

Classified Connection Meeting October 10, 2007

Cheryl Miritz welcomed everyone, introduced past and present members of the UW-W Classified Connection Committee and asked the classified attendees to introduce themselves and their department. There were 44 people in attendance including our special guest, Interim Chancellor Dr. Richard Telfer.

Terrie Parenteau and Jan Nordin presented historical information about the formation of the Classified Connection group, its accomplishments since inception and goals for the future.

Dr. Telfer addressed the group highlighting the following topics:

UW-W WEBSITE

- Printed Policy Statements are not consistent. His office is working to align the on-line handbook, catalog, schedule of classes and other printed and web based UW-W policy information for accuracy and consistency.

FALL 2007 SEMESTER NOTES

- A "New Freshman Commencement Ceremony" was held to enforce the idea that UW-W intends to see these new freshman through to graduation. They were given key rings with tassels.
- Make a Difference Day last Friday – 950 students volunteered.
- Family Weekend – 1300-1400 lunches were served.
- Time capsules from Baker, Salisbury and Sayles Halls will be opened this Friday 10/12/07.
- Graduating class of 1957 will be on campus this weekend for Homecoming.
- Athletic teams are outstanding.
- Two tragic deaths of UW-W faculty members have occurred.

STATE BUDGET

There are three parts of the budget relevant to the UW-System and 1 outside area.

1. Cost to Continue – System commitments from last year's budget (pay raises, utilities, etc.) If the democrat bill passes, there would be no cuts. If the republican version passes, \$120 m would be cut.
2. Growth Agenda
3. Capital – Building Projects. None would be at risk this year. Revenue – Student funded building monies from GPR Budget. There is a split on whether this would be funded.
4. Financial Aid (this is outside the UW-System Budget). WHEG (Wisconsin Higher Education Grants) for students who's families earn \$27,000/year or less are on a waiting list to find out if these will be funded. This has affected 178 UW-W students. State has proposed cuts to veterans benefits. UW-W currently pays 100% tuition for disabled veterans and their family members and members of deceased veterans' families.

It has been 101 days with no budget. Monday a compromise bill will be proposed. Contact your state representative or senator by e-mail and tell them to support the UW-System and UW-Whitewater.

The three options the university has will depend on whether a budget passes or not, they are:

1. No budget all year. UW-W will have to find \$2.7 million to operate. No vacant positions will be filled.
2. If the Democrat version passes, operations will proceed as is.
3. If the assembly version passes, \$2 million in cuts. Proposed cuts will be in areas of professional development, travel, programs and vacant positions.

SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Last Thursday's power outage highlighted the need for better communication in this type of situation. Some possible solutions are reverse 911, POTS (plain old telephone system), automated phone tree, voice-over IP.
- Campus lighting issues are being addressed

BUILDING PROJECTS/ENROLLMENT

- Moves and transitions have gone very well and outlooks are positive, spirits are good
- Anticipation that enrollments may increase once construction ends. Projections have been made to increase enrollments by 600 FTE from 9400 in 2007 to 10,000 in 2012.
- More IL students will bring more \$ to UW-W their tuition would cover the cost of their enrollment plus one WI student. On campus day was held last Monday because IL schools were off for Columbus Day. 290 students attended.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Only one additional parking lot will be available when construction is completed.
- No layoffs are planned for the foreseeable future.
- UW-W Wheelchair basketball ranked #1 Division Three 4 out of the last 5 years, winning the National Championships. There were 12 members on the Pan Am team which played in Brazil. Four of the 12 were current UW-W students and two were previous UW-W students. The team qualified for the Beijing Olympics. Tryouts will be held for the Olympic team, but UW-W is expected to be highly represented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Benefit Fair 10-2 Roseman Gym
- No printed benefit books. Changes to health plans need new forms, no new applications are needed if changes are not being made. Health application deadline 10/26/07. Check for e-mail relating to health care plan changes.
- HR Website is constantly being updated to include new helpful links.
- Dual Choice dates are printed on the Benefit Fair Handout distributed at this meeting.
- Career Services and Registrar's Office provided cookies, coffee and cider for today's meeting.
- Please fill out survey form
- Next meeting, Wednesday, November 12 in Carlson 1006. Speakers to include library staff, Richard Van Schoonhoven from FP&M and Mary Blaesius from HR.