Academic Staff Council Meeting Minutes
523 Extension Building
August 9, 2011
9-11:30am

Council Members Present: Bev Phillips, Krystal Wambold, Lisa Nielsen Agnew, Amy Pikalek, Rosamaria Martinez, Greg Hutchins, Dan Hill
By video: John Munson,
Excused: Erik Ernst, Jerry Clark

Call to Order
• Bev called the meeting to order at 9:06am and certified that open meeting requirements were met.

Approval of July 12 Meeting Minutes
• John moved that the minutes be approved. Rosamaria seconded.

ASC Orientation
• At the September meeting, each ASC member will take 5 minutes or so to present on their division and what they do. Dan will give a brief overview on the role of Shared Governance.

Provost’s Report
• Greg is learning about the different divisions and their operations.
• He attended the recent CEEC meeting.
• He has met with the National Center for Media Engagement and looking for ways they can be a resource for UWEX.
• He is also facilitating a number of the Chancellor’s statewide visits.
• Greg also indicated that he has passed the Scholarship discussion on to Dan.

Chancellor’s Report
The Chancellor reported that UW Colleges and UWEX are working on their own separate strategic plans, and a central office plan is also in the works.

The Chancellor and ASC members had a general discussion on some ideas for the future of UWEX.

a. Looking for ways to infuse technology more effectively. Could we let faculty and staff “test drive” various tools (ipads, smart phones etc.) in order to improve on what we’re currently doing? Bev suggested starting with smart phones, as that would be the most likely tool to help the Nutrition Educators and the people they work with. The group also considered what apps would be good to develop. The Chancellor asked the ASC to consider what we should be doing, and give him feedback.

b. The UWEX brand is still agriculture/4-H, and there is a sense we are not serving WI’s urban communities. Should we create an urban UWEX? Again we need to be able to communicate what UWEX has to offer the urban community. Is there a way, for example, for UWEX to partner with UW-Milwaukee in different ways? Bev mentioned that the current county-based staffing structure means urban areas start out at a disadvantage because they have fewer staff serving larger populations (unlike smaller population centers.)

c. DEED is currently set up to serve start-up companies, and many major corporations don’t know that DEED exists. How can DEED/UWEX serve larger companies? Can we use other University resources to allow UWEX to perhaps offer needs analysis to major companies? We need to send the message that we are here to work with any businesses who wants our help.

John suggested we should leverage the talents of people who have been through UWEX’s Leadership Academy.
Secretary of the Faculty and Academic Staff Report
• The announcement for nominations for Academic Staff Council Awards has been sent to Deans and Directors, as well as all UWEX academic staff.
• The Program Innovation Fund award grants will be announced next week, so watch your inbox.
• Let Dan know what we’d like to hear from his meeting reports. Bev suggested that he should keep us informed of anything bubbling up at Faculty Senate meetings.

Budget Update
• Counties are working on their budgets. We should know more in fall. Right now counties are holding their collective breath and waiting to see what cuts may occur.
• General discussion of how UWEX staff members are doing. Most concerns are on a personal level given the new deductions for health insurance and pensions. Chancellor Cross commented that morale is not necessarily linked to money, but we have to find ways to make sure that people feel they are valued by the organization.

Academic Staff Council Reps Report
No meeting in July. Dan will check with Tom Culviner in regards to how he will report on these meetings going forward.

Scholarship
Dan will be taking over this area from Greg. He will read the white paper on scholarship from the CASI website.

Committees
• Nominations. Dan has sent out the request for nominations. The committee currently consists of Rosamaria, Lisa and Lynne Blinkenberg. Lisa will check and see if Allisanne would be willing to represent DEED.
• Communications. Lisa will look into revisions for the annual survey. Amy will do the Quarterly Reports.
• Distinguished Prefix. Bev will continue on this committee. Last year’s successful candidates will be invited to this year’s award ceremony.
• Chapter 10.06 ad hoc committee. Erik and Bev have met with David Prucha. They will continue to work out details on who uses which letters and why. (Fixed-term terminal vs. fixed-term renewable.)
• UPG 15.05. No update. Currently under review by the Board of Regents.
• UPG 15.01-04. No update. Currently with Judy.

Academic Staff Conference
• Lisa and John will work to move this forward. Ideal timing would be for it to coincide with the Family Living conference which Bev believes will be in October or November 2012. Lisa will work up a draft budget and see if she can find some sample programs from similar Academic Staff conferences for UW System and/or UW-Madison.

Other Questions, brainstorming and discussion followed.
• John reiterated that UWEX needs better communication and to build relationships around the state. This can help us avoid crisis communication. Chancellor Cross emphasized the need to meet legislators in their districts. This is much more effective than meeting them only in the Capitol. (Bev noted that communication and documenting our value is a topic for the Family Living conference, so there could be a good tie-in if we also hold an Academic Staff Council conference.)
• Rosamaria reminded us that we need more/better guidance regarding office closures during weather or other emergencies. Who has the authority to close County offices? The county, chancellor, governor? Chancellor Cross will follow-up and get more information.

Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 10:58am with a motion from John and second from Rosamaria.

~minutes submitted by Lisa Nielsen Agnew