

Department of Youth Development

Report from Chair, Tom Schmitz

November 1, 2005

The last two months included the following activities:

- ❑ Staffing Taskforce Wisline – September 8
- ❑ Vice Chairs Meeting – September 13
- ❑ Tenured Faculty Review Committee Wisline – September 21
- ❑ Handbook Revisions
- ❑ Cooperative Extension Administrative Committee (CEAC) Meeting – October 27
- ❑ Day-To-Day Department Chair Responsibilities

September 8 – Staffing Taskforce Wisline – As result of looming budget issues the optimal staffing for open positions of having a full time faculty member might not always be possible. Three realities are stressing budgets. First, the state budget cuts result in the need to reduce recurring expenses by about \$500,000. Second, UW-Extension is determined to invest in its people and move ahead with increased raises for promotions and increased stipends for County Department Heads starting July 1 of 2007. And third, the No Tax/No Spend mindset of government puts additional stress on state and county budgets. Given these realities, demanding full time faculty positions would not keep the Department of Youth Development at the negotiating table for very long when staffing options for open positions are debated.

To deal with these challenges a group of colleague gave input on what guiding principles, I as department chair should take into account when negotiating these positions. Because these principles are negotiating positions, they will not be made public. I would like to thank, all those who served on the committee and all those who gave input to the process.

September 13 – Vice Chairs Meeting. The vice-chairs met face-to-face at the Trust and Transformation Conference. Among the agenda items: Rank at the Time of Hire, Handbook Revisions, Dates for Department Meetings (Friday, December 9th – 9:00-11:00am via wisline and Thursday, April 6th – Face to Face with Family Living), Update by Chair and Dates for future Vice Chair teleconference meetings. The vice-chairs did discuss whether or not to have a department Secretary as an elected position but came to no resolution. If you have thoughts on these issues, please touch base with your vice-chair. The next vice-chairs meeting is November 21 at 2:00pm via wisline.

September 21 – Tenured Faculty Review Committee meeting. This meeting was a planning meeting to review the process and set dates for the 2006 reviews. The dates were moved up to late January to better align the TFR process with the overall performance review process.

Handbook Revisions – a sub-group of the vice chairs has been working on the handbook update and review process. The hope is to have all the changes in time for the December 9th Department meeting.

October 27 – Cooperative Extension Administrative Committee (CEAC) Meeting. This was a planning meeting to set goals and work teams for the upcoming year. Several work groups were established. The results of that meeting should be available on the Dean's web site.

Day-To-Day Tasks. I have been organizing the details for department meetings. In addition, I have been handling questions from Department members and committee chairs and working on Website updates.

Upcoming Department Meetings –

Friday, December 9th – 9:00-11:00am via wisline

Thursday, April 6th – Face to Face with Family Living – UW Stevens Point

Respectfully Submitted:

Tom Schmitz

Chair, Department of Youth Development

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