

Approved 05/16/2007

Academic Staff Council Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2007
Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street, Madison, WI

Call to order; Certification of Open Meeting Notice Compliance

Chair Mann called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. and certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Members present: Bill Mann, Nancy Coffey, Mary Jane Ederer, John Fischer, Darlene Kramer, Michael Maguire, Penny Ralston-Berg. Others present: Ray Schultz. Guest: James Molenda UFAS/AFT, Kevin Kniffin AFT-Wisconsin.

Approval of Minutes of 21 March 2007 meeting

Motion to approve minutes by Darlene; seconded by Mary Jane; no discussion; motion carried.

AFT and UFAS Representative Information

Molenda and Kniffin presented information about their groups and their groups support for the enabling legislation for collective bargaining for UW System Faculty and Academic Staff contained in the Governor's budget. They discussed the issues from the perspective of the "right to vote" as the basis for support. Members queried them about different specifics and problems seen with the legislation in its current form. The discussion from Molenda's and Kniffin's perspective always returned to the "right to vote". Even though they acknowledged members questions and concerns, they felt that the details could be worked out later and that it was important to get the "right to vote" now and worry more about the details later.

It was noted that there have been earlier attempts at legislative action to give UWS Faculty and Academic Staff the "right to vote" for collective bargaining and that the current legislative verbiage corrected a number of concerns with past wording.

Members noted concerns over the separation of faculty and academic staff. Responses were that while there may be problems with the current separation, the need to get the "right to vote" was more important than the specifics, and that language could be adjusted after the "right to vote" was secured.

Members questioned the lack of agreement between ASPRO and UFAS/AFT. The lack of an agreement was acknowledged and Molenda and Kniffin said they had tried to work on agreement and they would continue to work on this.

Members are still interested in hearing from the School for Workers representatives in the future if possible.

Vice Chancellor Report

Vice Chancellor Van Kekerix was not present and expressed his regrets.

Chair Report

Bill announced that another "road trip" is scheduled for May 22. Members expressed that attending District meetings would be perhaps more useful than individual office "road trips". Members will review meetings in their areas for governance visits.

Ray was asked to follow-up on a possible visit with WNEP coordinators at their meeting in later April.

Council members were asked to try to get people more involved and that getting more nominations for the open seats on the Council would be a great first step. All members agreed to contact individuals for possible nominations. Council asked that the timeline for nominations be extended to April 20.

With the talk about council seats, the topic of nominations was discussed. Members felt there may be too much verbiage on the request for nominations to the council and asked to look at it for revisions.

Concern was expressed about council taking people away from work “a lot” and that the lack of nominations for council may reflect concerns about the amount of work involved.

Everyone expressed that council is striving to do a better job with communications and we need to continue.

Michael was asked to contact Kate to send out another request for nominations and to announce that the deadline was extended to April 20.

Ray followed-up with Sandy Baker about getting a list of academic staff with email addresses attached. Sandy said she talked to the IT people and that this was possible and she will send it to Ray when she gets it.

System Academic Staffs Reps Council Report

Ray shared a Draft of a set of guidelines and principles for shared governance being developed by the Faculty and Academic Staff Representatives Groups that meet with UWS officials. Since Heather was not present, Michael agreed to talk with her and follow up on the draft guidelines.

Leave Reporting recommendations: discussion for input

It was recommended that in section III, 3 the word “sick” should be deleted the two times it appears. This would turn the discussion into one of leaves in general, not just about sick leave.

There needs to be some means to address the timeliness of submitting leave reports when people are on vacation or sick and miss the recommended 10th of the month deadline. There should be no penalty in these cases for a late report.

Motion to extend the meeting for 5 minutes was approved.

Committee Reports

Communications – The survey will go out soon.

Nominations – We talked about this earlier.

Distinguished Prefix – A meeting to review submissions will be held on May 22.

WisLine Web presentation on PG #15

The WisLine will be in room 235. We briefly talked about our processes. We are “ready to roll”

The meeting adjourned at 10:35.

Recorded by Ray Schultz, 4-11-07