The Faculty Representatives met on Friday, September 18th, 2015. The first part of the meeting contained several presentations from the System administration. The first presentation focused on the status of shared governance and tenure from David Ward and Tom Stafford. There was a very long discussion of the changes in state law regarding tenure and shared governance over the summer. Tom Stafford says the System interpretation is that very little actually changed in terms of practice. He argues the changes to the language in shared governance from "subject to" to "subordinate to" is primarily an effort to clarify the role of shared governance, rather than any substantive change in meaning.

The administration also rolled out their new Accountability Dashboard, which, honestly, has some really interesting information on it. I’d highly recommend that you check it out at https://www.wisconsin.edu/accountability/

We received a brief update on the budget situation from System. There was not much new, outside of a discussion of how campuses are addressing the $25 million lapse and whether or not the lapse is being included as part of the cuts on campuses.

There was also discussion regarding travel changes—there are several big changes coming, including that we are no longer accounting for departure/arrival times, moving to the Federal system for per diems, and changes in hotel rates. As far as I can tell, these changes will more accurately represent the cost of travel, but, as my grandmother loved to say, the proof is in the pudding.

Honestly, there was so much information presented on the travel changes that I was unable to get it all written down. I’d strongly recommend anyone involved in travel attend one of the sessions our local travel people are hosting, as it is clear there are some significant changes coming, and it appears that other campuses are less on top of this than we are based on the reactions to the changes from some of the other reps.

9 over 12 for faculty pay is dead as an issue. Really dead. REALLY REALLY DEAD. Dead like Alexander Hamilton DEAD.

We ended with a discussion of how campuses are addressing the cuts. Some campuses are working under the expectation that we will see additional cuts in 17-19, while others believe that any cuts in 17-19 will likely be offset by the tuition increases. No one that spoke up appears to think that our financial situation in the 17-19 budget will actually result in net GPR/tuition increase to the budget, it is currently a question of whether we will remain stable or see yet another round of budget reductions.

Respectfully Submitted-

Geoff Peterson