

AFSCME Staff Advisory Council Meeting Notes
Thursday, March 26, 2009
9 a.m.
TRF Campus, Room 662; EGF Campus, Room 306B

Members Present: Lynell Wayne, Cory Feller, Lori Johnson, Sandy Bratvold, Rosie Gustafson, Becky Lindseth, Anne Temte; Cindy Cedergren, Recorder.

Absent: Bobbie Bloom, Kent Hanson, Casey Wedin, Bonnie Klasen, Sue Ridley

Development of the FY10 Budget: President Temte stated that the level of stress among employees is very high right now, due to both budget concerns and flooding issues. Members shared their concerns about both of these topics.

President Temte stated that there is a battle going on in the Legislature about the state's budget, and we will not likely know anything certain until late May or early June. She stated that we need to plan a 4-year budget. We need to prepare for reductions regardless of the stimulus money we will receive. Those funds are one-time funds and will not carry us through the next biennium. We need to reduce the college budget by \$1.6 million for FY10 alone. Becky stated that the Finance Committee plans to forward recommendations for budget reductions totaling approximately \$250,000, and that the committee did not forward any recommendations for personnel or programmatic reductions. She stated that it is administration's goal to finalize the proposed budget by April 17th. President Temte stated that the voluntary reduction requests are in progress and will be determined by mid-April.

President Temte reported the college will be receiving HEAPR (Higher Education Asset Preservation and Restoration) and other special initiative funds from MnSCU for facility improvements. She stated it was important for all employees to understand the difference in those funds verses the state allocation and general fund budgets. It is often difficult for employees and the general public to understand why the college must cut personnel, but at the same time make significant improvements to facilities.

One member stated that preliminary talks with state AFSCME officials indicate the possibility of contract language that would give the employer the authority to issue a 24-day furlough as an option as a budget reduction measure. President Temte stated that one faculty bargaining unit (IFO) and the MnSCU Administrator's Plan has settled contracts with no raises, no step progressions, and she assumes there will be similar agreements with other bargaining units that are currently in negotiations.

Hours of Operation: President Temte read a draft memo regarding the implementation of standard operating hours of 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon-Friday. Discussion was held. She stated that the college needs to focus on meeting the students' needs, not on what our staff need or prefer for personal reasons. The memo will be sent in the near future, and all supervisors will be directed to work out department schedules with their employees to accommodate the 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. coverage.

Strategic Planning: President Temte reviewed the three key strategic goals for the college: *Inspire Student Success; Revolutionize Enrollment Growth Strategies to Sustain Vibrant Learning Communities; and Cultivate High Quality Programs, Services, and Employees.* She reported that faculty will be working on the plan at the April 10 in-service workshop, and supervisors will be meeting with their support staff to continue work on the plan this summer. She stated that she hoped that stimulus money could be utilized to invest in strategic plan initiatives, possibly in areas such as advising, registration, marketing, etc.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 7, 2009; 9 a.m. (April 9th meeting canceled)

Adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Cindy Cedergren, Recorder