The faculty representatives met on May 2nd, 2014. Our initial discussion focused on questions about differential tuition across the various campuses in the system. We then, once again, discussed issues of teaching load across the campuses and the variations between campuses, and we discussed the potential budget issues upcoming in the next budget cycle, including the potential impact of Act 145.

President Cross indicated that the tuition freeze discussion came about largely due to the administration's need to respond politically to the UWS surplus report. He hopes that a tuition freeze can be countered by increases in GPR dollars, and he feels much of this is tied to how well UWS can explain the reality of the fund balances. The JFC will be meeting to evaluate the UWS draft policy on fund balances next week.

There are continued discussions regarding the interpretation of Course Options policy for high school students taking college-level classes. There are a variety of areas where UWS and the DPI are not quite in sync. There are also continued discussions on the 30-Credit transfer issues, but it does not appear there is much we need to worry about at this point.

We received a brief update on the UPS & HRS implementations after the apparent loosening of the rules from the legislature, but there isn't a lot to report at this point.

Kudos to Carmen Manning and the English department--our new remedial writing program was once again highlighted by the Remedial Working Group as one of the truly innovative remedial programs in the state.

The Allocation Workgroup has wrapped up their meetings about how the overall System budget is allocated. The end result is that base allocation formula will not change. They are going to explore funding inequities across campuses and see if they can steer new budget initiatives towards underfunded campuses.

As a final note, it appears there will be a variety of interesting things on the June agenda for the Board of Regents meeting, including the long-awaited faculty workload report.