**MSUAASF State Meet and Confer Fall Semester 2010**

**October 29, 2010**

Attendance: Rich Wheeler, Kari Seime, Barb Oertel, Adam Klepetar, Linda Meidl, Jay Lee, Jeanne Cornish, Lynn Johnson, Mike Sharp, Jill Quant, Shahzad Ahmad, Alicia Reed, Jim Anderson, Judy Borgen, James McCormick, Lori Lamb, Bill Brady, Jonathon Eichten, Mary Campbell, Mike Lopez, Scott Olson

Meeting began at 10:06 a.m.

**MSUAASF response to current budget situation and our thoughts regarding priorities, principles, and possible staff reductions**-**Barb Oertel** ASF President Oertel passed out a six point document to OOC staff regarding the upcoming biennium reduced State budget regarding our principles as an Association:

* Education and service to students is the top priority and needs to be maintained.
* Allow more campus autonomy in setting fees and tuition.
* Reduce or eliminate duplication of services between system office and campuses.
* Conduct system wide discussions on what services may be centralized for efficiency.
* Reduce time and resources spent on “policing” and regulating campuses.
* Promote and support innovative efforts for long term cost savings i.e. energy costs and using LEAN initiatives to reduce waste through new technologies and improved techniques.

The Chancellor thanked ASF for putting these ideas forward and noted that the system office has reduced staffing and costs during the current biennium and has reduced waste and inefficient practices. The Chancellor stated that he is concerned with cuts in marketing MnSCU and our campuses with pieces such as “Go Places” which is very popular with high school counselors and students. The Chancellor also noted that tuition is set by the legislature and is not something that campuses can set arbitrarily. Lori Lamb though it would be a good idea that ASF leadership be invited to the next “Shared Services” summit (where much of these cost saving discussions are held) so that ASF members can provide their input in the initiatives of Shared Services.

**FY 2012-2013 Biennial Budget Planning-Judy Borgen**

Judy Borgen updated ASF on the current planning for the upcoming legislative session. At the current time we are looking at staying with the 25 million dollar increase for each of the next two years to hold our base funding from the current biennium with the 50 million dollar increase. We are hoping to get this funding for 12/13, however, we could receive a cut of up to 100 million dollars depending on the revenue forecast and who wins the Governor election. Judy noted that the Minnesota Management and Budget thinks that insurance rates will go down which will be good news since it was expected to be a 16 percent increase. They have recalculated and employees are reducing costs so that this will be a less than 1 percent increase which is significant savings. Judy reminded ASF that the new Governor will be responsible for the new budget and there will be a month delay for the new team to take place and get their budget to the legislature.

**Access and Opportunity Funds Discussion-Barb Oertel** ASFPresident Oertel noted that ASF has a concern about fixed-term positions being hired using Access and Opportunity Funds. There are some differences on our campuses about how these funds are used and we have learned that this formula of funding it limits the kinds of programs and services that we can provide students. The fixed-term hiring with the use of these funds causes an unstable environment to move forward serving under represented students. Can there be a more stable situation in promoting probationary hires for these positions? Mike Lopez noted that these funds have been discussed at the leadership council; however, the budget uncertainty for the next biennium is a concern with looking at more probationary positions being created with these dollars. President Oertel noted that even though these funds are built into the base these positions are one year only hires which is problematic for planning purposes.Lori Lamb noted that this is something that we can bring forward to the leadership council so that they are aware of the problems that fixed-term hires causes campuses in terms of serving students and providing continuity. Lori Lamb also stated that the system office will not dictate to campuses how this money should be spent and encouraged ASF to bring these concerns to local meet and confers.

**Filling Administrator Positions during Ongoing Searches**-**Barb Oertel**

ASF President Oertel asked how the process of filling campus presidents’ is working during the year when a Chancellor search is also on-going. The Chancellor stated that he is consulting with the Board on OOC contract extensions. He is working with the campus president search committees to appoint new campus presidents through June 30, 2010. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will also be done on June 30th and we will hear from the new Chancellor what they want to do with this position? The Southwest Minnesota State University campus president search will start next week stay tuned for that announcement.

**Board Academic and Student Affairs Committee Goals-Barb Oertel**

ASF President Oertel discussed the recent goals for the system which are being discussed by the Academic and Student Affairs Board Committee. Scott Olson noted that these goals were not to be implemented but studied at the present time. This included remedial/developmental education interpretation, and the 12 month calendar which includes the 3 year bachelor’s degree. Scott Olson clarified that these ideas are to be studied by the Committee, and we are bringing in experts to talk with the committee, and we will be sharing this information with ASF and listen to your ideas regarding these discussions.

**Students First Update-Jonathan Eichten**

Jonathan Eichten stated that the communications module is being rolled out at pilot campuses. A number of campuses are excited about this implementation. Course equivalency search as a part of single registration is moving along. The Graduation Planner is at pilot stage at two campuses and we are moving forward with phase one of this initiative, with a second phase early next year. Shared services are looking at the student loan automation process practice and we have definitely begun the discussion of other services that can be shared with campuses. There is a student focused shared services dialog also being discussed and so we are moving along with Students First. There is some confusion about all of the work being done within Students First and Jonathan Eichten noted that continued collaboration and information sharing will go a long way to keeping us all on the same page regarding the system Students First initiative implementation.

**Lumina Project Update-Barb Oertel**

The Lumina grant to fund a program called RAPID (Returning Adults to Progress in Degree Completion) involves encouraging MnSCU students who have left their campuses prior to completing their degree programs. President Oertel asked the Chancellor for help in getting information about this grant program and how ASF members can help make it successful. Scott Olson noted that there was a session at the AAC about the Lumina Project and he will send these notes to President Oertel who will share this with the ASF State Board.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:46 a.m.