

MINUTES

University Staff Congress

9.19.22

All Members were present with the following exceptions:

ABSENT (Excused): P. Haney (8), C. Rhode-Szudy (16), B. Zart (17), L. Bilke (22), G. Froehlich (31), S. Riddle, , L. Raney (60), K. Demick (64), J. Watson (67), G. Goplin (72), R. Kutz (83), R. Carson (87), E. Schafer (100), J. Bodnar (103),

ABSENT: D. Creasy (2), M. Polk McGiveron (24), M. Vandebrook (26), D. Kerkman (32), K. O'Neill (37), G. Jensen (46), J. Swisher (50), K. Owens (89)

In addition, 1 Alternate was present.

At 2:30PM, Vice Chancellor Cramer announced that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

Vice Chancellor Cramer directed the attention of the Congress to the draft Minutes of the previous meeting, and entertained a motion to approve those Minutes. A motion was heard, as was a second. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Vice Chancellor Cramer paused for public comments. None sought recognition in this regard.

Vice Chancellor Cramer asked to take an Agenda item out of order. No objection was heard in this regard.

Vice Chancellor Cramer recognized Carmen Romero Gonzalez for the purpose of providing a report regarding the simplified process of Well Wisconsin, noting the partnerships with the State and with WebMD.

Ms. Romero Gonzalez reviewed the steps that employees can complete in order to earn \$150 and noted the deadlines.

Representative of District 61 sought clarity regarding the confidentiality of the process.

Reply came that confidentiality is protected.

Representative of District 52 offered his thanks for the presentation and sought clarification regarding how ELL spouses might access the system.

Reply came that everything available to employees is also available to spouses and interpretation is available.

Representative of District 92 noted his observance of language on the website that appeared to indicate that employee information could be sold to third party vendors.

Reply came that WebMD does not sell information that is collected.

Representative of District 42 expressed concern for those on 2nd and 3rd Shift as well as ELL employees who need more time to complete forms and stated that a setting in which they could be assisted with the forms would be beneficial.

Reply came that the new streamlined version comes as a response to assist those who have experienced such difficulties in the past.

Vice Chancellor Cramer recognized Ms. Tricia Droes and Mr. James Everett for the purpose of providing a report regarding the Athletic Board.

Presenters described the table of organization of the Athletic Board, how the representatives are selected, their role and their priorities. Presenters discussed the national evaluations of the athletic programs, noting UW-Madison's admirable standing in regard to high academic standards.

Representative of District 76 expressed concern that athletes have access to mental health resources considering the pressure associated with competition.

Reply came that access to mental health resources have been increased.

Representative of District 52 made an inquiry regarding unsold tickets and questioned the cost of tickets that could be lowered, still make a profit and still produce attendance.

Reply came that this discussion has not reached the Board level.

Vice Chancellor Cramer concluded the discussion by noting that 3,000 employees attended the football against Washington State thanks to incentives provided to university staff.

Vice Chancellor Cramer recognized Mr. Joshua Schiffman for the purpose of providing a report regarding the Employee Assistance Office.

Mr. Schiffman reviewed why and when people access EAO resources, noting it does not have to be work related and can also be related such topics as parenting and caregiving, relationships, the 24 hour news cycle, and more. Mr. Schiffman described the table of organization of his office and the functions performed by the staff. Mr. Schiffman informed the Congress that such resources are provided at no cost and may be accessed on work time.

Mr. Schiffman continued by providing a breakdown of the frequency of the type of issues addressed and noted that employees families are eligible for services and that the programs are confidential.

Representative of District 52 inquired about the accessibility that 2nd and 3rd Shift employees as well as ELL employees, have to the resources described.

Reply came that EAO works with CLS to provide interpretation and translation of materials and that the office offers some flexibility so that those on off shifts can access during work time.

Representative of District 102 inquired about the difference between EAO and OMBUDS.

Reply came that OMBUDS provides a place to ensure campus policies and procedures are being adhered to.

Vice Chancellor Cramer provided a report to the Congress.

Vice Chancellor Cramer noted positive increases for the campus in published rankings of public institutions. Vice Chancellor Cramer also informed the Congress that the Board of Regents is proposing a 4% pay plan increase. Vice Chancellor Cramer noted the capital projects progress underway on campus, including the demolition that will clear the way for the informational sciences building.

Representative of District 52 noted that observed holidays fall on a Sunday and then employees will be working for straight pay on the holiday Monday, which employees find objectionable. Representative of District 52 also expressed concern that access to safety glasses has become more inconvenient.

Reply came that the question of holiday pay and access to safety glasses will be examined.

Representative of District 88 inquired if there would be a reduced rate for employees to access recreational facilities.

Reply came that the question will be examined.

Vice Chancellor Cramer recognized Mr. Terry Fritter for the purpose of providing a report from the Central Committee and taking feedback from the Congress.

Mr. Fritter informed the Congress that the next meeting of the Central Committee would be 29 September and encouraged participation under the public comments portion of the Agenda. Mr. Fritter also encouraged participation in the 14 October American / Chinese Friendship event.

Representative of District 53 expressed concern regarding mobility as it related to campus construction projects and the delays it causes employees arriving to and departing from, the campus.

(applause heard in the hall)

At 3:55PM, Vice Chancellor Cramer entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was heard, as was a second. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: J. Lease / Secretary