

PLAN TO FACILITATE ACADEMIC STAFF COMMUNICATION  
WITH STATE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC

A. Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to provide the mechanism by which the UW-Madison academic staff can develop a self-financed capability for communicating concerns and reactions to the Board of Regents, state and local governments, their agencies when appropriate, and the general public.

The UW-Madison academic staff already has effective mechanisms for the formulation of academic staff policy through the Academic Staff Assembly, the Academic Staff Executive Committee, and other academic staff committees. It needs a means of communicating academic staff views to the Board of Regents, state and local governments, their agencies when appropriate and the general public. This mechanism must (1) be fully controlled by the Academic Staff Assembly to insure that it expresses academic staff views and (2) be financially independent to give it freedom in presenting those views.

B. Structure

1. A non-stock, non-profit corporation under Chapter 181, Wisconsin Statutes 1973, will be organized. It will be called ACADEMIC STAFF PUBLIC REPRESENTATION ORGANIZATION of the Academic Staff Assembly (ASPRO), Inc. The Board of Directors will consist of the members of the Academic Staff Executive Committee. The Corporation is a non-stock, non-profit corporation and has no members.

2. The purpose of the Corporation will be to provide the mechanism by which the UW-Madison academic staff will be able to communicate its concerns and reactions to the Board of Regents, state and local governments, their agencies when appropriate, and the general public. The Corporation is fully controlled by the Academic Staff Assembly acting through its Executive Committee.

ASPRO, Inc. shall report its activities directly to the Academic Staff Assembly and shall seek advice, consent, or ratification of its actions, as necessary or proper, from the Academic Staff Assembly. ASPRO, Inc. may communicate directly with the academic staff in the performance of its duties. The Assembly shall retain authority to review and, by majority vote, to modify or rescind any action taken by ASPRO, Inc.

3. The principal functions of ASPRO, Inc., will be:

(a) to inform the Board of Regents, state and local governments, their agencies when appropriate, and the general public about the academic staff role in the mission and operation of the University;

(b) to communicate to the Board of Regents, state and local governments, their agencies when appropriate, and the general public the views of the Madison academic staff on matters of concern to the University;

(c) to aid the Board of Regents, state and local governments, their agencies when appropriate, and the general public by facilitating its access to the expertise available within the Madison academic staff;

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- (d) to recommend to the Academic Staff Executive Committee and the UW-Madison administration procedures for improving academic staff communication with the Board of Regents, state and local governments, their agencies when appropriate, and the general public;
- (e) to work toward establishing a more effective public information effort;
- (f) to keep the Academic Staff Executive Committee and the Academic Staff Assembly fully informed on matters under consideration by the legislature and other agencies of state and local government;
- (g) to inform and, when appropriate, seek assistance from the faculty, Alumni Association, student organizations, professional groups, and other organizations concerned with issues crucial to the University; and
- (h) to maintain contact and coordinate activities with UW-Madison Faculty and similar organizations on other U.W.- System campuses on issues on which there are common interests.

4. In performing the above functions, ASPRO, Inc., should identify and utilize resources existing throughout the academic staff, including calling upon interested academic staff members to participate in communicating with government and the public.

5. The Corporation will be governed by a Board of Directors. The Board shall be the nine members of the Academic Staff Executive Committee and shall be the policy making committee as well as the officers of the Corporation. The Board shall elect a President from its own members annually..

6. The Corporation will receive income from voluntary payroll deductions authorized by the academic staff.

7. The Corporation will approve the annual budget and make all personnel decisions.

8. The Corporation will employ a part-time executive director appointed by the Board of Directors with confirmation by the Assembly. The executive director will be paid a salary by the Corporation. The Executive Director will serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors. It will be the responsibility of the Executive Director to carry out the functions of ASPRO, Inc. as listed in 3. a-h.

Since the Executive Director will sometimes be contacting legislators on matters of direct concern to the academic staff, he or she will register under the state lobbying law. If there are sufficient funds and particular needs, additional professional staff may be employed part-time to assist the Executive Director. The Corporation will also employ clerical help as necessary.

9. The Executive Director will serve as chairman of the ASPRO Inc. Advisory Committee, which will consist of at least six persons in addition to the Executive Director: one person selected by and from the Compensation and Economic Benefits Committee (CEBC), one person selected by and from the Personnel Policies and Procedures Committee (PPPC), and four persons selected by and from the Assembly. Committee members will serve for two-year terms with initial terms staggered to give continuity of membership.

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This committee will meet quarterly. The Advisory Committee will advise the Executive Director on academic staff issues with implications and/or consequences for the Board of Regents, state and local governments, their agencies when appropriate, and the general public.

10. If, because of circumstances beyond the control of the corporation, the position of Executive Director is vacant, the Board of Directors by a two thirds vote and confirmation of the Assembly may hire a registered contract lobbyist. The term of such contract may be for no longer than six months and may be renewed by the Board and the Assembly.

During the initial period of operation and until such time as the Board of Directors determines that there is a sum sufficient to hire an Executive Director a registered contract lobbyist may be employed as indicated above.

11. There shall be an annual report to the academic staff on the organization's operations. At the end of the second biennium following the commencement of operations, the Academic Staff Executive Committee shall recommend to the Assembly whether the agency should be continued, and the Assembly will have the opportunity to debate and act on this question.

12. Nothing in this proposal should be read to limit the rights of any other university groups or any individual academic staff members to present their views to the state government or the public.

13. Because the academic staff governance structure includes faculty who have temporary academic staff status or dual appointments to both faculty and academic staff and are represented in the Academic Staff Assembly, the words "academic staff" in this document includes that personnel.

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C. Timetable

1. Immediately after the Academic Staff Assembly approves this plan:
  - A. The Assembly Representative from each district will contact all members of his/her district to determine whether all academic staff members have had an opportunity to read and understand the proposal.
  - B. Districts will be notified that members of the Academic Staff Executive Committee, as well as others involved with the development of this proposal, will be available to meet with districts to discuss and explain the proposal.
2. Once ASEC determines that all members of the Academic Staff have had an opportunity understand the proposal authorization cards will be sent to each academic staff member. Each academic staff member may authorize a voluntary payroll deduction of 1/10 of 1% of her/his gross academic year salary for ASPRO, Inc. The academic staff will be asked to return the authorization cards within twenty-one days of receipt.
3. When authorizations for payroll deduction totaling \$18,000 for the fiscal year are received, ASPRO, Inc., will become operative, but payroll deductions will not begin before the October 89 paychecks.
4. Revenues received in excess of the actual budgeted expenditures in any fiscal year will be invested in 1 Year Certificates of Deposit or a high yield money market account. Principal and/or interest from investments maybe used to offset unanticipated expenses, reduce annual fees or to create a scholarship fund for academic staff continuing professional education, at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

UW-Madison Acad Staff Doc 033 - 28 March 1989 (Amd. 18 April 1989)

ACADEMIC STAFF PUBLIC REPRESENTATION ORGANIZATION - ASPRO

\$ \$ AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYROLL DEDUCTION \$ \$

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Soc. Sec.# \_\_\_\_\_ - -  
 (print) (last) (first) (MI)  
 Dept/Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Campus Address \_\_\_\_\_ Campus Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Effective immediately, I hereby request and authorize the University of Wisconsin to deduct from my salary each month 1/10 of 1% of my salary to provide for a monthly payment to the Academic Staff Public Representation Organization. This is a continuous authorization from year to year applying to the deduction percentage authorized by the UW-Madison Academic Staff Assembly. I understand that these contributions may not be tax deductible.

This authorization for deduction from each salary check issued by the University will remain in effect as long as I am employed at the University unless terminated by me upon thirty (30) days written notice to the President of the Board of Directors of the Academic Staff Public Representation Organization.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_