

UUP Labor Management Meeting

March 11, 2015 1:30 pm

Attending: Kim Hartshorn, George Still, Gina Doty, Sue Welch, Dave Curry, Diane Merkel, John Ettling, Karen Volkman, Bryan Hartman, John Homburger, Ann Hansen, Jake Liska, Rob Keever, Kathy Briggs

1. Communication feedback: Will ProjectBulletin@plattsburgh.edu be used for security incidents?

-- A meeting yesterday discussed the draft of the "Campus Major/Critical Project Announcement Plan". Is this to handle a security incident like the bomb scare incident at the mail box at Angell and the PHS bomb scare? John H. stated that when something like this occurs it is difficult to say definitely that this project announcement would handle this due to it being more "out of our hands".

-- John H. said having this in writing gives us information on who is responsible for what. He fears that if we extrapolate something when something is more from 'external events' from a public news event, it is possible the source is not reliable.

-- The call system is now working pretty well.

--Possibly a different document would need to be developed for more security incidents that happen. These situations are 'fluid' and we need to abide by outside agencies (like the robbery at the bank or the drugstore). Bryan said that if the police ask us to not give out specific information while the illegal activity is occurring we may not be able to if it is a violation of Clery Act, we cannot violate this act.

-- Kim asked for the time the written document is made to be within the document. Sometimes the email system 'time' is not correct.

-- Discussed the constraints of technology and teaching in a class and how the 'shelter in place' should work. Kim asked if the phones in our offices now, could they be forced to go to a speaker phone mode to give a message in an emergency and John H. will find out.

2. Online Class Size: This has been discussed already in Faculty Senate and an adhoc committee at Faculty Senate also. Why does SUNY Plattsburgh need an across the board increase in online class size; what conditions have presented to warrant an automatic increase of 5 students per semester over the next four semesters? What is the rationale for implementation of the automatic increased online class size over the recommendation of the Faculty Senate ad hoc committee recommendation that indicated such decisions were pedagogically best left at the department level?

-- Jake said there is no across the board cap size. Karen spoke that in Art and Science it is 25 students.

-- Jake: On average, online classes offered 800 fewer seats than their in-class counterparts each semester. Very inefficient and not certain why online courses were offered again when the class size was 15. Jake asked the Senate about increasing the class sizes, but there was not an across the board noted. The one year adhoc committee gave a report recently. The Dean's Cabinet did not endorse or accept the adhoc committee report given. The dean's were told to phase in some equalization and Dean Buckser was looking at adding five seats, but not across the board.

-- Jake does not want to force something that does not make pedagogical sense. Having 800 seats in a semester difference is a large issue.

Kim spoke: part of the issue is the actual raising of the cap size of the online courses. The question is, is there a need for additional seats for some courses?

-- Jake noted he is not interested in our campus being an online campus. The winter and summer sessions it makes more sense to have more online courses at that time since students are far from the campus.

-- Dave brought up the history: the old Distance Learning agreement we did two-way audio video and at that time five distance sites with potential of 20 students per site. When President Judson was here we wrote an agreement and this type of agreement could not be written again. So when we became a high tech learning, a committee met to discuss the original agreement. A maximum of 15 students for a faculty member to teach for the first time and more later on. Handling 35 students for online classes in the technology we have now is difficult.

-- Online classes there is a lot of early work performed before the class is taught.

-- Jake prefers the online courses being taught in the summer and early winter sessions. There are some difficult courses to get due to when they are taught and the branch campus students sometimes do not get the courses they need due to competition.

-- Jake would like to have 'normalization' of class sizes the primary semester times.

-- Summary: What came out of the department chairs meeting last week was conveyed different than what Jake told the Deans Cabinet. Karen asked Jake to speak again to Dean Buckser to clarify what was meant.

3. Status of Oncall/Recall on Campus: George spoke about the question that rose out of the last Labor Management discussion on this topic. Where are we on developing a recall list on the areas that were identified? The IT staff and library staff were the choice areas from past meetings.

-- Jake felt that they are still waiting for arbitration in writing, but the class actions would only apply to the campus it pertains to is what George stated. Employee relations at SUNY has advised Sue Welch to not do anything without consulting with them.

-- George said that there seems to be many campus systems breaking and waiting until SUNY to make UUP their mind may not be a good idea.

-- There are different statements made by SUNY and UUP on this topic to management.

-- Having something in writing for our campus would be something positive to have in place now instead of waiting to hear from SUNY, because our relationship on how we run our campus is manageable in a respectful manner.

-- In response to concern by John H. on Oncall status, George stated: Our members are not interested on being oncalle, but recall is something that is needed. We know that IT has been asked to return to work and others that work in the Maintenance, Emergency Management and Telecommunications Departments should be included as well.

-- George wants to have this completed instead of leaving things in limbo.

-- John H. said he would like to see the numbers of how much recall is involved. Holly should have this information soon.

-- The president chooses whether members are recall or oncalle and which roles/people this pertains to.

4. Experiential Learning Templates: This is a significant change in data gatherings. This form has not been disseminated yet to teaching faculty. How can this form be implemented post instructional/experiential learning delivery?

-- This was given out at the recent Chairs meeting. The template was handed out to gain information that Jake needs. He does not want to burden the chairs more. The information from this template form will be used for the Carnegie Classification.

-- The governor is asking for more data of what our campus is doing for experiential learning. There is a high possibility this will not go through because the legislature is not happy about this
--The deans give Jake an annual report and he gains much information for other reports he has to send to SUNY and he's been collecting experiential learning information for a long time. He really needs assistance from chairs to gain information in this area he is not aware of. This is difficult for Jake to find out unless the chairs let him know. The campus plan has this indexed as a data point. There is a strong push from SUNY to have the campuses have this form of learning.
-- Assessments and the outcomes which lead to changes made from what is learned has been a criticism with Middle States.

5. Budget Updates/Legislative Outreach: Karen spoke about the status about the rational tuition increase and basically UUP and the governor having different views on this.

-- Discussed the recent Saturday legislative "Labor Council Breakfast" and visitors on campus being shown around.

--John E. would welcome in the next negotiated UUP contract the funding of the negotiated union salary increases instead of the campus funding the increases.

-- \$131 million is what UUP is working to get SUNY to give to the campuses to help with the many years of being financially strained.

-- The Leadership Academy starts March 27th and we solicit you to tell others to come to these workshops. There has been a great deal of work from UUP/Joint Labor Mgt to put this together.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm

*Meeting notes taken by Gina Doty, Chapter Secretary
Edits Welcome*