

Academic Staff Council
Tuesday, September 4, 2012
11:30am-1:30pm
Pyle Center, Madison

Present: Krystal Wambold, Lori Skelton, John Munson, Shelley King-Curry, Bill Klase, Teri Venker, Erik Ernst, Emily Johnson, Ray Cross, Aaron Brower, Greg Hutchins

Call to Order

- Erik called the meeting to order at 11:30am and certified open meeting requirements.
- It was suggested that minutes from August and September be approved at the October meeting.

Chair Report

- Erik represented the Academic Staff Council at the Board of Regents picnic held August 23.

Introduction: Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor Report – Aaron Brower

- Today is Aaron's first day. His work will focus on the Flex Degree Initiative. A professor in social work since 1986, he transitioned to college with integrative learning, thinking comprehensively both in and out of the classroom. Aaron has worked with SOAR programs, integrative learning, residence hall programs, FIG program and was most recently vice provost for Teaching and Learning at UW-Madison.

Chancellor Dialogue – Ray Cross

- Ray thanked Greg Hutchins for his wonderful job as Interim Provost. Research will continue as to what is it we should be doing within and for the urban community. Greg will provide leadership to this initiative.
- UW System Budget: Restoration of lapse funding has been reintroduced into the base. The governor has committed \$170 million in new dollars to the UW System and \$21 million has been asked for to support new initiatives (flex degree and initiatives on other campus). Conversations with the governor have been mostly positive. In regards to the pay plan, the governor is proposing 1% increase across the board for all state employees.
- Board of Visitors: We want to continue to engage this group in the big issues, more like a board of trustees. They could provide advocacy and be a stronger link to the Board of Regents.
- Flex Degree: This is progressing slowly but nicely. We all want this to be a quality degree. The group is trying to determine how many students might utilize such a degree. Conversations are taking place at systemwide faculty committee meetings and administrative committee meetings.

UW-Extension Branding – Teri Venker

- Increasing UW-Extension's visibility helps our relationship with legislators when it comes to funding. Adding the UW-Extension logo adds value to a program. Teri shared examples of logo usage.

Chapter 10 Discussion with Chancellor Cross and Next Steps

- Discussion focused on the use of fixed-term terminal appointment letters. New employees are receiving the fixed-term terminal letters while the more senior employees receive fixed-term renewable letters. In the past, the usage gave administration the flexibility when budget issues would arise. However, Chapter 12 offers methods for layoffs. There appears to be difficulty to dismiss anyone for cause and that the system in place makes it difficult to change in a timely manner. Members are questioning if employees actually understand the language within the fixed-term terminal letters. Perhaps the fixed-term terminal letters could limit the number of years.

Discussion followed:

--Chancellor Cross notes that the language should be fixed but needs time to adequately frame that language. We don't want to limit management's ability to manage. Ray is asking for more specific direction from the Council. It was suggested that this topic be added to an upcoming Dean's and Directors meeting. Work is needed on streamlining Chapter 12.

--How do we address appointments tied into grants and other budget issues?

--If the usage of fixed-term terminal letters is eliminated, what can be used in its place?

1:30pm

John Munson motioned that we continue our meeting/discussion, seconded by Krystal Wamold, motioned carried.

--Erik Ernst will draft a memo to the Chancellor including the Deans/Directors and copy the Council.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm

~minutes submitted by Mary Reines~