University Staff Senate  
Meeting Minutes: May 12, 2016  
UC 322 – Chippewa River Room

Council Members Present: Missy Davis, Linda Matzek, Greg Elliot, Connie Fassino, Heather Wittkopf, Deb Toftness, Robert Rust, Kathy Young, Mary Foster, Deb Schwab

Council Members Absent: none

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm by USS Chair Missy Davis.

Seating of Substitutes:
• None needed

Secretary’s Report:
• Motion to approve report as presented: Mary F./Greg E. - MC

Treasurer’s Report
• No change since last report (balance of $20.14).
• Motion to approve treasurer’s report: Mary F./Heather W. – MC
• Additional funds agreed upon with Elizabeth will be transferred and reconciled soon.

Old Business:

University Staff representation on search/hiring committees
• The suggestion was made that perhaps we should provide general guidelines as to when University Staff should be included on committees of various sorts.
• As part of UWRF governance, we have a right to be included on committees as appropriate.
• Motion to set up a subcommittee to develop recommendation for seating of University Staff on committees: Mary F./Deb T. – MC
• Missy will inquire of committee volunteers to build committee; Kathy Y. and Heather W. will serve on the committee.

Elections Committee Report
• There were 70 voters.
• Results:
  o Fiscal and Staff Services: Robert Rust
  o Blue Collar: Greg Elliot
  o Administrative Support (1 yr to finish Mary F.’s term): Heather Wittkopf
  o Member-at-Large: Helen Spasojevich
• There were some minor reports of voting difficulties; we may adjust wording for next year’s elections announcement.
New Business

Shared Governance meeting report

- Lengthy notes from Denise Ehren (UWW) provided to senators; nothing individually notable.

Pay rate change from 3 to 2 decimals

- Hourly pay rates will be rounded from 3 decimal places to 2, rounding up in all cases.
- This takes effect June 26, 2016.

Department of Labor FLSA proposed changes

- The criteria for determining when someone can be considered for exempt status is changing.
- The current proposal moves the minimum salary up to $50,400 per year, but that’s not the only criteria.
- The Department of Labor is currently looking at adjusting the proposed threshold to $47,000.
- This could potentially create hourly academic staff, whereas there are none now. There is lots of discussion at the state level as to how to make that work.
- The UWRF Human Resources office is working on planning, since they’re pretty certain some people at UWRF will be affected; they just do not know who or the magnitude of the effect.

Wage adjustment committee proposal

- We need to have the proposal published for at least 48 hours prior to voting, so we cannot vote on it in this meeting.
- Mary F. will get a meeting scheduled to take care of this, targeting the afternoon of Wednesday, May 18th.
- Connie F. will write an introductory e-mail.
- Linda M. will get the proposal published to the USS website.
- We will send an e-mail announcing the proposal and meeting on Monday, May 16th.

Walk-on Items

Representation on search/hiring committees (Discussion)

- Elizabeth F. is open to having a blue collar representative on the HR director search.
- Motion to appoint a blue collar university staff representative to the HR director search: Mary F./Heather W. – MC
- Lisa Lee volunteered to serve on the committee

Chancellor’s Representative on USS

- Deb S. will stay as representative while serving as interim director of Human Resources

Possibility of lump sum availability

- How to distribute this in the event it becomes available will be included on an agenda for a special meeting (date to be determined).
• Do the rules against pay plans apply to one-time lump sum distributions?

Vote of no confidence

• Some university staff have wondered about the possibility of vote similar to the Faculty Senate vote of no confidence that took place.
• This was a big topic of discussion in the UW University Staff telepresence meeting; the consensus of that group was to stay silent for the time being.
• Do we adopt a resolution that we stand in solidarity with faculty (which would not be sent to UW System or the Board of Regents)?
• This will be included on the agenda for the regular June meeting.

Move to adjourn @ 2:39pm.