

MSUAASF Meet and Confer

October 24, 2006

1:00 PM, WA 303

Attendance: John Winkworth for Scott Olson, Marcius Brock, Patricia Swatfager-Haney, Lori Lamb, Linda Meidl, Rich Wheeler, Diane Berge, Lucette Wildt, Bryan Schneider, Torin Akey, Joel Johnson, Rick Straka, Mike Hodapp, Sandi Jessen, Richard Davenport

Guest: Cindy Janney

Meeting Chair: Dr. Richard Davenport

I. Information Items

a. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the September 21, 2006 meeting were distributed and approved as read.

b. MSUAASF President's Report—Joel Johnson

- ASF completed the new member contract training and it was successful.
- ASF would like to express thanks to the administration for being flexible and allowing us to reschedule the October meet and confer.
- The ASF state meet and confer will be held in November
- ASF would like to thank Human Resources for getting the information on open enrollment (insurance) out to the membership in such a timely manner.
- Jeff Iseminger will be speaking at the ASF general membership meeting on branding
- ASF elected Bill Watts to replace George Cejka as campus negotiator
- ASF received very positive feed back on the search training that was conducted by Human Resources and would like to congratulate the Human Resources office on a job well done.

c. MSU, Mankato President's Report—Richard Davenport

- President Davenport reported that we will have a much better idea on appropriations after the election. The setting of the price of tuition will be delayed and students were made aware of this delay.
- Athletics—what will happen to the NCC? There is an indication that we may know by January 1 if there will only be 3 institutions left in the NCC. President Davenport will fly out next week to the NCC conference meeting and chair the meeting. This meeting is critical in nature. If we are out of a “bus” conference, this will put a huge crunch on our budget. At the present time, we have 3 options.
 1. Join the Northern Sun Conference, which may not want us. We may not want to join this conference because it may be an

inferior conference. It may also cost a fair amount of money to join this conference.

2. Join the Missouri Conference, which may not want us because they have just invited Nebraska-Omaha to join that conference.
3. Go Division IAA, which could cost in the range of \$700,000. to \$7 million. However, it may be the most cost effective because if UMD and St. Cloud also join this conference, it would be likely that there would be a north and south division in the conference with some type of a playoff. This would then allow MSU, Mankato to be in a “bus” league. President Davenport stated that he has not yet assembled a task force for this issue because he wants to do more research and in depth study. Rich Wheeler asked when the NCC would be down to 3 teams. President Davenport stated that if the institutions announce in December that they are leaving the NCC, they need to play a minimum of two more years in the NCC.

- The development of the doctoral programs is progressing successfully. We are now looking at possible ways to fund these programs. We need to build a financial plan as to how we can support doctoral programs.
- The interior design students of MSU, Mankato have showed up at President Davenport’s office, the Chancellor’s office and the Capital trying to get their program reinstated at MSU, Mankato. President Davenport reported that it would cost our institution \$2.5 to \$3 million to build the program to what would be acceptable and would be accredited. He reported that there is also not a strong work force need in the area of interior design thus MSU, Mankato has suspended the program. With the suspension of the interior design program, the art department has received full accreditation which has not happened in the past because of the interior design program.

d. Vice President of Student Affairs Report—Patricia Swatfager-Haney

- Family weekend was a successful joint academic and student affairs collaboration.
- The campus out door rec process has been slowed down a bit. There will be a meeting held with the school district and the city. The students have asked that all alternative funding avenues be explored. The referendum will be pushed back until Spring 2007. Straka reported that the city has TIF money that needs to be committed and the city has suggested an underpass at the Warren/Stadium Road intersection. MSU is investigating the possibilities to see if the underpass is appropriate. MSU will eventually need to deal with the Warren/Stadium intersection and the Ellis/Stadium intersection. The city is anxious at the present time because the TIF zone is coming to the end of its period, so they need to commit to a project or put the funds back into

general tax dollars. Straka who is working on and studying the issue stated, “We need to determine if this is what is truly best for us.”

Berge expressed thanks to all concerned for reinstating classes on the Education Minnesota Weekend. Many high school students visit our campus on that week end and it is much more impressive when MSU students are on campus.

II. Discussion Items

a. Winter Break Closing—Lori Lamb

- There is not a decision as to if MSU, Mankato will be closed December 25-29, 2006, however we do expect an announcement soon. This is a very complex, complicated issue and process.

b. Policies—Patricia Swatfager-Haney for Malcolm O’Sullivan

- The Policy Consultation and Approval Process that was prepared for MSSA was distributed. There are 3 policy drafts ready for formal review that will be distributed within the next few days.

c. Diversity Commission—MSUAASF Executive Committee

- There has been some confusion as to how many ASF reps can be appointed to the commission by the bargaining unit. Some ASF members serving on the committee are administrative appointees and the membership of the bargaining unit does not consider those appointees as representing the ASF membership. President Davenport stated that the number of members representing ASF will be the same as it has been in the past.
- Status of the report: Dr. Davenport stated that the report has been filed and will be put on the web site along with future reports. He continued to say that the previous charge to the diversity commission was too broad and as a result the accomplishments have been minimal. The charge now is to focus on recruitment and retention. A short term plan should be in place by December 2006, a long term plan by May 2007 and a report will also be due in May 2007. The area the commission will be looking at primarily will be minority classification of students, staff, and faculty. Joel Johnson asked if we could anticipate open forums. Dr. Davenport stated that would be left up to the commission, but he anticipated that there may be open forums and that all reports would be shared publicly.

d. Update Cap Server Transition—Bryan Schneider

- The original plan to update the data base that holds ISRS was for January 2007. That has now been backed up to July 2007. The system will go from RDB to oracle. This is like moving from an apartment to a condominium. There will be many challenges and this will not be an easy transition. Schneider has pulled together 40 people that will be impacted the most and is keeping them up to date. He is working closely with MnSCU. Swatfager-Haney asked how we could make sure that we can continue to access critical data? Schneider reported that he is taking campus wide concerns to MnSCU. Gene Sellner should be credited for his hard work in discovering many of these concerns. President Davenport asked Schneider to put together a report on the subject so that he could take it to the MnSCU Information and Technology committee of which he is the Vice Chair.

e. Potlucks, loss of opportunity on campus

- Janney reported that we need to be concerned with two issues. Number 1, are we in compliance with our contract with our food service vendor, and Number 2, what is the liability of the University. Basic office potlucks are preserved. Discussion ensued on various concerns and satisfaction with the new food service vendor. Cindy had not heard some of these concerns and asked that she be contacted about concerns so that they can be resolved. Hodapp stated that we need to look at this contract the same way that we look at the MSU, Mankato contract with Pepsi and Barnes and Noble. This involves significant revenue for the students. Straka emphasized that liability truly is an issue with food.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM

**Minutes recorded and respectfully submitted by
Sandi Jessen, MSUAASF Secretary**