



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

Thursday, September 14, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Judith Blackstone, UW-Eau Claire
Sheri Arendt, UW-Green Bay
Deborah Veglahn, UW-LaCrosse
Read Gilgen, UW-Madison
Jon Lenichuk, UW-Milwaukee
Ann Marie Johnson, UW-Oshkosh
Rebecca Ferguson, UW-Parkside
Cyndi Reuter, UW-Platteville
Cara Rubis, UW-River Falls
Mike Pagel, UW-Stevens Point
Donna Dahlvang, UW-Superior
Michael Cohen, UW-Whitewater
Dave Carlson, UW Rock County
Heather Boyd, UW-Extension
Donna Silver, UW System Administration
Cora Marrett, UW System Administration
Bob Jokisch, UW System Administration
Bill Steffenhagen, UW-Madison (ASPRO President)

Absent:

Dennis Shaw, UW-Stout

The meeting began with a welcome from Senior Vice President Cora Marrett, followed by introductions of all Academic Staff Representatives and System Administration staff. Cora Marrett then introduced Executive Senior Vice President Don Mash, who briefly discussed budget issues and meetings with legislators. It was also noted that the Pay Plan Committee will be meeting on the 22nd (three members of the Academic Staff Reps are on the Committee).

Associate Vice President Margaret Lewis then provided an update on Legislative Issues. Margaret summarized the legislative information on the UWSA web site available to academic staff. The web site provides information about legislators, the Growth Agenda, and general information about the UW System. See <http://www.uwsa.edu/execvp/govrel/index.htm> The Academic Staff Reps will also be sent the list of Legislative Liaisons. The discussion raised the suggestion that people should call or write because legislators receive so many e-mails. If writing, it was suggested to put your home address so that legislators can see that you are in their district.

Margaret then discussed the President's Growth Agenda and stressed the importance of resolutions of support from groups such as the Academic Staff. The Academic Staff Reps said they would discuss this further in their separate session. Margaret also covered the UW System position on the Taxpayer Protection Act, concealed weapons, stem cell research, and Veterans' Remissions. There was discussion of how the Academic Staff Reps may have different views from official UW System positions on legislation and how these meetings are helpful in sharing these opinions. Finally, Margaret also shared a list of questions for candidates regarding their positions on issues of concern to the UW System. Margaret encouraged academic staff to attend public candidate events and ask about the candidates' positions on higher education.

General Counsel Pat Brady then provided an overview on the Office of the General Counsel. There are five lawyers in her office who provide legal services to the Board of Regents, System Administration, the President, and all UW System institutions without legal counsel. UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, and UW-Green Bay have their own legal counsel. While the Attorney General represents the UW System in court matters, the General Counsel's office represents the UW System on issues including administrative litigation, personnel, bankruptcy, and intellectual property. Pat encourages people to call her office, but noted that their Chancellors often want to be apprised. The Office of the General Counsel also offers workshops for department chairs. Because of interest from the Academic Staff Reps, information on the workshops for department chairs will be sent to them. The Office of the General Counsel also meets regularly with the Registrars, Chief Business Officers, and other groups. Other discussion items included the Open Meetings Law, about which they asked for additional information, and Governance in the UW System.

President Kevin Reilly then provided an overview of the Growth Agenda. President Reilly noted that out of every 100 eighth graders in Wisconsin, approximately 30 receive college degrees. The State needs to do better. The Governor supports additional revenues for the UW System. The goals of the Growth Agenda are:

1. Enroll more Wisconsin residents and graduate more four-year degree holders
2. Attract college graduates from other states to Wisconsin
3. Use university resources to grow knowledge-economy jobs for Wisconsin's future

The question was raised of how the UW System will grow when the number of high school graduates is not growing. President Reilly responded that the UW System needs a greater percentage of the high school population to attend college and needs to do a better job serving adult learners. The Wisconsin Covenant will help by providing resources for college in exchange for good grades and good citizenship.

Discussion issues raised by the Academic Staff Reps included the role of UW-Madison in the Growth Agenda, competition for enrollment between campuses, the role of teaching academic staff, and the importance of liberal arts. President Reilly concluded the discussion by asking for support for the Growth Agenda from Academic Staff governance groups.

Associate Vice President Freda Harris provided an overview of budget issues for the Academic Staff Reps. The UW System Biennial Budget Request goes to DOA tomorrow. The UW System also has to prepare a budget reduction report; this doesn't mean that the UW System will have a

budget reduction. The Compensation Request is submitted to the Board of Regents in November or December. The Governor' Budget is released in January or February. Discussion items raised by the Academic Staff Reps included how tuition is set, cuts in administrative costs, per credit tuition, and veterans' remissions.

The final agenda item before the separate discussion among Academic Staff Reps, was the Academic Staff Reps Survey. It was decided to add information on the composition of the Academic Staff Committee between instructional and non-instructional academic staff and what the responsibilities of the Academic Staff governance is beyond Chapter 36.