The Academic Staff Representatives met on Friday, February 1, 2013 in Madison. Below is a summary of what was discussed.

Academic Staff Leadership Conference – the academic staff representatives have organized a planning committee for the conference, which will take place in July. The conference theme will be “The Changing Nature of Higher Education.” Academic Staff Representatives discussed ideas for conference sessions, including breakout sessions on topics such as the new personnel structure and how shared governance will operate within it. The academic staff members planning the conference will be sending out a “save the date” email soon and are open to ideas about breakout sessions and keynote speakers.

Academic Staff Representatives discussed the issue of how to distribute supplemental pay plans. The UW-Stout representative shared their process for deciding on how to disburse the money of the supplemental pay plan. The outcome was that the administration approved the supplemental pay plan, which provided $1200 increases in base pay to many academic staff members, with those funds being “passed on” to academic staff members as current recipients leave or retire from the university.

Overpayments of retirement benefits – no information will be release until after the audit that the Legislative Accountability Board will conduct. David Giroux shared that there were errors in several systems that led to the overpayments. UW System brought the mistakes to the attention of the Legislative Accountability Board proactively and System has taken measures to correct the errors.

A separate issue is that of the policies for rehiring retired UW employees. There is some concern that the policies have been used in ways that are not in line with the intent of the policies. For instance, there is discussion of possibility changing the timeline on when it is possible to rehire retirees.

The state budget address is expected to take place on February 21.

David Giroux spoke about the “Knowledge Powers Wisconsin” campaign. The campaign has shared tool kits with all of the campuses. They also have a website at www.UWPowersWI.com as well as a Twitter handle UWPowerMe. System intends to let various people have access to the Twitter account to help create interest in the campaign and to help spread the word that the UW System benefits the state of Wisconsin in many ways. Students, alumni, faculty and staff are welcome to take charge of the Twitter handle and can contact David Giroux if they are interested.

The “Posters in the Rotunda” event will take place on April 17 at the Capitol Building in Madison. Students interested in presenting posters on research are encouraged to get involved.

HR/University Personnel Structure update – the UPS committee is continuing to develop operational policies for the new structure. An example is how pay plans will be distributed. CBOs already have some of the new operational policies and guidelines.