



Minutes of the UWRF Faculty Senate for October 24, 2007, Vol. 32 No. 6.

Representation	Term Expires 2010	Term Expires 2008	Term Expires 2009
CAFES	Kris Hiney	Laine Vignona	
CAS	Wes Chapin	Patricia Berg	Peter Johansson
	Karl Peterson	John Heppen	
COEPS		Ogden Rogers	Michael Miller
CBE			Glenn Potts
4th Division	Kristie Feist	Gregg Heinselman	Sarah Egerstrom
	Kristen Hendrickson		
At Large		Brenda Boetel (Jr)	Melissa Wilson (Jr)
	Sarah Parks (Jr)	Dawn Hukai (Sr)	David Rainville (Sr)
	David Furniss (Sr)		Terry Ferriss (Sr)
	Connie Foster*		

* Chancellor's Designee

** Absent

() Substitute

Call to Order: David Rainville called the meeting to order at 3:34pm

Seating of Substitutes: none

Guests: 27 members of the University Community, Don Betz, Mary Halada

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of 9-26-07 (v. 32 n. 4) were approved as corrected. John Heppen moved to approve and Sarah Parks seconded.

Reports –

Chair's Report –

As I have for the past few meetings, I will keep my report short. I can start by saying that it is difficult to get much done when so much attention is being given to one issue. That issue is of course, health insurance. As each of you has read in Falcon Daily, and will hear today, it is still unclear what are choices are as what we are told seems to change

from day to day. You will note that now we find that there are no contracts between Humana Western and hospitals and clinics in River Falls, Hudson, and New Richmond. This appears to be in sharp difference with what we were told by the representative from Humana on October 12, 2007 at the Health Insurance Fair.

The good news is that we have a budget which, I may regret saying, appears to be better than we expected. I am sure that we will learn more as the details become more familiar to all of us.

The Executive Committee continues to meet with the Senior Administrators and we have so as recently as this Monday, October 22, 2007. Our discussion this Monday was obviously concentrated on health insurance, and the budget. Additionally we discussed the campus climate under the cloud of no budget and lack of clear health insurance choices or options. Other items discussed were faculty compensation, the awarding of honorary degrees and the need of a contact person who would have some of the responsibilities of the former Dean of Students.

Vice Chair's Report - none

Other Reports – none

Old Business - none

New Business -

Discussion of the Health Insurance Crisis

There are three resolutions proposed by John Heppen, Peter Johansson and David Furniss. (handouts)

First reading: Peter Johansson's "Petition for an Equitable, Reasonable, and Affordable Quality Health Care Plan for all Faculty and Staff at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls".

-Don Betz responds:

1) Timing had it so that the Budget and Medical Coverage issues crossed over one another. Lapse - \$350,000 a year will come back to UW System over a 4 year period.

-Compensation Reserve has been restored.

-Funding will activate in 2009 thru 2011. Projects such as South Fork Suites and the Health and Human Performance project will be able to continue on campus. Funding will also come next year for First Year Experience Program.

– Currently 75% retention rate our goal is 80%.

2) Health Insurance: Tier 1 and Tier 2 options.

- ETF says that they did not receive the bids until 3 days before UWRF received them.

A few examples of questions raised to Don on campus:

a) Why did you negotiate this Deal? There is no negotiation.

b) How did ETF accept the bid?

c) How did the Chancellor not know about this? This is a State Agency – these decisions are State decisions.

Where do we find ourselves at this point? Extension for Health Coverage sign up is November 4, 2007. Possibility of another extension if we don't receive information we need by then.

Is the Insurance Board the key for us? Is it through the Governor?

Don: ETF and the Insurance Board and OSER set the rate for us.

Pay Plan Issue: There is talk of a 4% increase for 2007-'08. Pay Plan has not been signed yet. The Governor needs to sign the Budget then the Pay Plan is in play.

Glenn Potts moves to pass the one paragraph motion written by John Heppen to Governor Jim Doyle. The motion was seconded by Wes Chapin.

Amendment to the motion to add the text: "we expect this situation to be corrected in calendar year 2008" was moved by Laine Vignona and seconded by Wes Chapin.
24 for 0 opposed 0 abstentions. Amendmend to the motion passed.

17 in favor

0 opposed

3 abstentions

Motion is passed to forward amended letter to Governor Jim Doyle.

Wes Chapin: We need to be our own advocate through Interest Group Politics.

Chancellor Betz acknowledges the Faculty Senate's need to for an interest group and forming a coalition with in the guidelines of the law.

Peter Johansson: Petition for an equitable, reasonable and affordable quality health care plan for all faculty and staff at the UWRF. Brought forward as a motion.

Moved by Peter Johansson, 2nd by Mike Miller

To be distributed to all faculty and staff at the University as soon as possible.

Sara Egerstrom moves to change where it says "Tier 1 and Tier 2" to read: "**more affordable and quality Tier 1 and more affordable and quality Tier2**" and seconded by Kristie Feist.

18 vote for

0 opposed

0 abstentions

Motion to add the phrase affordable and quality Tier 1 approved.

Terry Ferris moves to strike the phrase that states ... (and are giving away their services through low tuition rates compared to Minnesota [hence the reciprocity problem]...

17 for

0 opposed

1 abstention

Amendment to add ...faculty **and staff....** to paragraph 5 of the Petition.

18 for

0 opposed

0 abstentions

Motion is passed unanimous

Wes Chapin moves to reconsider the Motion that was just passed regarding the Petition to add: **Board of Regents** to the mailing list of this Motion. Terry Ferris seconded.

18 for

0 opposed

0 abstentions

Motion is passed unanimous

Peter Johannsen moved to also include the Board of Regents in the list of recipients of the petition and was seconded by Michael Miller. Eighteen in favor, 0 opposed/0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Petition was approved with the above changes and will be distributed to the faculty subsequent to the Chancellor's signature.

Terry Ferris suggested having another all campus faculty/staff meeting to address this again soon. Possibly separating WI people from MN people for time constraints?

-Don will call a meeting to the University to meet.

-Sara Parks would like to see if someone from ETF and Board of Regents will attend this meeting.

At 5:20pm the meeting officially closed on Health Insurance issues.

Miscellaneous business:

Wes Chapin – re: Ad Hoc Sustainability committee. Currently stated at 19 members.

Faculty Senate passed this group with 11 members last year. The current 8 members that have been added have not gone through Faculty Senate and he would like the Executive Committee to visit this issue. David Rainville (chair) agrees that the Executive Committee will visit this issue at the next Executive Committee meeting.

David Furniss moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Sarah Parks.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm