

Academic Staff Committee

Thursday, February 23, 2012

10:00 – 11:00 am

CL 750

Present: Samantha Surowiec, David Kieper, Leif Nelson, Kelly Kramp, Linda Parins

Hot Item – UPS Groups and open meeting laws

A “hot item” was discussed right away. There appears to be an air of secrecy among the work groups. We feel things are suspicious. We wonder if the way the steering committee meetings are conducted may be a violation of open meeting laws. Whistles have been blown among UWGB UC, UW System Academic Staff reps, the Provost, and Dan Spielman. We await further developments on this.

Minutes and General Discussion

Pending typo corrections, the minutes from February 9th were approved

Old Business

Joint Governance

The committee reviewed a proposal to change the Academic Staff Handbook. The committee was unclear about historical actions on this topic. Parins would investigate (contact SOFAS) and report at the next meeting. It was agreed that there needs to be language that covers joint governance committees in the Academic Staff Handbook.

The Academic Staff committee reviewed a draft proposal for the Joint Legislative Committee charge. It was approved.

The Academic Staff committee reviewed the Faculty Awards & Recognition Committee charge. The committee expressed a desire to have equal representation on this committee, which would entail increasing the number of academic staff serving on this committee from three to four.

The Academic Staff committee reviewed Faculty Library & Institutional Technology Committee charge. The committee felt that due to the instructional focus of this committee, unequal representation on this committee is acceptable. Academic staff members serve two-year terms on this committee, while faculty members serve three-year terms. The Academic Staff committee feels that this can remain unchanged. There was discussion about getting the CIO’s input about whether a member of the LTC should be ex-officio on this committee. Nelson will follow-up on this.

Other Business

Nelson provided a report from UW System Academic Staff/Faculty Representatives monthly joint meeting in Madison. There were concerns about the lack of transparency, lack of governance involvement, and timing of the solicitation for UPS group members for HR system.

There also appeared to be some anxiety on certain campuses about what the new HR system will do: e.g, pay cuts, layoff, etc. Madison HR issued a statement that these things will not occur as a result of the groups and new system.

Al Crist (system HR director) accepted blame for not communicating with faculty and academic staff reps during group organization process. He claimed that part of the rush was to have some things in place by March legislative session, so things can be approved to move forward with the July 2013 deadline.

Dave Giroux provided a legislative update and informed everyone that the budget lapse status was still somewhat unknown, but that UW continues to make a case that the lapse is very detrimental. On July 2013, UW system is to drop WISNET. UW is asking that the deadline be extended one year (July 2014).

Respectfully submitted by Leif Nelson