



## 2007-08 University of Wisconsin System Council of Academic Staff Representatives

Thursday, October 11, 2007 Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

Jennifer Brockpahler, UW-Eau Claire  
Sherri Arendt, UW-Green Bay  
Susan Crowley, UW-Madison  
Jon Lenichak, UW-Milwaukee  
Lynn Freeman, UW-Oshkosh  
Mark Marlaire, UW-Parkside  
Scott Ringgenberg, UW-Platteville  
Jason Neuhaus, UW-River Falls  
Mike Pagel, UW-Stevens Point  
Dennis Shaw, UW-Stout  
Donna Dahlvang, UW-Superior  
Michael Cohen, UW-Whitewater  
Dave Carlson, UW Rock County  
Tom Culviner, UW-Extension  
Donna Silver, UW System Administration  
Rebecca Martin, Senior Vice President, UWSA  
Ron Singer, Associate Vice President, UWSA  
Pat Brady, General Counsel, UWSA  
Ed Meachen, Associate Vice President, UWSA  
Freda Harris, Associate Vice President, UWSA  
Todd Bailey, Institutional Planner, UWSA  
Bob Jokisch, Special Assistant, UWSA  
Bill Steffenhagen, UW-Madison (ASPRO President)

### Absent:

Brenda Leahy, UW-La Crosse

Associate Vice President Ron Singer and Bob Jokisch joined the meeting at 10:30 following a discussion among Academic Staff Representatives.

The meeting began with a presentation by General Counsel Pat Brady on Legal Issues Facing the UW System. Pat began with a review of Chapter 36, which is the legal framework for the UW System. s. 36.09 (4m) of the statutes explains the role of academic staff in the UW System. Pat noted that in addition to the statutes, UW System Administrative Codes (which the Board of Regents adopts), campus policies, Board policies, System Administration policies, and finance and personnel guidelines impact academic staff. There were a number of clarifying questions raised by Academic Staff Reps. The Academic Staff Reps raised the issue that has come up at

UW-Madison regarding academic staff on 100% grant funds and whether they can participate in governance. The Academic Staff Reps also asked for further clarification about open meetings law. Pat Brady explained that while the campus academic staff groups are governmental bodies, the academic staff reps are not. Therefore, there are no notice requirements and the public doesn't have a right to be there. In response to other questions, Pat provided further explanations of both open meetings and open records requirements.

Associate Vice President Ron Singer next had a discussion with the Academic Staff Representatives. The minutes of the September 20 meeting were approved by the Academic Staff Reps with edits to the list of attendees. The Academic Staff Reps then discussed with Ron Singer the issues raised during their separate discussion. Regarding leave reporting, the academic staff reps raised the issue of academic staff being treated the same as faculty under the new proposals.

Ron Singer and Todd Bailey with the Office of Policy Analysis and Research (OPAR) then discussed the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) with the Academic Staff Reps. VSA results from an interest in higher education to providing greater accountability. Two national higher education groups, NASULGC and AASCU, are taking the lead in VSA. VSA will provide a web-based portrait that will be uniform for all institutions. Three sets of information would be shown on the template:

- Student and family information
- Student experiences
- Student learning outcomes

President Reilly and Senior Vice President Martin have discussed this with the Chancellors, Provosts, Faculty Reps, and other groups, and are committed to moving forward as a System in participating in this initiative. They plan to bring this to the Board of Regents in November. The Academic Staff Reps raised questions about the tools to be used for measuring learning outcomes. Todd Bailey noted that each institution will be able to choose the assessment tools. In addition, institutions will be able to put more information out there to further explain the assessment data and their student body. Ron Singer encouraged further campus conversations on this project.

Associate Vice President Ed Meachen then discussed the Common Systems Roadmap and the Human Resources System (HRS) project with the Academic Staff Reps. The Common Systems Roadmap is a long range (10 years) look at technology for the UW System. The Roadmap looks at what outcomes we want for students, faculty, and staff, and what new technology we see coming. The Roadmap is a living document that will be reviewed annually. It was presented to the Board of Regents last week.

For the HRS project, Ed Meachen noted that the charter for this project has just been completed and will be posted on-line in a couple weeks. Al Crist and Ed are visiting all UW System institutions, to discuss what is required at each campus and how it will be paid. Ed will provide the Academic Staff Reps with periodic updates and also have updates on the web. In response to a question about adopting new technologies, Ed explained that there is now a well-defined process through the Common Systems Review Group, which has representation from each UW

System institution. Ed also discussed how this project will examine business practices to determine the costs and benefits of changes when they conflict with the new HRS system.

Ron Singer then provided further information to the Academic Staff Reps on the distinguished title. He shared a table showing the use of the distinguished title across the UW System, and noted that UW System Administration is developing criteria for the title. The use of this title is within the discretion of the campus. The Academic Staff Reps agreed to share criteria developed with each other.

Associate Vice President Freda Harris shared a summary of information available on the Governor's budget proposal for the Special Session. The Governor's budget proposal provides \$22 million for the Growth Agenda, but \$25 million biennially in lapses (\$12.5 million annually). The tuition cap passed by the Assembly is not included. Costs to continue are fully funded under the Governor's budget and the Compensation Reserve is funded at the same level as Joint Finance. Freda noted that the lapse would certainly slow the Growth Agenda. Freda also noted that this proposal may not pass.

The meeting ended following further discussion among Academic Staff Representatives.