Academic Staff Assembly
Academic Staff Assembly Approved Minutes
March 07, 2007

2006-2007 Assembly

Present: Mike Cohen (Chair), Amy Margulies, Sandi Scott-Duex (Vice), Deb Bowen, Denise Ehlen George Clokey, Eric Roche, Nancy Farmer, Gail Fox, Michael Flanagan, Wayne Youngquist, Patti Mirsky (Program Associate, Secretary).

Excused/Absent: Paula Mohan

Guests: Riley Mabeus, UW Whitewater Student Government,

1. Approval of Minutes: The meeting was brought to order by Chair Michael Cohen at 12:10 p.m.

2. Background Check Policy:

   Cohen has had a discussion with Jeanne Freeman regarding the Background Check Policy. On November 26, 2006, our assembly sent changes to Provost Telfer and he agreed with our changes. The UW-Whitewater Faculty Senate is meeting on March 13, 2007, and this issue is on the agenda. Final document is due at System on May 1, 2007. We need to see a final draft in April before it goes to System, and we will be looking at what the Faculty Senate does with the document.

3. UW-W Proposed Calendar:

   Handouts were provided with the proposed calendars for both 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 Proposed Academic Calendars.

   Discussion regarding Due Date of Fall Grades: Fall term grades have to be in before Christmas. Other campuses within the UW System do not have this time constraint. One reason this has been policy at UW-Whitewater was to allow consideration for students who need to improve performance and thus make decisions regarding Winterim classes. However, this policy creates a great deal of difficulty for some instructors who teach multiple sections, as it does not give adequate time to grade finals.

   A motion was raised by Youngquist to send a comment to the Registrar regarding the period between the last exam to the date grades are due in fall Semester and that it be extended. Clokey seconded the motion, the Aye’s took the vote unanimously. The Statement was drawn up as follows and will be sent to Registrar Edlebeck.

Discussion on Spring Break: Spring Break falls immediately after the second 8-week session begins breaking the critical first weeks’ teaching cycle at the beginning of those classes, resulting in important teaching time lost. Spring Break is always scheduled for the last week of March due to a long-standing agreement to coincide with the Whitewater School District. The Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Coalition, a few years ago, proposed that Spring Break take place during St. Patrick’s Day, as a means of reducing negative outcome from student drinking during that holiday. The proposal was reviewed by Chancellor Miller but was not implemented.

Motion to approve the 2008-2009 and the 2009-2010 Proposed Calendars was
unanimously approved on an Ehlen/Bowen motion.

4. Academic Staff Committees and Liaisons

   a. Academic Staff Awards Committee/Duex – expecting recommendation from the committee – there is one nominee for non-instruction and four nominees for instructional.
   b. Academic Staff Economic Issues Committee/Cohen – no meeting, but the recommendation of the committee was forwarded to the chancellor. There is no confirmation yet on the pay plan.
   c. Academic Staff Elections & Balloting/Bowen – Corrections were made to the Notice of Election & Nomination form. Nominations are due in March 14, 2007.
   d. Academic Staff Government/Youngquist – Committee met.
   e. Academic Staff Organization/Duex – No report.
   f. Academic Staff Professional Development/Ehlen – Four proposals were received in February. The committee meets next Wednesday to make recommendations.
   g. Academic Staff Instructional Promotions/Farmer – The one application which was pending has been approved by the committee. Letters are going out to the applicants and the files are at the Provost’s office.
   h. Academic Staff Review/Cohen – No request.
   i. Academic Staff Title Appeals/Margulies – No requests.
   j. Academic Staff Titling Committee/Youngquist – There were 3 from the library; we agreed to 2 changes and left one unchanged.
   k. Academic Staff Rewards and Recognition Committee/Flanagan – Meeting will be Wednesday, March 21st at 11 a.m. to make recommendations on the nominations that are received.

6. Announcements:

   a. On March 15th, Cohen is going to a System Meeting. The three issues on the agenda are: 1) Shared governance, 2) Governor’s Budget Bill, including proposal for collective bargaining bill, and 3) Criminal Background Check Policy at each campus.
   b. Duex announced that Tuesday, March 20, is “Tuesday for Tony Day” to raise funds for the student who was injured in a sledding accident. They hope to raise 10K. On Tuesday, April 17th, a wheelchair Basketball team will hold a benefit game and will present the proceeds at the end of the game to Tony. Basketball raffle tickets are being made up for the game.

7. Future Agenda Items:

   a. Final Draft of Background Check Policy

Meeting adjourned on a Youngquist/Clokey motion at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Patti Mirsky, Program Associate/Secretary