

Academic Staff Assembly

Assembly Minutes – October 18, 2012

Christie Theatre, University Union

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Armed with the appropriate technological support, Academic Staff Committee Chair Leif Nelson called the meeting to order promptly at 3:01 p.m. before about 32 members of the academic staff. He introduced the members of the ASC, explained its charge, and proceeded to call for committee reports.

2. Committee Reports

a. Personnel Committee - Josh Goldman reported this committee's membership and the current work on a resolution calling for more transparency in the steps of career progression and a better understanding of last year's conversion of positions between classified staff and academic staff.

b. Professional Development Allocation Committee - Jamee Haslam, chair, reported that the Committee had received 16 applications for funds and had allocated about half of its budget for the year. Seven of the applicants got the maximum amount allowed. Academic Staff members are encouraged to make application for these funds. Material is available on the SOFAS website.

c. Leadership and Involvement Committee - Tori Nelson reported on behalf of the Steve Zywicki, the chair, that the Committee is responding to several requests to fill various vacancies on other committees. They have also begun a New Employee Lunchbox Series over lunches and are continuing the quarterly e-mail communication on various topics to build orientation and involvement.

d. Professional Development Programming Committee - Joe Hardenbrook reported that they will be distributing a survey to academic staff to collect interests on potential events in the future. A recent presentation on suicide and depression was judged a success and people are alerted to watch out for events in the continuing Brown Bag series.

e. Joint Governance Committees

1. Awards and Recognition - no report

2. Library and Instructional Technology Committee - Leif Nelson reported that this committee was establishing goals and raising questions about instructional technology and was finding the input from student members to be especially valuable.

3. Legislative Affairs - no report

4. Committee on Workload and Compensation - Emily Rogers reported that the Committee had been working with the consultant in charge of the institution's workload and compensation study. They were trying to make up lists of comparable organizations for the existing employee categories and they will be coordinating focus groups to be held on November 8. The plan is to get the collected data to the Chancellor around the end of the calendar year.

3. Report on the new University Personnel System

Human Resources Director Sheryl Van Gruensven reported on the latest progress on this effort. It is now at the stage where the final collection of feedback is being sent to UW-System in preparation for presentation to the Chancellors, Regents, and legislators. Benefits will not immediately change in any significant way, but System will be hiring a consultant to advise on job titles and pay ranges later next spring, a project that may take another year or so. The HR website has the latest in both the process and the proposals. Leif Nelson added a slide on the changes on January 1, 2013 to costs for health insurance and retirement contributions just to make sure everyone knew about them.

4. Chancellor's Report

The Chancellor reported on two collaborations. One is the effort to bring a branch of the Medical College of Wisconsin to the local area. There is a possibility they may end up using, perhaps temporarily, our facilities. The scale of this is not large but it may well be important for our students and faculty. The other collaboration is through NEW ERA, the consortium of public higher education institutions of northeastern Wisconsin, on engineering technology (electrical, mechanical, and environmental). Degrees would be offered by both UW-Green Bay and UW-Oshkosh using facilities of the technical colleges perhaps as early as next fall, more likely spring or fall of 2014.

5. Provost's Report

The Provost continued the talk of collaborative work with three other projects: an on-line collaboration with 3 or 4 other campuses on a Health Information and Management Technology (HIMT) undergraduate degree, a Masters in Sustainable Management, and the on-line, competency-based Flexible Degree proposal using the infrastructure of Extension. This last proposal is in the early stages and the funding models are unclear, but the idea of competency based education has strong political support and may well portend a significant change for higher education, one that the Chancellor feels we may not be able to isolate ourselves from. This initiative bears close scrutiny. The ASC Chair reported on efforts to secure a place for academic

staff in the planning process. There has been a nod to include the instructional academic staff but the use of Extension's infrastructure may limit a wider involvement of other academic staff around the state.

6. Wellness Committee

Chrisanna Colleta reported on the development of what is now a sub-committee of the Health and Safety Committee. They envision an expanded membership and are interested in planning wellness events, such as a walking program - Phoenix Pheet, and general incentives for wellness. They are seeking funding possibilities and asked for ideas from the Assembly. The Chancellor's invitation that the group come to talk to him seemed to trump other responses.

7. Adjournment

Chair Nelson, as if he'd planned the meeting to the minute, thanked all for attending, encouraged everyone to stay engaged, and adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cliff Abbott, Secretary of the Faculty and Academic Staff