Faculty Representatives Meeting  
Friday, September 26, 2014

The faculty representatives met in Madison on Friday, September 26th.

The first major issue of discussion were the budget and tuition freeze. The consensus of the group was that the proposed tuition freeze will clearly be extremely harmful at all or nearly all of the campuses. Several reps indicated they expected hiring freezes or even retrenchment on their campuses.

We had a fairly lengthy discussion regarding the UWS remediation and whether or not we will be moving towards a common set of test standards for remediation. Suffice to say, it was a source of significant hand wringing.

We also discussed the universal credit transfer agreement and the impact this might have for the campuses, particularly for the UW-colleges. It's hard to determine how much of an issue this will be, but the faculty reps will be monitoring it.

The issue of the release of FTE controls from System was also brought up--it's unclear how this will impact campuses, if at all, but there are clearly some campuses that are very concerned that this could become a personnel free-for-all between campuses.

We also spent time talking about the disconnect between UWS and the rest of the campuses in terms of calendars. For example, the fact that they run D2L upgrades during finals week, the failure of UWS to recognize summer schedules, etc.

During the joint sessions, we covered a wide variety of topics. David Ward previewed Growth Agenda 2.0 under the discussion of the upcoming budget and discussed the impact of the likely new tuition freeze. UWS will ask for $27 million to cover increased ongoing costs in lieu of a tuition increase. We also discussed remediation as a larger group. David Ward indicated the number of remediation sections for math have not really changed in the past decade, whereas the number of remedial English sections have more than doubled in the past five years.

We will be getting updates for UWS 4 & 7 to address sexual harassment language. We have been told... again... that the 9/12 contract issue is on the administrative agenda and the hope is to implement it next year. Don't hold your breath....