

Following is a Quarterly Summary of Academic Staff Council proceedings from July through September 2011

Academic Staff Council Quarterly Update

July 12, 2011

New Members

Dan Hill was introduced to the council. He became Interim Secretary of the Faculty and Academic Staff July 18, 2011. Newly elected council members were welcomed:

- Amy Pikalek, Continuing Education, Outreach and E-Learning
- John Munson, Broadcast and Media Innovations

Academic Staff Council Officer elections resulted in:

- Erik Ernst serving as Chair.
- Bev Phillips serving as Vice Chair.

Scholarship

The Council spent time discussing the topic of scholarship. Identified as a critical component for Coop Extension's work, scholarship has been part of the tenure process for faculty. Academic Staff then said "We do scholarship as well and would like our work viewed on the same level as that of faculty." Unlike faculty, Academic Staff have the opportunity to do scholarly work but are not required to do so. Discussion ensued around whether scholarly work should be a part of Academic Staff title review. General agreement was:

- There needed to be a more clear definition of "scholarly work" as it would apply broadly within Extension.
- There is an institutional benefit to this concept, but is there benefit to individuals without penalties being attached?

August 9, 2011

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.

- Looking for ways to infuse technology into our daily work 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? The Chancellor asked the ASC to consider what we should be doing, and give him feedback.
- The UWEX brand is still agriculture/4-H, and there is a sense we are not serving Wisconsin'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?
- 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 that want our help.

Budget

There was a 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 Conference

Lisa Nielsen Agnew and John Munson are co-chairs for a potential Academic Staff Council conference. If this event is held, it would ideally coincide with the Family Living conference in late fall (October/November) 2012.

Clarification on Inclement Weather Policy

The council discussed the need for more/better guidance regarding office closures during weather or other emergencies. Who has the authority to close County offices? The county, chancellor, or governor? Chancellor Cross will follow-up and get more information.

September 13, 2011

Provost's Report

The Provosts have been working on policies related to implications of the new Concealed Carry law, which goes into effect 11/1/11. Details are available on the UW-System General Council's website.

UW-Extension/UW Colleges Strategic Planning efforts: Marv Van Kekerix is working part-time on this effort. He will be meeting soon with leadership of the divisions.

Explorations are on-going about potential changes due to the new flexibilities being granted to the UW institutions.

Greg Hutchins is exploring the possibility of conducting a Conference focusing on Innovation, Collaboration & Engagement (ICE) for winter 2012. Thoughts and contributions are welcome to this early planning.