Faculty Representatives Report
October, 2011

Major Items Of Interest

-President's Advisory Committee on Roles of UW System: The major changes in the structure of system are driven almost exclusively by cuts in the budget rather than any other internal efforts to reform the system.

-Changes in Academic Affairs: The system is collapsing the 11 grant programs to save staffing money, and they will also be moving several of the UW-System “working groups” (Urban Education, International Advisory Council, etc.) out to the campuses. There are also new measures of accountability coming from the legislature regarding placement of of graduates, how many stay in the state, how many end up working in a field connected to their major, etc.

-Supplemental Pay Plan: No one is very clear about how the Department of Administration will implement the merit guidelines. There are significant discussions about a merit-heavy system with most of raises going to the top 15%, although the evaluation mechanism is still not clear. Some clear divisions in the faculty reps between those campuses that would prefer across-the-board raises and those that are OK with putting a greater emphasis on merit. Al Crist (head of HR) indicated the options for a supplemental pay plan are limited to this biennium.

-Pay Checks Over 12 Months: There was significant discussion among the representative about why we are not given the option of dividing our paychecks over 12 months, especially given the new costs of health care. The UWSA human resources people indicated that this was not a priority for them. The representatives decided as a group (at the suggestion of the rep from UWEC) that all of the campus senates should consider passing statements on to system indicating the faculty preferences on this.

-Voter ID: System is working with the Government Accountability Board to determine rules regarding how we can construct student ID cards to meet the requirements of the new voter ID legislation.

-Concealed Carry: System had to produce 12,000 signs to post on every door on every building to explicitly ban the concealed carrying of weapons on campus by November 1.

-Double-Dipping: There are several versions of bills circulating that will put limits on whether or not Wisconsin state retirees can be re-hired into new positions. This could be very restricting, depending on which version passes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Faculty Representative Geoff Peterson