

AFSCME Staff Advisory Council Meeting Notes
Thursday, December 11, 2008
9:30 a.m.
TRF Campus, Room 545; EGF Campus, Room 106

Members Present: Sandy Bratvold, Lynell Wayne, Cory Feller, Kent Hanson, Lori Johnson, Bonnie Klasen, Rosie Gustafson, Anne Temte; Cindy Cedergren, Recorder.
Absent: Bobbie Bloom, Casey Wedin, Becky Lindseth, Sue Ridley

Budget Projections:

President Temte shared a draft document which outlined the assumptions the college is making in response to the state's \$426 million deficit for FY09 and the state's projected deficit of \$4.8 billion for the next biennium. The document also contained guidelines for financial management that will be put in place for the current year, to reduce spending and maximize the carry-forward funds into FY10. She stated there is a possibility that the Governor could decide to "de-fund" state agencies during this fiscal year, reducing our expected allocation funds for the remainder of the year. The college may need to reduce the budget by \$1 million per year over the next two years. She stated that it is not likely the Board of Trustees will approve more than a 2% increase in tuition.

President Temte explained that a process and instrument are being developed for gathering ideas from all employees through an electronic "Idea Forum" on Virtual Office, which will be available in early January. She encouraged Council members to submit their ideas, thoughts, and opinions via this method. The college needs to look at both large and small reductions.

President Temte stated that the budget reduction process will not be a pleasant time for all employees. Lynell Wayne stated that open communication with employees is more important now than ever. President Temte stated she would plan to meet with AFSCME and other staff throughout the spring semester to keep them updated on budget issues (perhaps via polycom, and at different times of the day to accommodate various schedules).

Follow-Up Reports from Previous Meetings:

On-Line Application Problems: Kent Hanson reported that there is now a prompt on the website for students applying on-line, informing them they should contact the college if they are not contacted by the college within a specific amount of time.

No Smoking: Lynell reported that since additional signage was installed and the cigarette receptacle was moved further from the building, smoking near the west entrance has been greatly reduced. Other members commented that the results weren't as good at certain other TRF entrances.

Other:

Lynell Wayne relayed a concern from some students about faculty giving tests the week (or sometimes the day) before final exams. She supported the idea of having a "dead week" as

some universities do, where no tests are given the week before finals week, or considering having no class the day before the final exam week starts. Kent agreed to bring this item to the Academic Affairs and Standards Council for discussion.

Members were encouraged to submit agenda items for the next meeting to Cindy Cedergren.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 9:15 a.m.; TRF Room 545, EGF 106

Adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Cindy Cedergren, Recorder