Meet and Confer

10/17/08

Present: Chancellor McCormick, President Ahmed, Mary Leary, Chris Dale, Adam Klepetar, Jefferson Lee, Sandy Jessen, Mike Hodapp, Leo Morgan, Keswie Joiner, Steve Frantz, Judy Borgen, Mary Muenchow, Manuel Lopez, Rich Wheeler, Melissa Fahning, Thomas Wortman, Ron Dreyer

1. Cross Functional Advisory Group. Pres Ahmed requested additional information regarding how proposals originate that come to this group and what funding is available. Tiffini Deeb distributed a handout detailing the process, which varies based on dollar value. Only proposals that are greater than $100,000 go through the CAG and then the Enterprise Investment Committee, which is made up of Presidents and OOC Vice Chancellors. Initiatives come up through the Vice Chancellors, and are originated by various groups, including user groups. Tiffini Deeb is the contact for people needing additional information and would be willing to meet with us at another time to provide more information. Pres Ahmed requested that information be provided that we can share with our members. Chancellor McCormack suggested that OOC staff make additional efforts to make sure CIO’s on campus are aware of need to communicate on campus. Original amount available for FY09 was $13 million, has been cut to $5 million, but that has already been allocated. Proposals being considered now are for FY10; amount available is still unknown.
2. Mental Health Task Force. Pres Ahmed reported that our representative presented to us at our board meeting, we are seeing that much good work is being done. The question is what will happen once task force completes their work and makes their recommendations? Steve Frantz thanked ASF for our support and the good work of our representatives. Currently the report is in rough draft format. Recommendations will support a healthy campus environment and target specific services and interventions. Implementation plan will depend on scope of recommendations. Report will go to Sr Vice Chancellor, who will take to Leadership Council. Some campuses are participating with U of M in a depression study, which shows that about 19% of our students at 4 year campuses may be suffering from depression.
3. Budget Update. Judy Borgen distributed FY10-11 budget request materials given to the board at October meeting. MnSCU is requesting inflation increase (3%), tuition assistance in the form of a grant program for part-time students and expansion of “Power of You” program, Campus initiatives (health re and manufacturing education, STEM, Centers of Excellence, entrepreneurship and small business education, and capacity building for the metropolitan area), and university faculty compensation special. We will go forward with requesting an increase in spite of economic conditions since the needs are present. We may need to consider reallocations if increases are not realized. Board will act in November.
4. Legislative Update. Melissa Fahning reported on Legislative updates. House has possibility of a Democratic super-majority, which gives them veto power. Economy is number one issue. No major changes anticipated other than the possibility of the super-majority. We are also watching to see if there may be a bonding bill this upcoming session, which convenes January 6, 2009. Teacher education has been a big issue – governor is looking to improve this – and has made a speech which is very critical of current teacher education programs, many of which are in our institutions.
5. Bargaining/Negotiating. President Ahmed expressed our intent to participate in timely negotiations for this next round and also looking forward to receiving our printed contract. Chancellor McCormick reminded us that unknown economic conditions are part of the problem. Mary Leary said that contracts are being printed in Mankato and will be sent to campuses and to the Teamsters Office.
6. Transportation Policy 5.19.3. President Ahmed asked for clarification on implementation of this policy and possible issues. Keswic Joiner reported that the policy has been rolled out to students only at this point – 2100 submissions to date and 92% were eligible drivers, 2-3 % were conditional (up to university), rest were ineligible. Meeting occurred yesterday with HR group to discuss further rollout. Biggest issue so far is defining what constitutes college or university business – right now this should be defined by the institution. ASF member brought up a question about volunteer drivers; response was that volunteers are not covered by this policy. Other issues are data privacy and implications for individuals who turn out to be ineligible. Safety is ultimate consideration.
7. Proposed Amendment to Policy 3.18 Honorary Degrees and Proposed Procedure 3.18.1 Honorary Degrees. Manuel Lopez presented the proposed revision. There were no questions. This revision was prompted by regular review cycle/process.
8. Proposed Amendment to Policy 3.36 and Procedure 3.36.1 Academic Programs. Ron Dreyer presented the proposed revision. He highlighted the changes that were necessary due to 60/120 legislation passed last year. Still working on some language to comply with legislative language (Part 3).
9. Future Meet and Confer Dates Scheduled: We are scheduled for Jan 30, 2009. The May 1 date is going to be rescheduled.