MINUTES

University Staff Congress

8.17.26

All Members present with the following exceptions:

EXCUSED: B. Parker (1), J. Anderson (9), L. Bek-gran (11), B. Schalburg (56), S. Gordon (68), R.Kutz (73), B. Shore (80), K. Newton (81)

ABSENT: J. Hoffman (25), D. Odenweller (29), K. Rieselbach (31), A. Hagen (66)

At 2:30PM, Vice Chancellor Rob Cramer called the meeting to order.

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

Vice Chancellor Cramer provided a report to the Congress. VCFA Cramer welcomed the membership of the 13th Congress to their first meeting and thanked them for running for office. Vice Chancellor Cramer informed the Congress that a meeting of the Board of Regents would take place at Gordon Commons on campus and that these meetings are open to the public.

VCFA Cramer thanked those who will be preparing the campus for the return of students, and in particular noted the logistics involved with the 'move in' and the role played by university staff in this regard.

VCFA Cramer thanked the staff for their role in responding to the challenges presented by the interruption of chilled water and the impact that it had on campus.

VCFA Cramer noted the offer of tickets to upcoming football games for staff and also that emergency childcare assistance is available with awards being based on funding availability and family need.

VCFA Cramer noted that the proposed budget of $730 million over the next two years includes several priorities identified by UW-Madison.

Representative of District 54 sought clarification regarding work being done in Grainger Hall.

Reply came that work is continuing on internal renovations as well as the construction of a coffee shop and eating area, and the expansion of an outdoor area.

Representative of District 46 inquired if there was any progress regarding participation in shift by members of the Trades.

Reply was in the negative. It may be a topic in the next budget cycle.

Representative of District 45 spoke in favor of a 36-hour personal holiday for Trades employees and noted concern over retirees back pay.

Reply came that results of negotiations were consistent with all other State employees.

Representative of District 45 noted that truck services start time is not consistent with the arrival of Trades employees on campus.

Reply came that this situation can be looked into.

Vice Chancellor Cramer recognized UWPD Chief Brent Plisch for the purpose of providing a report.

Chief Plisch reviewed the table of organization of the department, providing details regarding its five separate divisions. Chief Plisch noted that last year the dispatchers fielded over 111,000 phone calls. Chief Plisch informed the Congress that the current strategic plan ends with the fiscal year, and a new one is being drafted.

Representative of District 54 sought clarification regarding instructions on how to respond to ICE raids.

Reply came that it depends on what capacity ICE is on campus, and that ideally, the assignment would be turned over to UWPD who is trained to deescalate situations.

Representative of District 54 noted confusion among employees as to who to call first, stating that they have been informed to phone the Office of Legal Affairs.

Reply came that part of the OLA process is to notify UWPD.

Representative of District 54 expressed concern over the definition of public and private spaces.

Reply came acknowledging that the definitions present a challenge and that is why getting OLA and UWPD involved is advised.

Representative of District 12 sought clarification regarding use of flock cameras and how people on campus can provide feedback on discussions for use of alternative systems.

Reply came that available tools may include an element of risk, but may also provide results, and include protection of comprehensive agreements. It was noted that there will be opportunities for public engagement.

Representative of District 21 inquired if all UWPD employees have access to the data produced by cameras.

Reply came in the negative and it was noted that there is a log to determine who views what and for how long.

Representative of District 21 stated that they would like to see more involvement in traffic control in WIAA tournaments.

Representative of District 49 inquired as to what the UWPD involvement is in student orientation, particularly as it relates to crossing campus both as a pedestrian and in using other devices.

Reply came that regulations do not align with available technology, but Chiefs of various jurisdictions are discussing it.

Representative of District 49 expressed concern for the safety of employees of animal testing labs.

Reply came that the department has been consistent in its communication with labs about home and workplace safety and that some new materials to assist employees are being drafted.

Representative of District 22 sought clarification if electric vehicles are supposed to be on the road or bike paths. Representative of District 22 also sought clarification regarding use of non-lethal force.

Reply came that there are no legal parameters regarding electronic personal transportation and that this has to be addressed by the legislature. Reply also came that UWPD strives to use the least amount of force to control situations.

Representative of District 49 inquired how situations on campus can be prevented from becoming national news.

Reply came that the best way to prevent situations is through clear and consistent communication, transparency, and building relationships.

Chief Plisch concluded his report with thanks to the Vice Chancellor who resumed the Chair.

Representative of District 35 thanked those employees of the heating and cooling plant who responded to the recent crisis with chillers.

Applause heard in the hall.

Representative of District 35 inquired as to what has been done with the information that was supposed to be gathered by the Title and Total Compensation exercise in terms of keeping the campus competitive with wages.

Reply came that the TTC study culminated in new job descriptions and compensation structures. On a semi-annual basis the campus compares itself to peer institutions and private employers. Salary ranges have been adjusted based on that information. CCF allocations are used to address most critical compensation needs.

Representative of District 8 noted that the emergency childcare fund came as a result of the advocacy of AFSCME Member, Mary Czynszak-Lyne who used her own funds from an award to create the initial fund.

Vice Chancellor Cramer recognized Mr. Terry Fritter, Chair of the Central Committee.

Mr. Fritter introduced the Members of the Central Committee and noted that staff can attend the upcoming Board of Regents meeting and the public meetings of shared governance and invited suggestions for items for future Agendas.

Representative of District 54 inquired if Faculty Senate representatives have been invited to appear before Congress.

Reply came that University Staff governance leadership normally interacts with representatives of the Faculty and Academic Staff at informal meetings every other month. Mr. Fritter also noted that there is a statewide shared governance council at which governance representatives across the system collaborate.

At 4PM, Vice Chancellor Cramer entertained a motion to adjourn. A motion was heard as was a second. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: J. Lease / Secretary