**ASF State Meet and Confer**

**February 22nd 2013**

**Attendees:** Richard Wheeler, Jefferson Lee, Eduardo Gutierrez, Tracy Rahim, Jill Quandt

Jim Anderson, Kari Sieme, Adam Klepetar, Barbara Miller, Betsy Thompson, William Brady, Chris Dale, Steven Rosenstone, Mark Carlson, Doug Knowlton, Toni Munos, Tim Price, Deb Bednarz, Jon Eichten, Craig Schoenecker

**Legislative Update**

Adam express gratitude for the opportunity to be included with the legislature and Chancellor Rosenstone thanked him for doing a good job. The Governor's recommendation clearly sets Higher Education as a priority. Senators and Representatives on both sides understand and are excited about the priorities of the system to bring well prepared graduates to the workforce. The Chancellor has been meeting with chairs and committee members and they have been receptive. The big question is how much revenue is going to be available based on tax proposals. The System continues to work with outside groups, including business interests to build relationships and advocacy for higher education and the importance of building the world’s best workforce. The particulars are being well received, especially the message about retention. The push for grants for part-time students, internships, equipment and compensation all seem to be going well. The System has not presented to the House yet. They are having 3 full weeks of hearing on the U of M. They requested a great deal of information and it has been compiled and is on the MnSCU website. The system office is 24% smaller in base budget than it was 4 years ago. With the exception of IT, every area of the system office is smaller. IT accounts for 40% of staff and 60% of the budget of the system office. The cuts and changes we have made resulted in us moving 38 to 40 on list of administrative spending. It is important to emphasize that tuition increases are not made lightly and were not the majority of the solution to the recent shortfalls. The chair of the House Higher Ed. Finance and Policy committee has been raising concerns about administrators’ performance incentives and those may be eliminated, however those savings would only result in approximately$1 dollar available to spend per student. We need to continue to tell the story about efficiencies and the hard decisions that are made to give students the quality of education that they and the state needs with continually decreasing state funding support.

Upcoming Legislative Committee Deadlines: March 15—Policy Bills due out of committee of origin

 March 22—Policy bill makes it out of both houses

 April 19—Appropriation bills out of committee

**Budget Update**

 February forecast is due Feb. 28th. The 1 billion deficit projected for the next biennium is addressed through tax revenues, but if they aren’t approved by the legislature things will be very challenging. The system has provided guidelines to the campuses for budget planning in light of the uncertainty. We need to remind people that there is no lower tuition in the state of MN.

**Movement of positions from ASF to other units**.

There is communication being sent to Public Safety officers that indicates they will be moved out of ASF. However, Bill Brady indicated that a group is going through a process to look at all safety offices at all institutions to make sure we are following all OSHA guidelines, certifications, etc. They are trying to establish a long term position on how we structure these positions and what they should look like in the future. He indicated this is a long term process. There is no intention to move anyone who is currently in a position to a different unit. We historically move positions when they are vacant. Bill Brady clearly indicated that there is no intent to move current people out of ASF on a wholesale basis. In light of the recent miscommunication it would be most reassuring to have that message come from the actual sponsor of that project to the Safety Officers. ASF feels there may have been communication coming from MnSCU Administrators (for example 2 year campus HR officials) who may not be knowledgeable of our contract and are not in a position to make system wide statements. Bill said any written communication we can share with him will help him pinpoint the problems. ASF believes there may be a compelling argument that Safety officers belong in ASF, they interact with students in ways that are related to Student Affairs/Student Service professionals and we should have an opportunity to explain our position. They are very early in the process. Bill said down the road it would be possible to bring the leader of that task force to M&C to gather input. ASF agreed that would be very helpful. The group is looking at long term best practice establishment. It will be up to campuses to how they best implement the recommendations on their campus.

A related topic is the concern that ASF positions are being moved to excluded management. A recent example is Admissions Directors. ASF noted concerns about lowering the status of ASF and putting people in positions where it is easier to let them go. Bill said there is no grand plan to get rid of Admission Directors. Any time there is a vacancy the institution will look at the position to see what is the best for that institution. It is not systematic, but it could happen across the campuses. As general rule, the system is not looking to have more administrators and there needs to be a valid argument before a position is moved to excluded management. It does not seem like there is a high level of engagement on the campus in these restructuring conversations. Rich noted that we reserve the right under the law to ask for an appropriate review. Chancellor Rosenstone will tell Presidents that when these types of changes are being reviewed they should engage in a consultative review, which will make the rationale for any changes more transparent.

**Follow up on Graduate Follow Up survey.**

Craig Schoenecker reported that there is agreement that it’s time to review standards and response rate expectations. They have not yet initiated the review, but have identified a system staff that will convene a group and look at how it fits with the campus service cooperative. The review of the standards will be initiated in the next month, finished by beginning of June. The Chancellor said that the campus service coop is very focused on a few big initiatives. We may need to move ahead with the other group, and then get campus service coop to join. By end of June have a roadmap to move forward. Chancellor Rosenstone apologized and said he thought he had clearly indicated a need for this to happen after our last Meet and Confer, but he will be extra clear that it needs to happen now.

The 2011 data has not been finalized. There is a fairly substantial data integrity issue with zip codes in ISRS. They are working on it. The data results are in ISRS and can be accessed, but until the data issue is resolved they cannot send out the results in the normal final file form. Will likely be a month or more. The issue should not reoccur in the future.

**Update on ISRS/Student Record System**.

There are absolutely no plans to switch from ISRS to a 3rd party product. Changes to something like PeopleSoft would cost 80m and take 2-3 years. It would not be a good use of time, effort and resources. The goal is to make ISRS enhancement process to the best it can be. The system currently gets input from the User Groups, but would like larger campus wide input. Adam suggested that it would be useful to ask people beyond financial aid and student record systems and to talk to different levels of users, such as advisors. A suggestion was to work with VC Knowlton to reach out through ASA to different groups. One idea was to set up a web ex session with a large group of advisors to get their input on ISRS.

**Update on new committee structure:**

ASF has appreciated the leadership of VC Knowlton on the new structure and the work of Tim Price. We wish VC Knowlton the best of luck in the next step of his career. The system will do an evaluative process at the end of this year to see how the committee structure is working. The general sense right now is that is seems to be working as expected. There are some concerns about scheduling and overlap in charges, so there may be shifts. ASF will share our meeting schedule early to help avoid scheduling conflicts. System administrative assistants are working on a continuous improvement process looking at streamlining scheduling. They are also working on scheduling Board Meetings 2 years in advance.

**Negotiations:**

Adam expressed appreciation for the negotiation process and the move to interest based bargaining. The system will move the contract ahead as quickly as they can after our vote, but MMB, the legislature and subcommittee will need to react according to their own timeline.

The March Board Meeting is March 20th. If the System office can send out information about the timeline for payments that would be helpful.

The salary compression study will be a standing item on our agenda once the contract is ratified. Bill Brady said that committee or task forces will be implemented this summer to begin looking at the study.