

Approved 1-16-08

**Academic Staff Council Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2007
The Pyle Center – Madison, WI**

Call to order/certification of Open Meeting Notice Compliance

Chair Maguire called the meeting to order at 9:04 and certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law. At Pyle: Michael Maguire, Lynne Blinkenberg, John Fischer, Tom Culviner, Allisanne Apple, Marv Van Kekerix, Kate Wodyn, David Prucha. On phone: Nancy Coffey, Darlene Kramer, Ja'tawn Campbell-Pinson, Donna Peterson (CASI)

Approval of Minutes of Nov 14 meeting

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

Chairs Report

Maguire opened by saying that Marv Van Kekerix has served as Vice Chancellor since 2000 and will be moving to the Division of Continuing Studies at UW-Madison on Feb. 1. Maguire suggested a joint resolution with University Committee expressing appreciation for Marv for presentation at Jan 16 meeting. Maguire had a conversation with Chancellor Wilson yesterday about plans for filling the Vice Chancellor position; Wilson plans to name an interim by Jan 1. A search for a permanent replacement will be launched very soon. The Chancellor would like to have 4-6 academic staff nominees for serving on search and screen committee. Maguire asked for ideas about a process for naming. Fischer would like to take this back to his division. Apple nominated John Fischer. Maguire is willing to craft an email for members to send to their divisions. He also suggested (and distributed) that the call be accompanied by a copy of the UWEX Mission statement. The nominations committee will narrow the nominations to the number David Wilson is looking for and determine an equitable distribution (diversity, divisional, geographic, etc.) of nominees. Coffey suggested that along with the request for nominations, an idea of the time commitment involved be given. Timeline: draft email by Maguire by end of tomorrow; email to divisions with response by 12/20; nominations committee will meet on Dec 21 to narrow the nominations; names will be forwarded to Maguire to forward to Chancellor. Nominations should include name, title, position, years of service in UWEX.

Maguire referenced the letter from President Reilly to Michael Morgan regarding the pay plan proposal that would split the faculty from academic staff for additional pay raises. While it is true that faculty salaries are behind our peers, academic staff salaries are even further behind.

Maguire referenced the letter distributed by Tom Culvine from the System Academic Staff Reps Council (ASRC) to President Reilly regarding personnel policy concerns that basically underscores the importance of Chapter 36. Maguire commented that his experience with shared governance in the last 2 ½ years is that things have been dealt with; situations at other campuses may be different.

Maguire had also shared in a previous email some news clips, in particular one on collective bargaining and referenced the stand ASC took on this issue in 2002. Maguire suggested having a School for Workers representative come and present on this, perhaps at February meeting, to look at the issues involved with this. There was consensus to do this.

Finally, he referenced the press release from ASPRO and Tom mentioned some of messages back and forth among ASRC on this. The ASPRO message was deemed rather inflammatory.

Vice Chancellor Report

Van Kekerix reported that many task forces are completing their work (explained in detail in report last meeting). He elaborated more on the UW System Advantage Wisconsin strategic framework. The ideas generated at the last meeting were forwarded to Don Mash with favorable comments; we are one of only two institutions that provided direct feedback in this matter. Van Kekerix thanked members for that. There is a systemwide task force that is looking at tuition policy that will feed into this feedback; this has gotten

some attention in the media, especially in regard to differential tuition at Madison and La Crosse. He commented that this is an interesting conversation for this state because this is very different from the traditional policy (low tuition and low aid; moving toward higher tuition and higher aid). Another piece is the UW Colleges committee that is looking at pros and cons of a restricted baccalaureate degree authorization for Colleges and how far to go with building residence halls at the Colleges campuses. There are also the seven think tanks. On Dec 18 there will be a first round discussion of all this information with the Chancellors. On Jan 18 there will be an all-day conversation with Chancellors, Vice Chancellors and the President's Cabinet and then a discussion at the February Regents meeting. Marv also mentioned the outstanding work by Coop with the statewide listening session on Nov 27. He also mentioned we are moving ahead with the strategic planning steering committee. Next meeting is on Dec 21 (fourth meeting). Hopefully a first round draft will be available in early January. He ended by commenting that he has been in the Vice Chancellor position for 7 years and it has been a great 7 years and he appreciates in particular the people he has been working with including the governance groups. He has taken away what wonderfully talented people we have in this organization. He said he was not looking for another position; it came to him and he was reluctant at first. The timing seems to be right; leadership in the divisions more stable now than 8 months ago. The Adult Student Initiative has secured funding and has potential for being the most successful collaboration. His new position is an 18-24 month appointment which coincides well with his retirement plans. He said he has been very pleased with the positions the governance groups have taken; shared governance is very important. Maguire said that Marv's shoes are pretty big to fill and observed that Marv has been honest, candid, straightforward and never has a hidden agenda; he is clear on vision and direction and has given heads up on what governance groups should be aware of. A tall order for the next person because he has set a very high benchmark for that.

Leave Reporting/Criminal Background Checks/Health Care Options

David Prucha updated the group on the BOR approval of three resolutions related to leave reporting: 1) reaffirmation of existing policy on how leave is reported (in half-day increments); 2) put in place some "teeth" in policy that will cap amount that can be accumulated annually for failure to report appropriately and timely; 3) relating to colleague coverage; if someone is out ill they will still have to report sick leave even if they have colleague coverage (this is not an issue for UWEX).

Criminal records checks; UWEX has been doing this for a number of years, now a System policy is in place that requires all institutions to do criminal background checks.

Health care availability in NW part of state: We have some employees in counties affected by lack of options. A qualified tier 1 plan became available which meant that SMP was no longer available. This is controlled by the Dept. Employee Trust Funds (ETF) and the Group Insurance Board sets the policy. The reality is that there are more options in areas with more population in the state. UW System benefits people are trying to work with ETF to see if there is a way of increasing options.

CASI Presentation and discussion

Donna Peterson reported that UPG #15 was discussed at Sept and June CASI meetings and their stance is to move on the education part on how to do title changes. She is aware of training done in the 4-H pilot and may wait and assess the success of that.

Update on Title Review committee

Kramer mentioned the title review committee will meet again on Feb 13 (Fischer, Maguire, Ralston-Berg, Coffey) and recommend Donna Peterson, Penny Tank, Mary Detra and Ray Schultz, Bev Phillips also attend. Kramer outlined a tentative agenda for that meeting and how the 4-H pilot will be conducted. Kramer mentioned the valuable work on the part of Penny Ralston-Berg and Wayne Brabender in moving this along.

Mission presentation by Tom and John

Handouts distributed outlining the various units of CEOEL and a brief description of what they do. Culviner commented on the design and development unit which is where he works. Fischer briefly commented on the other units.

UWS “Shared Governance Principles and Guidelines”

Maguire referenced what was discussed at last joint meeting and hesitation on part of both groups to sign onto this. A new draft (dated 11/15) has been circulated. Culviner mentioned the attitude on the part of some on ASRC is that this plugs a hole in Chapter 36 because it only talks about shared governance at the campus, not at System level. A formal response from governance groups is requested by Feb. The University Committee met yesterday and has formed a subgroup to draft a cover letter to Faculty Senate with a recommendation to not endorse this. Maguire read the draft cover letter by Rob Burke that was considered by UC yesterday. Maguire commented that his cover letter “hits the nail on the head”. Culviner said there is an ASRC teleconference tomorrow. Maguire is inclined to jump on board with the UC in expressing reluctance to this. Apple motioned to contact Burke about presenting a joint letter; seconded by Culviner. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Communications: Allisanne Apple will talk to Ray about document storage.

Nominations: Two nominations received for 3 expired terms on Hearings Committee. Kramer commented it seems that we have to actively recruit specific persons to be nominees. Nominations committee will discuss approach after the meeting.

Regents Awards selection subcommittee

The call for nominations for four awards has gone out from Provost. A selection committee needs to be formed to recommend a single Extension nominee. For the Academic Staff awards, this typically comes to the nominations committee. For the teaching excellence awards, this is a joint academic staff and faculty selection committee. We need an individual willing to serve in this capacity with two faculty members. Van Kekerix hopes to have recommendations before Jan 16 so that it can be acted on at Jan 16 governance meeting.

January 16 co-located meeting

First hour and a half joint session with 1) panel discussion related to professional evaluation and 2) chancellor addressing items regarding the perception that we now have a ½ time chancellor; access to the chancellor; and consequences for governance with the administrative integration. In the afternoon, the separate governance groups will meet.

Pay Plan discussion

The 2% for 07-08 will be distributed across the board and the 2+1% in 08-09 will be dist 1/3, 1/3, 1/3.

Adjourned at 11:40.

Recorded by Wodyn, 12-12-07