

FACULTY ASSOCIATION MEET AND CONFER

Thursday, April 9, 2009

3:00-5:00 p.m.

CSU 204

(Administration Chair/ Faculty Agenda)

NOTES

Attendance:

Faculty: Jim Grabowska, Mary Visser, Georgia Holmes, Roger Severns, Debra Anderson, Jim Petersen, Daniel Toma, Becky Schwartzkopf, Jessica Schomberg, Jackie Lewis, Mary Bliesmer, Elizabeth Miller, Steve Woehrle

Management: Scott Olson (chair), Lori Lamb, Marilyn Delmont, Rick Straka, Walt Wolff, Avra Johnson, Michael Fagin, John Winkworth (recorder)

Guests: Malcolm O'Sullivan

Provost Olson called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. He announced that President Davenport was unable to attend because he was attending the funeral for Lowell Andreas.

1. Information Items—

a. Reorder/Additions - Provost Olson: Item 3e, the draft Cell Phone Policy is tabled and is removed from the agenda. There were no additional changes.

b. FA President's Report - FA VP Grabowska: FA President Larsson has no special report although we are interested in agenda items that follow.

c. MSU President's Report - Provost Olson: If President Davenport was here he would announce that the ASF bargaining unit has reached a tentative agreement with MnSCU. The agreement awaits a ratification vote of the full membership. This action is due in large part to the actions of the Faculty Association that has led the way to getting contract settlements earlier than ever before. In addition it appears that the personnel plan for MnSCU Managers has been completed with zero merit salary increases for the two years of the next biennium.

d. MSU Provost/VPAA's Report - Provost Olson: By way of clarification on faculty lines, if a position is not in the 10% reduction plan submitted for the college, the position request is discussed by members of the Cabinet. To date none of these requests have been turned down. We are beginning to experience an increase in requests but because of the time of year, a majority of the requests are for fixed-term positions. President Davenport will send out an email to the campus community on Monday, 13 April, detailing the planned reductions by bargaining unit. The Cabinet has agreed to the restoration of \$1.5 million directed at supporting direct instruction. The initial emphasis has been to support teaching assistant positions. In addition we are asking for the faculty's help in identifying the need for critical enrollment demand positions. On another matter let me share with you information on the status of our current administrative search committees. The Dean of the College of Business committee is being formed. This committee chaired by Dean Mike Miller of the College of Education, will begin in the fall. Our request to identify candidates to serve as the Interim Dean of the College of Business has yielded the names of six individuals; I have scheduled meetings with all six. The initial efforts of the Dean of Arts and Humanities search did not yield an applicant pool that possessed sufficient gender diversity. We asked that the search be extended in hopes of correcting this deficiency. This extended search closes on 20 April. We are hopeful that this action will result in a more representative applicant pool. If not then we are prepared to go with an interim appointment for next year. This is a tough place to recruit a Dean. The salaries are lower than the competition and we do not offer tenure. This wouldn't be the first dean search we have had to extend. You recall that at the encouragement of the FA and others, we are making the Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Studies and International Education position a permanent position. We are beginning this search process and will no doubt need to go with an interim for one year. Professor Avra Johnson has agreed to serve as the Interim Assistant Vice President for Planning for an

additional year. With the turnover in our office, this will help keep some stability. The search for the Associate Vice President is moving along and we continue to be optimistic that we will bring this to a successful conclusion before the end of the academic year. I am passing out to you a draft of Nine Month Appointment Task Force Report for comments. Our report is due to President Davenport by 15 May. Finally let me once again remind you of the approaching demographic time bomb. This June will see the State's biggest recent high school graduating class which is good news for next year's admissions. But then the numbers drop significantly - scary stuff lies ahead unless we can find new students. "Going off the cliff" will mean bigger cuts. With efforts to increase online instruction and off-campus classes, we are trying to get ahead of it. FA: Is there a shorter leash to break even at 7700 France? Provost Olson: We anticipated red ink but we anticipate covering our costs by the third year. We need brand awareness; bus wraps alone will not do it.

e. Human Resources Topics - HR Director Lamb: The vacancy lists were emailed out. The seniority rosters were handled last time. Provost Olson: As mentioned earlier, in the email you will see the number of reductions by bargaining unit with administration at -11% taking the biggest percentage reduction.

2. Action Items—

a. Policy Review - Policy Coordinator Malcolm O'Sullivan: The formal review for all policies this year will conclude on April 10, 2009. While the Faculty Availability for Office Hours likely will be removed as a policy because there is language in the IFO bargaining agreement, the FA representatives are working with the MSSA student representatives to draft common language that will be accepted by both faculty and students. The language will be included in the Basic Stuff and on the web site. There were no additional comments.

3. Discussion Items—

a. MnSCU/Legislative Relations - VP Straka: The State Senate has proposals to increase higher education funding by some two billion dollars which the Governor has indicated he will not support. A similar amount is being considered in the House. We anticipate a 12 to 13% decrease in the higher education base. The bonding bill going forward with some \$2.5 million expected for us. The city proposal will not be supported now but may have a better chance in the considerations of the conference committee. Our joint Budget and Planning meeting went quite well. We continue to anticipate an improved budget situation over the worst case shared earlier. Efforts to support direct instruction remain at the top of our list. We are cautiously optimistic about our chances of getting planning money for the Allied Health & Nursing building that will be sited near Ford Hall. We anticipate a repeal of the legislation concerning the 120-credit limit. There is some progress on the language related to our proposed Emission Lab which likely will mean we would get the funding directly so funding wouldn't need to go through the county. It appears that the stimulus funds will be directed at one-time investments. The Governor wishes to reduce student costs, while our Board of Trustees would like some infrastructure support. Students want smart investments for the future. FA: What are the current prospects for the College of Business building? Provost Olson: This project is still part of our Capital Campaign. Our timing has not been the best. Absent liquidity in the financial markets, there is not much we can do. VP Straka: Donors are more likely to give from their earnings but not from their wealth. This building remains on our radar screen.

b. Differential Tuition for Online Programs - Provost Olson: This is different from all other categories because with online programs the campus has local autonomy to establish a market rate for tuition. We've proposed a charge of \$30/credit. Our competition does this. We need feedback from the FA at the May 7 Meet and Confer. These dollars would serve as a pool of resources for training and development associated with online instruction. Online courses are those designated as media code "3" courses meeting Board definitions. Another proposal for an added differential charge for off-campus

programs would require Board approval. This differential would be used to offset the additional costs associated with off-campus instruction. FA: Is this part of the charge to the task force meeting in the fall? Provost Olson: The fall task force will look at current programs where costs are high but where there is limited enrollment. Online and off-campus courses are a little more urgent. Recall that our off-campus consultant Gary Peer's report urged consideration of an off-campus differential charge.

c. Summer Meetings for Meet & Confer - Provost Olson: Given the lack of budget certainty, does it make sense to consider getting back together in July? If so under what conditions would we meet? Let us know.

d. Draft Cell Phone Policy: Item tabled.

e. Reorganization of Student Affairs and Extended Learning - Provost Olson: Any thoughts? We have some thirteen models at present. Walt Wolff, Lori Lamb, Rick Straka, Scott Olson, Sandi Jessen, Don Larsson and Murtaza Rajabali, the newly-elected MSSA President, will meet and make recommendations to the Cabinet who will make the decision. FA: I represent the Counseling Center and they want it known that they support affiliation with the rest of the faculty. Provost Olson: We have received a copy of their recommendation and they will be given consideration. There is some urgency to determine the role of the Dean of Students so we could determine the job description of the Dean of Students. FA: Are you committed to a Dean of Students model? Provost Olson: In our system deans are higher than AVP in terms of responsibility. The President has said he prefers a dean. FA: Not everyone sees this position in the same way. Provost Olson: The Division of Student Affairs doesn't exist anymore. FA: What about Extended Learning? Provost Olson: One big advantage is that VP Hoffman has a big Rolodex. We need to make sure that the faculty voice is heard. Please give him your ideas. How do we step up the online mission of the University? How does the faculty feel about this? FA VP Grabowska: Maybe we should invite him to our next FA Executive Committee meeting. Provost Olson: I wish to extend our appreciation to Walt Wolff for his helping out in this time of transition.

Meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Next Meet & Confer: Thursday, May 7, 2009, 3:00 p.m., CSU 203 (FA Chair/AD Agenda)

John M. Winkworth
Reviewer for Management

James Grabowska
Reviewer for Faculty