

Robert Newsom

As an ASEC candidate my major concerns are with: compensation, promotion, titling and job security - particularly with Category B academic staff. On this campus I believe that ASEC offers the best opportunity for championing these issues.

Since 2005 I have been a Sr. Scientist with the Center for Health Systems Research & Analysis (CHSRA) in the College of Engineering and from 1998-2005 held the same title in the Dept. of Population Health Sciences where I was also the Dean's appointee to the Medical School Committee on Academic Staff Issues (CASI). From 1973-1979 I was a Researcher (Med. School) and lecturer in the UW Ed. Psych. Dept. (MS 1970, PhD 1972). In the private sector (1979-1998) I was CEO of two technology companies. My career focus is on creating research-based policy that addresses the value intersection between costs and quality.

Statement: During 15 years of service, CASI membership and studying the impact of the ASEC-Academic Staff Assembly I've observed how poorly disguised was many faculty and dean's opinion of academic staff concerns. Clearly, despite shared governance, academic staff has little real power. Shared governance is not shared power; in fact shared governance diffuses significant efforts at staff-led institutional change. Academic staff led change is neutralized by policy and by structural conflicts of interest; that is they are advisory only and largely chaired and staffed by Category A personnel. Cat-A staff cannot effectively represent Cat-B staff because their economic and ongoing job security is either directly controlled by faculty or other Cat- A staff, or dependent upon UW budgets far removed from the 'competitive grant applications' that sustain Cat-B staff. In short, it is very hard to speak truth to power when your employment and thus existence at the negotiating (advisory?) table is totally dependent upon those with whom you are supposed to share or negotiate governance.