Minnesota State University of Administrative and Service Faculty

State Meet and Confer

February 10, 2012

**Meeting began at 10:04 a.m.**

Attendance: Barb Oertel, , Shahzad Ahmad, , Jill Quandt, Linda Meidl, Jay Lee, Adam Klepetar, Rich Wheeler, Jim Anderson, Kari Seime, Mike Sharp, Kerry Ross, Victor Cole, Barb Miller, William Brady, Steven Rosenstone, Chris Dale, Heather Kidd, Melissa Fahning, Mike Lopez, Tim Price, Jon Eichton

**Faculty Conversations on Strategic Framework** President Oertel noted that we are supportive of the campus conversations that will occur to support the strategic framework goals, and that ASF is excited about being participants in this process. Chancellor Rosenstone updated ASF about what the projects being discussed related to providing students access to an extraordinary education in Minnesota. He has been meeting with union leaders, campus presidents, and other stakeholders about these initiatives. The Chancellor wants many different stakeholders input on the framework goals, and he stated that many people were involved in creating the document which was his goal when he started the process. The Chancellor wants to harvest from the work examples of the great things we are doing on our campuses, and show our prospective Minnesota students what great opportunities that they have at MnSCU colleges.

**New ASA Shared Governance Structure** President Oertel was pleased that the new committees have been created and looking forward to getting together with other system stakeholders when the first meetings are held. There was some confusion cleared up about the composition of the Transfer Oversight Committee which Tim Price thanked ASF for bringing to his attention that there will be two ASF members on this committee. President Oertel thanks Tim and noted that ASF has completed assigning members to the new committees.

**Follow-up to Board Policy 3.36, Academic Programs** Barb noted that the Board Policy 3.36 language addition about students being lifelong learners and preparing students for careers, not just jobs, was greatly appreciated when the paragraph was added to the policy language, and the Chancellor noted to ASF that this language has been approved by the Board of Trustees. The Chancellor appreciated working with ASF to add the language.

**Impact of New Business Practices on Campuses** President Oertel noted that there have been many new business practices implemented this past year which have caused some issues at the campus level for ASF members. One was the system-wide holds implemented through etranscripts and this prevented students to enroll at other campuses in the system. Students were being caught between the two campuses, and the staff at the campuses did not know what to do with the students’ transcript situation. There is some lack of understanding about these new practices and communication that impacted students. Another example was the visiting students’ implementation where students take courses from other campuses and this caused staff to not know who was in the classroom, and there was no process to know if these students were in the local campus class? Basically, both of these Students First implementations communication issues regarding how to implement the policy, and we are seeking to improve that process.

The Chancellor thanked Barb for the information and that these are some great examples of ways to look at these problems, as a way to learn to get system employees together before implementation to discuss possible consequences of initiatives. The Chancellor asked for ideas that ASF had to improve communication. Jim Anderson noted that a single portal of information on the MnSCU and campus website would be helpful outlining new business practices. Mike Sharp mentioned that there are issues that we see on the campus that impact our staff which are policies on other MSCU campuses, and more information about these policies at other campuses is appreciated. Jon Eichton noted that he has been working with the Students First team about how we role projects out and that doing everything at once is not the best practice. We found that doing pilot project implementations has been the best practice with implementing large impact policies that affect staff at the campus level.

**Campus Service Cooperative-Heather Kidd** Heather noted that *one team, many campuses*, is the working principle of the Campus Service Cooperative looking at back office business practices to identify best practices, and look at things that can be moved to central locations such as payroll being done in Fergus Falls. These best practices are also occurring through the virtual environment using Cloud. Colin Dougherty is the system lead with the Campus Service Cooperative.

The Chancellor noted that this is not centralizing service, but rather being more flexible in using system resources to make us more efficient and responsive. President Oertel asked if there is any discussion moving into Students Services areas? Financial Aid was identified as one of the services that can be shared. It is in the review phase at this point, and President Oertel asked that we would like to be consulted as this moves forward and the Chancellor agreed. There have been examples of other considering other shared services such as Study Abroad and Interpretive Services. The Chancellor noted that there are many ideas being advanced to the Campus Service Cooperative to make the system more efficient and this is exciting. Mike Lopez noted that in the area of Financial Aid they are looking at back office functions where the documentation can be done anywhere using Cloud or virtual sources. Chancellor Rosenstone mentioned that he will be meeting with campus presidents to coordinator more cooperative services.

**Budget Update-Deb Bednarz** We are cautiously optimistic about revenue meeting projections that are coming into the State. There is an 800 million plus surplus expected this year, and this gives us hope that we will not be further cuts to the system. We are still looking at a one to two billion dollar structural deficit for FY 14 and FY 15. The Chancellor stated that this estimate is low considering it does not take into account for inflation, or for any pay increases for system employees. Campuses are planning for FY 13 and state funding is the same as last year, including a one percent set aside for five specific performance goals for campuses. We are hopeful to meet these five goals to receive this additional one percent funding. President Oertel asked about the one percent funding? The Chancellor noted that this money is already in our budgets and that keeping this money is contingent on meeting the goals set by the legislature. The expectation is that we will give to the legislature a report showing we met the requirements for this funding. There continues to be a four percent cap on tuition set for colleges, and five percent cap for state universities. Campus presidents have been encouraged to try and come in with tuition below that level. Access and Opportunity funds will continue to be available to campuses. and President Oertel thanked the Chancellor for this continued funding for diverse students.

**Legislative Update-Melissa Fanning** The Third week of the legislature is completed. Bonding is the key issue for the system right now and the Chancellor has testified already at the legislature about the needs of system campuses. The Governor’s recommendation is low for HEAPR, and other system building projects, and so we are dealing with that reality, and the House and Senate will not give their amount until March so we are in a waiting game for the exact amount for projects? A fast track bill is not anticipated, however, there is an early adjournment date of April 30th planned so hopefully we will not by then.

Chancellor Rosenstone and the presidents’ executive council will be going to the legislature to build support and trust in the direction that the system is moving to serve students and provide opportunities. There has been introduced a continuing operation bill proposed that would allow MnSCU to stay operating in case of a state shutdown. Also on February 21st we will see a redistricting map which may affect many legislators. There is a surplus in Minnesota State Grants and there is a proposal to having this money be directed toward living costs for students, and this should help us provide more funding to students

Chancellor Rosenstone noted that during these difficult financial times of declining state support for higher education we need to have a unified message and dedication to getting the message out to the people of Minnesota about how we are doing a great job educating the students in Minnesota on much less funding in the past three years. We are now in the bottom half of states who provide support to residents to access public education and he is committed to improving that number. Melissa Fahning noted that reforming state government agencies are big in the legislature and that we are going to have consultants come in and review our practices. We will see more of this scrutiny as we continue to move forward this decade with declining budgets.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:20 a.m.