2009-10 University of Wisconsin System
Council of Academic Staff Representatives
Friday, March 19, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:
Jennifer Lee, UW-Eau Claire
Lisa DeLeeuw, UW-Green Bay
Ryan Bronkema, UW-La Crosse
Heather Daniels, UW-Madison
Lynn Freeman, UW-Oshkosh
Becky Mullane, UW-Sheboygan
Jerry Addie, UW-Stout
Donna Dahlvang, UW-Superior
Giuliana Miolo, UW-Whitewater
Tom Culviner, UW-Extension
Cindy Graham, UW System Administration
Dave Carlson, President, ASPRO
Rebecca Martin, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Stephen Kolison, Associate Vice President for Academic & Faculty Programs
Al Crist, Associate Vice President, UWSA Human Resources & Workforce Diversity
Dave Giroux, Executive Director, UWSA Communications and External Relations

The Joint Session was held in the morning (11:00 a.m.) with the Faculty Representatives, Rebecca Martin, Stephen Kolison, David Giroux, and Al Crist.

The Joint session started with Human Resources Update by Al Crist.

- Competitive Workforce Commission
  - The Commission has met two times and will meet two more times. The next meeting is April 12 and the last meeting is May 17
  - Materials and minutes from the meeting were sent to members of each governance group
  - Draft recommendations will be discussed at the Compensation Advisory Committee meeting prior to the last Commission meeting (Compensation meeting on May 14.) The Fringe Benefits Advisory Committee will also review the draft recommendations prior to the final Commission meeting.
  - Academic Staff and Faculty Reps raised questions about peer institutions and how comparisons are made between institutions. Al Crist suggested the group send him recommendations, especially on how comparisons are made (by discipline, by jobs within discipline, or by the larger aggregate numbers).
• Unit Clarification
  o The legal staffs at UW System and WERC are talking with each other to establish a framework on the process. There is no change in UW System’s position which asks that the petitions be dismissed knowing that individuals can always get a review.
  o Four petitions have been filed
  o 400 positions are involved in the petitions
• WERC will also need to answer specific questions on union elections. Questions raised include: can elections be held when people with 9-month contracts are not on campus?

Joint session update – David Giroux.
• On March 17, the Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology held a hearing on the status of UW System IT projects. Tom Anderes, Senior Vice President for Administration & Fiscal Affairs, testified on behalf of the UW System.
• The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Higher Education held a hearing on the appointment of Edmund Manydeeds and the reappointment of Mark J. Bradley to the UW System Board of Regents. Following the hearing, the committee unanimously approved both appointments in executive session.
• Wisconsin GI Bill is getting attention from a number of legislators. There is a concern by some vets that they are losing benefits as they need to exhaust federal benefits before tapping into Wisconsin benefits. UW System does not argue the benefits due, just who pays for them. Currently students at UW campuses are paying a significant share of GI benefits offered by the state (the state pays $5 million of the costs while student tuition pays $20 million. At this rate, if benefits were paid by the state, the tuition for all students would drop 3%).
• The collective bargaining bill that is proposed would duplicate federal and state laws currently in effect.
• Federal-level Student Financial Aid is tied to the federal reconciliation process. There is concern that it may go nowhere this year which would be a grave concern to those who receive federal financial aid.
• Other issues discussed included the Sexual Assault Report and the taxability of health insurance plans.

Joint Session update – Rebecca Martin
• Educational attainment (More Graduates for Wisconsin) – there will be a UW System goal announced at the April Board of Regents meeting. This will be discussed at the Administrative Staff meeting prior to the BOR meeting.
• UW System four year graduation topic which President Reilly brought up at a previous BOR meeting to encourage students to plan for a four year completion will be promoted through the HELP office as well as by academic advisors on campuses
• Stephen Kolison, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, is working on the textbook policy and will present that to the BOR soon
• At the April Board of Regents meeting (Education Committee):
  o Sexual Assault Report
  o Revised vision statement from UW-Eau Claire
  o Discussion of electronic textbooks – UW Oshkosh

Other updates:
  o Stephen Kolison talked about the e-Campus, noting it is not another UW campus – the degrees belong to the campus they come from. Guiding Principles will be forthcoming regarding the e-Campus plan
  o A reminder the Board meeting will be at UW-Fond du Lac in April

Minutes of the February 19 Academic Staff Reps meeting were approved with minor edits.

There was no meeting with Rebecca Martin and Stephen Kolison and the Academic Staff as the Academic Staff felt their questions were answered during the Joint Session.