

Approved 2-14-07

Academic Staff Council Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2007
Room 523 – 432 N. Lake Street
Madison, WI

Call to order/certification of Open Meeting Notice compliance

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Chair Mann. Members present: Nancy Coffey, Michael Maguire, Darlene Kramer, Bill Mann, Heather Boyd, Penny Ralston-Berg, John Fischer, Mary Jane Ederer. Others: Ray Schultz, Marv Van Kekerix (by phone at 10:00), Kate Wodyn.

Approval of minutes of December 20, 2006 meeting

Motion to approve by Boyd/Kramer; no discussion; motion carried.

Chair Report

Bill Mann reported that at the last Academic Staff Reps Council meeting there was a representative from ASPRO, which is a group that represents academic staff on a number of different fronts, including doing some lobbying. Mann felt it seemed to be a worthwhile organization to be involved with. If there is consensus among the members, he would like to invite them to the next meeting. This would be an opportunity to find out what they do and what the benefits are; he doesn't want it to be a sales pitch. Bill is an ASPRO member himself. There was general agreement to have ASPRO present at the next meeting. Mann is hoping to get on the road and do some county visits to talk about governance and spread the word (Mann or Schultz will send out some dates/times). Michael Maguire recently took the opportunity to talk about the Academic Staff Council at a Wisconsin Public Television staff meeting and received a favorable response. There also may be opportunities at the monthly Cooperative Extension district WisLines. There was some discussion about release time/unit support for governance activities; Boyd referred to a recent survey done by UW System which included a question about this.

System Academic Staff Reps Council report

Boyd said a teleconference is scheduled for tomorrow but may be cancelled due to lack of agenda items. There was nothing else to report.

Committee Reports

Communications: Penny is still working on a survey for communication preferences. A rough draft will be presented at the February special meeting.

Nominations: discussion on upcoming tasks: Academic Staff Regents award nominee selection; Academic Staff Council awards call for nominations (Feb); Academic Staff Council election (April). Heather will work on the call for the ASC awards nominations to go out in late February.

Distinguished Prefix: committee members are being selected. No meeting date set yet. Recommendations are due to the Chancellor by Feb 15. There are four applications.

UPG#15 (Title Progression) Committee

Kramer reported on the meeting this morning. The WisLine Web presentation on title progression will be scheduled April 11 as a brown bag session from 11:30-1:00. Penny explained the format. First stage: awareness/information. Second stage: process, examples, HR tie-in. After the WisLine would be a follow-up exercise with a worksheet, which would mirror the process talked about in the program. This would be a starting point with talking points for staff to take to their supervisor. Materials and links would be available. There would also be three workshops on title progression scheduled for the upcoming year, which would provide the information in a face-to-face format instead of an online format. Ederer asked about UW Colleges participation. Maguire will give the Colleges academic staff rep a heads up on what we are planning. On a related note, Kramer mentioned the role of the supervisor and we should promote this program to supervisors as well. Next committee meeting will be at 8:15 on Feb 14 (before the joint Academic Staff Council/University Committee meeting).

Chancellor/Vice Chancellor Report

Marv Van Kekerix joined the meeting by phone. The main activities since last meeting relate to the town hall meeting that took place on Jan 8. He is currently involved in attending the WACEC winter meetings. He provides an administrative update, which has largely been around the growth agenda and our proposal for the Adult Student Initiative. Big issues from the county perspective seem to be health care costs and PK-12 funding because of decreasing enrollments in some areas. He also provided an update on personnel; five finalists for the Dean of Continuing Education, Outreach & E-Learning are coming to interview Jan 17-19. Rick Klemme has been named interim Cooperative Extension Dean effective 2/1/07, replacing Arlen Leholm. This will be a long-term appointment with a national search not conducted until the third year.

Discussion of Town Hall Meeting

Mann asked for reactions. Comments were made that it was not as much of a town hall meeting as a presentation/lecture, and seemed to be more of a practice session for the Feb 7 event. The chancellor covered a lot of information in depth but didn't allow for meaningful discussion. Some listened by WisLine without the benefit of slides which was difficult. Other comments were that there was an expectation that there would be opportunity for input, and many had prepared by looking at the reports posted on the web, and then leaving 5 minutes for discussion at the end didn't allow for dialogue. In the invitation, it was inferred there would be dialogue and disappointment in that this did not happen. It was also commented that all staff should have been included, rather than just select groups. However, if this was to share his understanding of the issues, then the chancellor did a good job of that. He also made it clear that this is his idea of where we are going (markers on the horizon) and this is not a bad thing. The group asked Van Kekerix for his reaction. He responded that he has been in discussions with other groups and there have been the same reactions across all conversations. It is clear that the Chancellor has been to a lot of places and has listened a lot. The fact that there are no surprises is perhaps a good thing. There is the opportunity for input now and he encouraged members to take the Chancellor at his word. Before Feb 7 there has to be some lumping together of these themes. There has also been some discussion of the IDEAS acronym and whether the themes would be associated with that. Maguire said he would like to convey to the Chancellor to "Look at all the help you have around you". These are issues we are familiar with and grapple with all the time. Van Kekerix responded that this is an excellent message to convey. Mann said we should take opportunities at events like the town hall meeting to introduce ourselves to UW Colleges colleagues to ease the tension and make it more personal. Schultz suggested that members look for umbrella ideas for consolidating the themes. Mann reminded everyone that feedback can be sent to Teri Venker's email.

Schedule February Special Meeting

Mann proposed a date of Tuesday, February 27, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. The agenda will be on communications, with a look at the draft survey. Coffey and Kramer will join by phone.

Discussion of Institutional Issues and Opportunities.

Mann suggested moving the April 11 meeting to Pyle Center and starting at 8:30 (to 10:30) to allow enough prep time before the 11:30 WisLine title progression session.

Kramer asked about the slight change in UPG #15; Schultz explained it must yet go to the chancellor and Board of Regents for approval.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Coffey/Maguire. Meeting adjourned at 11:11.

Recorded by Wodyn, 1-10-07.