

Academic Staff Council Meeting Minutes
13 February 2008
432 North Lake Street, Room 523
Madison WI

1. Call to Order/Certification of Open Meeting Notice Compliance

Chair Maguire called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and certified compliance with the open meetings law. He welcomed Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor Robin Shepard. Introductions were made.

Council members in attendance: Michael Maguire, Tom Culviner, John Fischer, Darlene Kramer, Nancy Coffey (on phone briefly), Allisanne Apple, Ja'tawn Campbell-Pinson.

Others attending: Robin Shepard, Ann Keim, Ray Schultz, and Kate Wodyn.

2. Provost/Vice Chancellor Report

Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor Robin Shepard started by saying he is in the interim position for approximately 6 months. He has been in Extension for 19 years and at one time was part of Academic Staff Council in the mid 90s. He is a tenured faculty member on leave while in an administrative position. His background is in natural resources programming and he has done a lot with evaluation and impact training. Prior to that, he spent time as a broadcast news reporter in Iowa. He feels he has practical experience in a number of our divisions. He is on a steep learning curve and hopes he can keep things moving ahead in the next 6 months. FYI items: we have heard messages about projections of a state budget deficit. In response, three areas are currently restricted; new hires, travel and lease of space. These will get a stronger fiscal review. The chancellor will turn to provosts and deans/directors as well as budget folks for review. The Program Innovation Fund call for proposals has been sent out with a due date of May 1. \$200,000 is available this round. Shepard attended the Board of Regents (BOR) meeting last week and distributed an informational piece on the Growth Agenda. He drew particular attention to #9 for Academic Staff and #10 for Cooperative Extension. Perhaps this is an opportunity to recommend ourselves to the President's 10-point plan. We can schedule time at future meetings to discuss this if there is a desire to. The Vice Chancellor search and screen committee has been formed; the chancellor hopes to have an offer on the table in June or July.

3. Approval of January 16 meeting minutes

Motion to approve by Fischer; Apple seconded. Motion carried.

4. Brief ASC Member Mission Presentation

Allisanne Apple is a member of the Division of Entrepreneurship and Economic development (distributed copies of a PowerPoint). They were primarily Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) in the past but have expanded their reach under the Wisconsin Entrepreneurs Network (WEN), which is a portal for communication and service to entrepreneurs around the state. SBDCs train approximately 13,000 people per year. They also administer the Business Answer Line, which was established for handling basic questions. Their other big funding partner is the Wisconsin Dept. of Commerce and we have a role in administering grants. They are an incredibly small division with a central staff of about 8; she is the IT person. A possible future change in their division is that the chancellor would like to have the director of their division be at the Vice Chancellor level in partnership with UW System, because of the emphasis on economic development in the state.

5. Chair Report

Today's theme is communication. Maguire commented that Marv Van Kekerix "threw down the gauntlet" about being open and transparent and freely communicating. This does much to quell rumor and reduce anxiety. The better-informed Academic Staff Council (ASC) can be the better. Also related to communication, Maguire encouraged members to make a goal of being on their department or division staff meeting agenda to give a brief presentation about ASC. Rob Burke and Maguire have sent a joint response to UW System on the shared governance principles and guidelines draft not recommending it. He reminded the group that today is another Chancellor WisLine brown bag. He also alerted members about expanded benefits to armed services members and their families, and to contact a divisional HR person for more information. He also recommended the UW Clip Sheet as a great source of information (some members are receiving it; he will forward it to others) and referenced a specific item on collective bargaining.

6. Academic Staff Representatives Council report

Culviner tallied where other campuses have come in on the proposed shared governance principles and guidelines; approx 50/50 on the academic staff side. Regarding UPG 3, most institutions have multi-year contracts after 7 years. The ASRC would like to know what is happening in Extension and have requested a

formal audit. Culviner added that Al Crist has asked to know about any perceived abuses of the policy at the institutions. Apple asked if this is due to lack of knowledge. Fischer suggested inviting David Prucha to the next meeting. Shepard commented on his experience with the Basin Educator program, the volatility of funding coming through the DNR for these positions and how the employees were very aware of this. Kramer added that in the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (WNEP) they are aware of that too – funding is only from year-to-year and there is no option for a longer contract. Maguire suggested the Council send a reminder to academic staff about the policy (to ask about a multi-year contract after 7 years of employment). Kramer said she would be uncomfortable sending something out before getting the information from David Prucha. There seemed to be consensus on this. David Prucha will be invited to the March meeting. Regarding the pay plan, the additional 1.5% still looks like it will be for faculty only but that is in jeopardy because of the budget situation.

7. Committee reports:

Communication survey—Maguire distributed the survey/cover letter draft. If he doesn't hear back from anyone on changes (change DEED division name) he will go ahead with this. Tom will ask Penny about how this will be delivered (electronic means). Maguire will plan a field trip with Ray in the next couple of months.

Nominations committee—calls for nominations for both ASC awards and Council seats will need to go out soon.

Distinguished prefix—David Prucha has all the positions on the committee confirmed but new members still need to be oriented. The last communication is that he will do that and then get a date for the committee to meet. John will notify the applicant of the delay.

8. Collective bargaining – continuing update/discussion

Maguire talked to Rosemary Potter regarding Senate Bill 353, which has now been referred to the Joint Committee on Finance. She will try to find out more about the status of the legislation and attend a future meeting.

9. Title review: pilot projects

Kramer reported that title review committee will be meeting this afternoon from noon-2:00 p.m. They will discuss the pilot workshop that will be conducted on May 1. Kramer gave an update on title review activities over the past couple years for Robin. The subcommittee was formed to increase the awareness and education about the title review process for academic staff. The pilot workshop will be the first face-to-face training.

10. Co-located governance meetings

Ann Keim reported on the lunch discussions at the Jan 16 meeting with UW Colleges. Keim mentioned that she sat in on the UW Colleges Senate meeting that day and mentioned that faculty, academic staff and classified are all on one body and the meeting is led by administrators. They cover many different things compared to how our governance groups operate. She distributed a compilation of the notes from the lunch table discussions. This led to some discussion around the list of specialty areas of Colleges faculty; Ann will follow-up on the latest version. Maguire asked about thoughts for the April 25 co-located meeting. It was suggested to invite new incoming Council members if the election results in. Kramer suggested inviting some who are actually doing collaborations with Colleges to showcase them. Apple suggested addressing some of the structure questions. Fischer suggested addressing governance issues—are there any common topics? It was also suggested to introduce the joint governance work group and its focus. Maguire said the planning committee for the January meeting will be reconvened after the Colleges Senate meeting in March to plan the April meeting. Logistics for April: coordinated transportation from Madison to Baraboo will be arranged.

11. Proactive discussion of institutional issues and opportunities for appropriate academic staff governance

Fischer asked if there is anything written about notice periods for non-renewal. He was referred to Chapter 10 (Ray will email him the specific reference).

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Recorded by Wodyn, 2-13-08.