



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

Thursday, October 20, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Judith Blackstone, UW-Eau Claire
Samantha Surowiec, UW-Green Bay
Deborah Veglahn, UW-LaCrosse
Frank Kooistra, UW-Madison
Mathew Sirinek, UW-Milwaukee
Julie Schneider, UW-Stevens Point
Vi Jones, UW-Stout
Donna Dahlvang, UW-Superior
Michael Cohen, UW-Whitewater
Dave Carlson, UW Rock County (by phone)
Rick Haskey, UW-Parkside
Cyndi Reuter, UW-Platteville
Kimberly Gould Speckman, UW-River Falls (by phone)
Mary Jane Ederer, UW-Extension
Bill Steffenhagen, UW-Madison (ASPRO President)
Sal Carranza, UW System Administration
Cora Marrett, UW System Administration
Bob Jokisch, UW System Administration
Al Crist, UW System Administration
Debbie Durcan, UW System Administration
Pat Brady, UW System Administration
Margaret Lewis, UW System Administration

Absent:

Bryan Bain, UW-Oshkosh

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Cora Marrett opened the meeting by noting that the reason the Academic Staff Representatives Council is meeting face-to-face this month is because of the need to discuss how to get academic staff input to the Board of Regents in November and to Board of Regents President Walsh's committee on criminal offenses. In addition, the meeting will also cover Orientation information we were unable to cover at the first meeting.

Margaret Lewis, Associate Vice President for Government Relations, handed out a list of campus legislative liaisons. This group has monthly teleconferences. Margaret noted the importance of local campus dealings with their legislators. Margaret also handed out the list of legislative bills affecting the UW System. More information on these bills can be found at http://www.uwsa.edu/univ_rel/govrel/pending/index.htm

A number of Academic Staff Representatives had questions for Margaret Lewis on particular bills. There was also discussion about how to improve relations with legislators, with UW-LaCrosse noting the success they have had with a forum with their legislators.

Pat Brady, General Counsel, provided an overview of the Office of General Counsel at UW System Administration. The Office of General Counsel provides legal services to the Board of Regents, the President and UW institutions on all legal topics including real estate, trust, and corporate matters. There are also legal counsel at UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, and UW-Green Bay. Litigation is provided by the Attorney General's Office. Pat explained that while they encourage individuals to call with their legal questions, UW institutions often prefer that you first go through campus channels.

Al Crist, Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Pat Brady then discussed Employment Policies and Practices. The Legislative Joint Audit Committee met this week and approved an audit of UW Employment Policies and Practices. The scope of the audit by the Legislative Audit Bureau can be found at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lab/AuditsInProgress.htm>

Regent President Walsh has established a committee to examine how the University of Wisconsin should deal with staff that are convicted of felonies or other criminal offenses and determine if legislative changes are needed.

Concerns raised by Academic Staff Representatives included how the University of Wisconsin will handle criminal convictions by staff that occurred years ago and concern that staff will have to pay for a special doctor's visit to get a note for absence.

Al Crist noted that the Board of Regents has dealt with all of the issues in Regent Resolution I.2.c. from the September Board of Regents meeting, except for #1. The Board will be discussing #1 at the next two meetings.

Academic Staff Representatives expressed concern with staff understanding the complexity of the personnel policies. In addition, it was noted that academic staff historically have sacrificed pay for better benefits. Academic staff representatives also expressed concern about being competitive in recruiting and comparisons with classified staff in terms of job security.

Debbie Durcan, Vice President for Finance, updated the Council on the Senate Higher Education Committee Hearing yesterday. There was an excellent presentation by a university staff person expressing concern about the Governor's initiatives on purchasing and travel, and how it was costing the university more. The presentation showed how concerned staff are with being fiscally responsible in their purchases. Debbie noted that there has been a bit of relief from DOA on travel regulations. Academic Staff Representatives raised concerns about getting hotels in their area on the state approved list and other policies.

Debbie Durcan also explained the different areas under Finance:

- Procurement
- Safety and Loss
- Financial Administration
- Operations Review and Audit
- Trust Funds

Highlights of Roundtable:

- UW-Green Bay: Campus is working with UW-Oshkosh and the technical colleges on transfer agreements in general education.

- UW-Parkside: Campus recently had an enrollment summit dealing with how they accept applications, what is working well and what needs improvement.
- UW-Superior: A new campaign began in the twin cities looking to increase enrollment.
- UW-Extension: There are a lot of concerns about the travel policies and reimbursement for travel. Morale is a problem because of the overall negative feelings about state employees. UW-Extension is also looking at the growing markets for non-traditional students.
- UW System Administration: Morale and the budget cuts are a real problem. There have been brown bag discussions with academic staff to deal with these issues. In addition, the UW System has received a \$1 million grant to enhance universal design.
- UW-Whitewater: Issues affecting academic staff include a survey of workload and discussion of multiple year appointments and indefinite status. There is also construction of the Business School and the University Center.
- UW-Madison: The campus is celebrating 20 years of academic staff governance.
- UW Colleges: Enrollment met their target.
- UW-River Falls: Health care premiums are going up 128%, while there are less insurance options.
- UW-Milwaukee: The campus is implementing an early warning system with academic advisers for new freshmen who are at risk. New contracts have been set up for academic staff in the English department, replacing the fixed, non-renewal contracts.
- UW-Stout: Campus has had budget forums to discuss priorities and focus. They also have the same insurance issues as UW-River Falls.
- UW-Eau Claire: They are searching for a new Chancellor and Provost. Issue with foreign language instructors who have contracts with no intent to renew.
- UW-LaCrosse: New residence hall is under construction. There is also an academic staff mentor program for new academic staff.
- UW-Stevens Point: The campus has announced a new program with UW-Marshfield and UW-Marathon County for dual admission with UW-Stevens Point. There is also a new budget review committee with faculty, academic staff and classified staff.
- UW-Platteville: The DOA procurement mandates are an issue on campus. A survey of the evaluation process led to training for supervisors. There is also a concern with the loss of multi-year appointments.

Cora Marret also encouraged academic staff to provide ideas for agendas for Board of Regents and Administrative Staff (Chancellors Meeting).

The November meeting of the Academic Staff Representatives Council will be a teleconference.