MSUAASF State Meet and Confer

October 14, 2009

Meeting began at 10:05 a.m. in the Alumni Room at St.Cloud State University

A**ttendance**: Mike Parks, Rich Wheeler, Shahzad Ahmad, Linda Meidl, Alicia Reed, Leo Morgan, Mike Hodapp, Adam Klepetar, Mike Uran, Jim Anderson, Jeanne Cornish, Rich Shearer, Barb Oertel, Chris Dale, Barb Mueller, Mary Campbell, Chancellor McCormick, Mary Muenchow, Bill Brady, Todd Digby

**Committee Issues- What is considered a system wide committee versus a task force?-Chris Dale**

Chris Dale explained that a task force is a project based initiative that we are looking for a certain technical expertise. Standing committees are more centralized ongoing initiative issue groups. We have not established a formal process to determine what will be a task force versus a standing committee. The OOC has not done this at this point because the difficulty of this for us is drawing distinctions of responsibilities for members of task forces to be an appointed union representative. We want to respect the right of the union but sometimes we have a conflict of getting things done quickly by a task force. Barb Oertel mentioned that the ASF Board makes great efforts to appoint members who have expertise in the specific committee responsibilities; however, we want our representatives to also report back and have a close relationship with ASF Board to keep us informed on what is happening on these task forces and committees. ASF understands that there is a difference between members appointed for their expertise versus a member who is representing the union but in all cases we try and combine these two needs. The Chancellor noted that his office will work with ASF leadership to notify regarding task force appointments and this should improve communication on task force activities. He also noted that we need to do a better job of ending committees and task forces that are no longer active. Chris Dale thanked ASF members for their willingness to serve on committees and task forces and that our members input has been essential on these groups.

**Students First Initiative-Chris Dale and John O’Brien**

ASF Board members were given a letter from John O’Brien, Students First project director updating us on the status of the Students First initiative. Bill Brady noted that there has been an issue for this project regarding who on ASF will work with the six objectives on the initiative and that we would like to ask ASF how that they want to be involved in Students First? The Chancellor noted that John O’Brien is an outstanding leader of this project with extensive experience in the MnSCU system who grasps the participatory nature of including expertise from your members. He noted that we all need to serve our growing transfer students in the system and the Students First initiative is big step in that direction . We have been proactive on the transfer issues for our students and Students First will help us stay ahead of the curve for their needs. President Ahmad stated that ASF appreciate the goals of Students First, but that we want to discuss how we get our members involved in the ground level of implementation planning.

Rich Shearer, SCSU Admissions Director, mentioned to the Chancellor that he was notified of the Students Initiative in July and discussed how things like the e-application as a part of Students First has had issues and wanted to know when will State University Admissions Directors be more involved in the implementation planning process and how will this happen? There are also concerns about centralized admissions and what the impact will be on local campuses. The Chancellor noted that it is not the intent of the system office to do centralized admissions. Rich also mentioned that the application fee is a critical financial issue to local campuses and the timing of implementation. Mike Uran, SCSU Financial Aid Director, stated that consistency of process is so important with ISRS processing so that there are not errors on student data. Financial Aid processes will be impacted because of the flexibility currently in place in the Financial Aid module on issues like grading policy will impact a policy such as satisfactory academic progress. Mike also noted that IT resources are very much a concern regarding financial aid processing if system office resources are diverted during the implementation. Chris Dale stated that John Obrien will be contacting ASF members to get more input. Students First, noting that it is a work in progress. The Chancellor reiterated this and stated that John Obrien will be at the Admissions Director meeting to talk with this group. Barb Oertel asked that ASF be involved in appointing ASF representatives to the Students First initiative? Chris Dale noted that we can do that to help get you involved in the process and work in consultation on Students First appointments. Jeanne Cornish asked for a list of who is currently serving on these different groups and Chris Dale stated that this will be sent to Barb Oertel. Chancellor McCormick asked how the Oracle conversion went and Mike Uran and Rich Shearer noted after initial problems were identified the conversion has been a fairly smooth process. The Chancellor went on to state that we are concerned about all students, especially first generation and students of color to gain access and he hopes Students First will accomplish that goal. He also wants to talk to ASF members about finding ways to avoid having this issue occur again where ASF felt like we were not included in ground floor.

**Cell Phone Policy Update-Bill Brady**

We are dealing with the tax consequences of the cell phone use for system employees. The system office is currently back to our original cell phone use policy but we will be giving new advice on how cell phones will be able to used. Guidelines are being developed to help in this information that will be sent to cell phone users. The Chancellor noted that he hopes new policies will be developed because of the issues related to personal cell phone usage of state cell phones.

**Health Care Savings Plan-Mary Muenchow**

Rich Wheeler noted that there is an overlap between Health Care Savings deductions and supplemental retirement deductions out of paychecks which causes some issues of upset by ASF members. Is there a way to avoid this overlap of retirement and health care savings deductions? Mary Muenchow mentioned that on the payroll issues that the system office hands are tied regarding the central payroll system in how employees are paid and their deductions. There is a difference in the nature of these deductions and how they are implemented so this causes the overlap. Paychecks are issued by when the deductions are implemented and there are time periods where we deduct items over two different time periods in a pay period. Thus the July 1st period of implementation causes a delay of when things get behind when a deduction is actually taken out. Supplemental retirement has to be deducted when your salary is paid, not when it is earned thus there is a disconnect between the two deduction methodologies. Rich noted that we can still design the health care savings deductions around supplemental retirement and this can be done at bargaining the next contract. Rich will work with Bill Brady about this issue and look into complexity in implanting a new time table for these deductions.

**Implementation of Federal Textbook Legislation-Todd Digby**

Todd Digby from the OOC will be talking to all faculty unions. Due to federal Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 that our bookstores need to publish the ISBN numbers and the net price of the book so that students can shop around for books. Our course listings must also identify book information when the course is listed. This information will need to list this in ISRS so that it can be seen by students**.** Our IT ISRS folks are working on this currently and we are learning how campuses who already direct link this information how they do this and get it implemented system wide. It is up to the system office to figure out a uniform way to list this information. We would like to have a view friendly version where the faculty can identify if they are good with an older version or used versus new book information on costs. I am putting together a work group of registrars and bookstore employees to go over some scenarios for the IT folks.

President Ahmad thanked outgoing Bemidji State University MSUAASF president Leo Morgan for his service to the union these past many years as he is retiring in the next few weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.