

Department of Youth Development

Report from Chair, Tom Schmitz

February 23, 2007

The last few months have included the following activities:

- ❑ Department of Youth Development Wisline – December 8
- ❑ Cooperative Extension Administrative Committee Meetings – December 14 & 15, January 16 & 17, February 12 & 13
- ❑ Academic Chairs Meeting - December 18
- ❑ Academic Leadership Standing Committee Meeting – December 19
- ❑ Chancellor's Town Hall Meeting – January 8
- ❑ University Committee Meeting – January 9
- ❑ Meeting with Chancellor Wilson - January 19
- ❑ Vice Chairs Wisline – January 23
- ❑ HR Network Wisline – February 14
- ❑ Meeting with Chancellor Wilson on Strategic Plan – February 21
- ❑ Day-To-Day Department Chair Responsibilities

Department of Youth Development Wisline – December 8 - At this meeting we established a mission for the Department of Youth Development which is “*to practice and advance the academic discipline of youth development*”. That mission is now posted on the Department web site at <http://4h.uwex.edu/department/index.cfm>. Minutes of the meeting can also be found on the Department of Youth Development web site.

Cooperative Extension Administrative Committee (CEAC) meetings – Three series of meetings were held during December, January and February as the transition from Dean Leholm to Interim Dean Klemme transpired. Much of the discussion focused on the shared vision for UW-Extension and Colleges. I served on a couple of work groups which provided proactive input into the Chancellor's process. The February 13 meeting served as a work day on valuing difference. Minutes of these meetings can be found on the Dean's web site at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/admin/committees/committee.cfm?committeeid=2>.

Academic Chairs Meeting – December 18. The chairs met face-to-face and with the Associate Dean. Agenda items included Follow-up from Department Chair Training, extending tenure deadline when switching counties, CEAC schedule, Assigning Rank, Role of academic departments in county faculty interviews, Tenured Faculty Reviews and the meritorious rating

Academic Leadership Standing Committee Meeting – December 19. This meeting included a discussion of the criteria for merit and discussion with Rick Klemme, the Interim Dean in waiting. Also, Marv Van Kekerix, Vice Chancellor and Provost, discussed the process of studying alternative governance structures.

Chancellor's Town Hall Meeting – January 8. I attended this meeting, where the Chancellor introduced a number of themes that would inform the “shared vision”. These themes were distilled from a variety of sources. I worked on a small subcommittee of CEAC that provided suggestions for themes to the Chancellor. I was pleased to see that the majority of our suggestions made it into the Chancellor's presentation.

University Committee Meeting – January 9. Academic Department Chairs were invited to this meeting to discuss the Chancellor's January 8 presentation. A response to the presentation was crafted and that response focused on Access as a unifying theme.

Meeting with Chancellor Wilson - January 19. Several folks present at the January 9 meeting met with Chancellor Wilson to share our response to the January 8 presentation. Chancellor Wilson was receptive to our presentation.

Vice Chairs Wisline – January 23. The vice chairs met via wisline. Agendas and minutes for the meeting is on the Department Website at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/department/>. Click on the link for committees and then go to the vice chairs page.

HR Network Wisline – February 14. This wisline covered Personnel Records, Sick Leave Policy, Professional Time Scheduling and Conflict of Interest.

Meeting with Chancellor Wilson on Strategic Plan – February 21. The meeting with Chancellor Wilson and Dennis Jones from NCHEMS focused on the upcoming strategic plans. In attendance were Deans, Associate Deans, Academic Department Chairs and the Chancellor's senior staff. Jones presented the process for the institutional strategic plan and a discussion followed.

Day-To-Day Tasks. I have been working on a variety of issues related to department meetings. These include:

- Questions from Department members and committee chairs
- Assigning rank to perspective candidates
- Preparing for TFR's
- Preparing for Department Meetings
- Website updates

Facilitating and Supporting Equal Opportunities in Employment and Programming – I am now serving on a CEAC committee which is looking into how to retain faculty and staff who are not from the dominant culture. This committee has developed a document that lays out the business case for developing and retaining a diverse workforce. They will also be doing some interview work with staff of color. I also attended the Multi-cultural Awareness Training. This training really help me greatly and I encourage everyone to attend.

Upcoming Department Meetings –

March 12 – Vice Chairs Wisline

April 26 - Department Meeting in Wausau

Respectfully Submitted:
Tom Schmitz
Chair, Department of Youth Development
February 23, 2007