ASF Meet & Confer
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2010

Present: Judith Ramaley, Connie Gores, Kurt Lohide, Lori Reed, Nancy Jannik, Alicia Reed, Nancy Peterson, Jill Quandt, Jenny Lamberson

1. Budget Update
There is not much new to report. There have been some questions about how the Supreme Court’s decision about the Governor’s unallotment will impact us. It is felt that it won’t have much impact on us. The unallotment and legislative reductions have taken us back to FY06 levels and we can’t go below that or we wouldn’t be able to use the stimulus funding. So, it doesn’t appear much more can be taken from higher education and it is not expected that the legislature would give us any money back. We are pressing ahead with the budget plans that were previously developed. Dr. Ramaley reported that at last week’s MnSCU Leadership Council meeting there was a sharing of philosophies on the budget. Two themes emerged out of that discussion. The first is concern that individual institution decision making could impact the state because of lack of coordination. Some programs might not justify replication throughout the state. This impacts two year institutions much more than four year institutions. Some plans for expansion by some of the universities have been put on hold. The second theme that emerged was that the tactics being used are focused on cost reductions and cuts. WSU’s approach stands out as different from the other institutions. Our themes are to take care of our people and to take care of our students. Another difference between WSU and the other schools is how we used our stimulus funding. Behind the scenes, most of the other MnSCU universities and the Chancellor’s Office have turned to WSU for leadership and guidance through our Lean in Education program.

2. 2010-2012 ASF Executive Board
ASF informed administration about the changes in our executive board effective June 1, 2010.

3. SIA Program Update/HLC Update
The “Special” SIA was offered in parallel with a faculty research opportunity. Three ASF proposals were received and all three were awarded. One of the awards mentioned is to Gar Kellom who will be looking at retention and student success data. He will be comparing Student Support Services data against the population at large. Administration and ASF had some discussion on the value of the SIA program. WSU is the only school that is awarding SIA funds this year. Locally, we were willing to accept a special focus and that helped us to be able to offer it. Administration sees the program as highly valuable. The research opportunities for IFO and ASF center around HLC or program review needs. The status of HLC is that going into the summer we have been able to hire 2 English faculty who will be looking over the first drafts and editing the information in chapter one. We have a lot of data collection to do over the summer. Chairs will be working this summer to get information from academic departments. The service units are little farther ahead in their HLC work. Our goal is to have a good draft in the fall of 2011. The HLC visit will be in spring of 2012. We’ve made good progress. It isn’t about producing a report…..it’s about changing how the institution works. The review of the mission statement is an accomplishment we can celebrate.

4. Tobacco Free Task Force Recommendations
The task force had two recommendations that had to do with the enforcement of the policy. Dr. Ramaley accepted the first recommendation and as a result there will be additional signage placed on campus. The second recommendation, which was to enforce fines, was not accepted by the President. Student security staff would have a challenging time confronting fellow students and staff to enforce the fines.
5. Review of Advisory & Operational Committees
Dr. Ramaley would like to keep the All University Committees that are working and suspend others that are not as effective. She has asked Karen Northam to compile a list of the committees that have had open vacancies all year and then find out what those committees did. Administration wants to hear from the constituency groups about which ones we feel are valuable because she would like to suspend about one-third of the committees. ASF again shared our notes that Nancy Peterson compiled on our review of committees from our members’ perspective. ASF also suggested that when a committee starts, the vision and purpose needs to be shared up front with the committee members so that everyone is on the same page about why they are there and what they are supposed to be accomplishing.

6. Governor’s Salary Savings
The Governor’s Salary Savings plan has not been used much but Administration wants to clarify how it should be being used. We have had people using it for an hour here and there and that does not equal much salary savings. So, they are taking a different approach and saying GSS can be used only for consistent schedule changes over a reasonable period of time. That way we will not have employees and supervisors continually working on the procedures involved in taking it. The program will continue through this summer but in the fall it will be relooked at. GSS cannot be used after the fact. It must be used proactively. The point of the program is to garner some savings. We want to reap more savings from the program but also need to control the staffing around it. If people have questions about the program please contact Human Resources. Human Resources will be sending out an email soon about the program. If you want to use the program you must give a ten day notice and it must also be approved by your supervisor.

7. Membership List
Lori Reed reported that Human Resources is working with IT on a report that one person in each bargaining unit would have access to in order to keep an accurate membership list.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jenny Lamberson
ASF Secretary/Treasurer
May 13, 2010