The Academic Staff Representatives to the UW System met on January 14, 2014. Below is a summary of what was discussed.

Student Elections at UW-Milwaukee

A discussion was held about the student elections at UW-Milwaukee. The UW System Board of Regents nullified the results of the student elections. Two students are suing the Board of Regents, accusing them of trying to take control of student government. According to the reps, the case was dismissed by a judge.

ASPRO Letter

ASPRO (Academic Staff Professionals Representation Organization) has created a sample letter that addresses the increased use of limited appointments. The letter asserts that ASPRO opposes the increased use of these appointments for director-level and other positions that have traditionally been filled by persons with an academic staff appointment. Some of the issues of concern are that employees on limited appointments are not guaranteed academic staff governance rights, and that the increased use of limited appointments weakens the academic staff.

(Virtual) Academic Staff Conference 2014

The annual Academic Staff Leadership Conference will be a teleconference this year. The academic staff representatives tentatively set the conference for Thursday, July 24 from 9:00am – 2:00pm.

Contract Inventory

A discussion was held about the idea of an inventory for the numbers of contracts by type (classified, faculty, academic staff, etc.) to get an idea of how large each group is. The UW-Madison rep shared information about a campaign they are doing to enlighten their campus about academic staff and who they are. He mentioned that there are many new academic staff members on campus who need education on their rights and responsibilities as academic staff.

Awards for Academic Staff

A discussion was held about how various institutions recognize academic staff for their service. Some institutions have specific committees that organize the awards, some through the academic staff governing bodies.

Chancellor Search and Screen Committee Selection Process

A discussion was held about how to best create search and screen committees for chancellor searches. Reps shared various methods, including electronic elections, appointments by the Academic Staff Representative, and other ideas. Some concerns were raised that electronic elections by the entire academic staff at an institution would lead to consistent representation from large departments and lack of representation from smaller departments, due to the tendency voters have of electing people from their own department.

Promotion

A rep shared a workshop that was being held on how to promote oneself and one’s work.

The academic staff representatives joined with the faculty representatives at this time for a joint meeting with UW System administrators. The UW-Eau Claire academic staff rep was not able to attend this session. Please refer to the faculty rep’s report for details on what was discussed at the joint meeting.