

## MINUTES

### ACADEMIC STAFF ASSEMBLY

Monday, May 9, 2011

272 Bascom Hall (3:30-5:00 p.m.)

Provost DeLuca called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

#### **AUTOMATIC CONSENT BUSINESS**

The minutes of the April 11, 2011 Academic Staff Assembly meeting were approved.

#### **Presentation: Ombuds Annual Report:** Richard Ralston

Richard introduced his colleagues: Linda Newman and Pat Wolleat

He encouraged Assembly members to review the Ombuds Annual Report:

<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/annualreport200910.pdf>

The University Ombuds Office facilitates understanding, communication and resolution of conflict among members of the faculty, academic and classified staff.

Richard noted that issues and complaints have not necessarily changed given the current economics factors.

Main concerns continue to revolve around: performance review, peer-peer, and employee-supervisor issues.

#### **GUEST: Chancellor Biddy Martin**

The Chancellor opened by affirming her appreciation of the contributions academic staff make on the UW-Madison campus. In no way was her end of the year letter to the campus community meant to make staff feel undervalued or invisible. She promised that in subsequent emails she would recognize the work of academic staff.

The Chancellor took questions from the Assembly. Topics included:

- Update on the New Badger Partnership and Public Authority Status
- Budget—Chancellor expects this to pass by July 1, 2011
- New leadership coming to campus: update on dean searches
- Alumni Association has been advocating for Public Authority Status
- Impact of staff retiring has been discussed by senior administration and to date there is no noticeable or significant trend on campus.
- Budget cuts and its impact on the humanities—Chancellor would refer this question to the college dean and acknowledged that this concern be monitored.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS**

##### **ASEC – Heather Daniels**

- Heather thanked assembly for their service during the year.
- Certificate of Appreciation: Russell Dimond for his leadership as chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Collective Bargaining.
- ASEC met with Elizabeth Bolt, Associate Dean SMPH regarding the creation of three modified professional working titles for volunteer clinical professors. These titles were approved by the Faculty Senate on March 7, 2011. ASEC supported this request.

- Heather met with Becci Menghini, Chancellor’s Chief of Staff and Darrell Bazzell, Vice Chancellor for Administration regarding the academic staff Public Authority Listening Sessions. Topics included:
  - Request to have the Audit Bureau’s language regarding exemption for faculty on their research and teaching be extend to academic staff.
  - Composition of the Board of Trustees (BOT) discussed—specifically academic staff representation.
- ASEC met with Equity and Diversity Office to discuss underutilized positions based on gender and/or ethnicity.
  - ASEC will continue to work with this office and Damon Williams, Vice Provost for Diversity and Climate, to determine how best to increase diversity in academic staff positions.
- ASEC is reviewing UW System personnel guidelines in preparation for possible HR changes.
- Heather reported on the New Badger Partnership/Public Authority Working Group, where the focus has been on the composition of BOT.
- Academic Staff Budget Advisory Committee will meet with Darrell Bazzell throughout the summer.

In the interest of time Provost DeLuca moved to the Business portion of the agenda, tabling the remaining committee reports.

## **BUSINESS**

### ***Consensual Relationships Policy – for vote***

- Faculty Senate has approved the Consensual Relationships, which includes a section on “consequences.” Academic Staff Assembly has been asked to approve the changed policy
- Heather made the motion to approve this policy.
- Motion carried as stated.

### ***Flexibilities Resolution – for vote***

- Heather made a motion to adopt the Academic Staff Assembly Resolution in Support of Greater Flexibilities (ASA Document 455) with the correction in the final paragraph referring to document 448 in place of document 452.
- Motion carried as stated.

### ***Review: Responsibilities of the Academic Staff Executive Committee (Academic Staff Policy and Procedures: Chapter 14.12 2(a-c))***

Jason Keaton—led this discussion and made the following motion :

*I move to create a clear and consistent external communications process to operate in the following manner: when the Assembly (or a Committee of the Assembly) seeks to communicate externally from Campus, that they provide the Chair of the Communications Committee with the message to be delivered, whom they would like the message to be delivered, and that the Assembly be cc’d on the correspondence.*

- After discussion motion was withdrawn.

### ***Discussion of Wisconsin State Statutes which allow Closed Sessions (Wisc. Statutes 19.85 (1) and Wisc. Statutes 19.85 (1) (c))***

In the interest of time this item is tabled.

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

*Submitted by Donna Silver,  
Secretary of the Academic Staff*