

Friday, April 3, 2009

A. Faculty Representative Pre-Meeting

Faculty discussed the collective bargaining resolutions on the various campuses regarding academic staff concerns for coupling of faculty and staff in collective bargaining.

Faculty expressed their support of early adoption practices for textbooks.

Faculty discussed the System Task Force on Program Realignment that is collecting data on program arrays in the System. The Task Force would be providing institutions information that would assist them in making decisions regarding program realignments.

Many faculty senates are passing endorsements or resolutions regarding domestic partner benefits. Some campuses that passed endorsements or resolutions in the past reaffirmed its previous endorsement or resolution.

Faculty discussed the need for providing students with alternative and flexible scheduling such as Mon/Wed classes or weekend classes for professional programs.

Faculty discussed how their campuses are handling their budget cuts in relation to classes and faculty (program realignments, class sizes, numbers of classes, teaching loads, reassignment times, S&E cuts, hiring... staff/faculty).

Faculty discussed the possibility of charging tuition for students who repeat classes (within their 18 credit limit). Eau Claire accumulated data on the costs involved in teaching expenses here.

B. Joint Session with Academic Staff Reps, Senior Vice President Martin and Associative Vice President Kolison

Legislative Update: July 1st goal for the budget; public hearings right now throughout the State; April 16th start voting on provisions in the budget; UW-System in the latter parts of the votes (end date of May for these provisions).

Inclusive Excellence: (continuing the plan 2008 and broadening one of the focal points of race and ethnicity to incorporate diversity, inclusion, equity, excellence agenda); meetings are beginning with individual campuses with System to help structure how Inclusive Excellence can be applied to the particular campuses. Some discussion of the problems of the climate survey in terms of the length of the survey (which discouraged participation). Some discussion of whether campuses can analyze or disaggregate particulars of the data (for example, separating faculty and academic staff results, or, for example LTEs put in with academic staff).

Discussion of upcoming Joint Meeting of academic staff and faculty with President Kevin Reilly: collective bargaining; options in terms of dealing with students repeating

classes (repeat policies, etc.); issue of UW institutions continuing to take on more responsibilities with limited or less resources, role of governance in determining use of recruitment and retention funds; possibility of a regular report at the BOR on faculty and staff compensation issues and creating a small working group to strategize on how to address these compensation issues.

C. Meeting with UW-System

May 7th, System will meet with BOR Finance Committee on Textbook Issues & will share faculty's perspective: consideration of a model from University System of Maryland. Possibility of System drafting a set of guidelines that Regents could adopt: this would be guidelines not policies for each of the campuses.

Policy on Class Absence due to Military Service: System had been asked to develop a policy regarding absences due to active duty to avoid penalization due to service obligations. System noted that this would be a campus and faculty matter. UW-Whitewater faculty senate passed a policy to protect students from being penalized due to unavoidable or legitimate required military obligations.

Some faculty representatives noted that instituting a policy would not be necessary.

Program Planning Workshop on June 19th: System noted that it will provide a workshop so that newer administration, chairs, etc. would know what is required and what procedures are necessary to institute new programs on campuses. System would like representatives from campuses who are involved in new programs (especially department chairs, assistant provosts, etc... people who are playing a major role in such new program formations). There will be a limit of five per campus. For example: how to select outside reviewers, etc..