsin is very low in attracting people to the state with baccalaureate degrees. If we look 10 years forward, out of 100 eighth graders, only 18 will achieve associate or baccalaureate degrees; what will happen with the other 82? President Reilly stated that people are starting to understand that the UW System is the engine that will determine the success of the economy.

As part of his Communications Initiative, President Reilly has been meeting with editorial boards and Chancellors have been meeting with local legislators. Other activities include:

- Buddy system with Board members and legislators
- Higher education/business roundtable
- News briefs with President Reilly and Board President Walsh before each Board meeting
- Open house meetings with legislators

- Legislative dinners
- Alumni for Wisconsin initiative
- Actions with personnel policies have built public trust

As a result of these activities, there have been a number of positive signs:

- 6.25% pay plan
- Legislative support for non-resident tuition change and executive pay
- Governor came to Board meeting to support Wisconsin Covenant and Growth Agenda
- Defeat of Taxpayer Protection Act

President Reilly added that in the past six years, the UW System has been cut by \$400 million, cut 1000 positions, and added 3800 students.

The Faculty Representatives began the discussion with President Reilly by noting that they have concerns with recruitment, retention, and morale. The Star Fund has hit hard on faculty morale. Regarding the Growth Agenda, they asked questions about the process for developing the budget initiatives on campus. The process was very fast and did not allow time for adequate governance input. The Faculty Representatives also raised concerns about UWS7; the suspension without pay could be a back door way of getting at faculty administration doesn't like. Other issues raised include getting more of a faculty voice at Regents' meetings, annual background checks, and the UW System's poor public image.

Academic Staff Representatives also raised concerns about the disciplinary process; there is no language shared specifically about academic staff. They were pleased that the UW System now has an agenda, and is not just reactive. With a lot of new chancellors, they need to be made aware of governance and Chapter 36.

There was further discussion on the Growth Agenda regarding the need for further communication and buy-in by faculty and staff. There is resistance because of concerns that we can't afford the students we have now. President Reilly explained the importance of this strategy for additional resources for the UW System.

There was also further discussion of governance issues and the need for top administrators to understand Chapter 36. Suggestions were made to include these issues in Chancellors' and Regents' orientation.

Separate meetings were then held for both the Faculty Representatives and the Academic Staff Representatives.

The meeting of the Academic Staff Representatives began with the approval of the minutes from the April 20 meeting, with minor edits.

Judy Blackstone from UW-Eau Claire led the discussion of the Academic Staff Leadership Conference. They are looking to have a Board member and a legislator speak at the conference. Anyone interested in presenting at the conference should contact Judy. Suggestions were made for a panel on adjunct academic staff, breaking barriers between instructional and administrative

academic staff, and governance comparisons by campus. A question was raised about the number of academic staff allowed per campus. There are no limits, but some campuses only support a certain number. For the 2007 Academic Staff Leadership Conference, UW-Superior is planning for June 28th and 29th.

Regarding AB1147, Cora Marrett and Bill Steffenhagen noted that the bill did not get out of committee.

Regarding criminal background checks, concern was raised that this was an overreaction to the situation. This issue is not going to the Board in June.

Regarding academic staff reps presence at Board meetings, this would be worked out over e-mail. Cora Marrett suggested that she could recognize faculty and academic staff reps at the first Board meeting of the academic year. Another issue discussed was the attendees at the Academic Staff dinner with the Board of Regents; the suggestion was made that those selected should be part of academic staff governance. Finally, the idea of joint meetings with the Faculty and Academic Staff Reps was raised.