

DEPARTMENT MEETING MINUTES

Department of Business and Economics

Erlanson 304, April 12, 2010

Present: Chuck Reichert (Acting Chair), Diek Carlson, Mae Cao, Bruce Kibler, Connie O'Brien, Jerry Hembd, Bob Beam, Rick Moran, Kay Biga, and Ethan Christensen

Absent: Greg Trudeau (presenting a paper out of town)

Guests: Deb Nordgren (Director of JDHL) and Kristen Lindquist (Information Technology Librarian)

Reichert called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved (Hembd/Kibler), and the following items of business were discussed:

1. The Future of the UW-Superior Library

Deb Nordgren and Kristen Lindquist discussed the future of the UW-Superior library, including the UW System Libraries Vision and it meshes with the UW-Superior Academic Plan (see attachments for further information). They described the core databases available to the DBE, as well as other document delivery, interlibrary loan, and information literacy services.

2. Search and Screen Updates

- **Finance** – Chuck Reichert reported that the committee is waiting for HR to certify the existing pool of candidates prior to inviting them to campus for interviews.
- **Economics** – Jerry Hembd reported that the names of the top two candidates for the Global economic Development Specialist position have been forwarded to the Provost, and that final contract negotiations are underway.
- **Transportation and Logistics** – Richard Stewart reported that several candidates are scheduled to appear for on-campus interviews during the early part of May (see attached interview schedules).

3. Department Chair Updates

Academic Affairs Update:

- **Access to Distance Learning:** Faculty discussed the subject of whether different academic standards are being set for on-line

courses versus on-campus courses offered by UW-Superior faculty. (See attachments). As the DBE's Academic Affairs Committee Representative, Chuck Reichert asked faculty to contact him directly with their questions or concerns regarding this issue.

- **Proposed Changes in SOAR Format:** Chuck stated that AAC was debating a change in the format of the SOAR Advisement session this summer. Instead of having 5 or 6 separate one day SOAR sessions spaced throughout the summer, AAC is debating whether instead to have one compulsory, department neutral, intensive bonding, 2.5 day SOAR session for incoming freshmen. After a lengthy discussion about the practical aspects of compelling new students from near and far to attend such an intensive session, the DBE faculty unanimously agreed that the New SOAR proposal was an excessively idiotic alternative to the current SOAR format. To avoid alienating students, it was suggested that such a format be made optional, not mandatory, and that financial aid (grants, not loans) be extended to out of state students to help them and their families defray the travel costs of attending the New SOAR session if they so chose.

University Senate Update: Jerry Hembd announced that henceforth, the Provost would no longer be the person to decide whether students can take their final exams at a time other than the regularly scheduled time.

The meeting adjourned (Beam/Stewart) at 12:50 PM.

Minutes faithfully submitted by:

Bob Beam
Recorder