

Extension Educator Council
May 13, 2009
Taylor Hall 9:10-12:00

Present: Nancy Bradford-Sisson, Chuck Hersey, Malcolm Smith, Matt Tarr, Sharon Cowen

Chuck Hersey convened the meeting at 9:10 in Taylor Hall. Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

UNH Strategic Plan – Malcolm indicated that the plan is on hold; no further progress is expected at this time due to the VP of Research's departure.

Healthy UNH - According to the NH Institute for Health Policy & Practice, the University system, as is true with other employers, has experienced double-digit growth in health care costs over the past decade; thus, health care costs represent a significant part of the University's budget.

Because of the financial burden represented by these costs, President Huddleston charged the Healthy UNH Action Committee to address a number of key questions, including a determination of how to educate employees about health, looking at the interaction between personal health practices, the work environment of each employee, and employee use of the health care system. To address the questions posed, the Dean of the College of Health and Human Services and Vice President of Finance formed the HEALTHY UNH Action Committee, a team of faculty, staff and student leaders from departments across UNH, including Cooperative Extension.

Early goals of the committee are to respond to the president's charge, developing a sustainable plan for a HEALTHY UNH. The committee has been meeting monthly since fall, 2008; Sharon Cowen has represented EEC in those meetings. The committee is winding up their initial work, and NH Institute for Health Policy & Practice will present a proposal to the University in the next few months.

UNH Work Climate Survey – Response from campus wide employees on the survey was very good and results are due out in June. There were concerns expressed about confidentiality of the results when sample sizes for specific employee groups are small.

Malcolm Smith recommended the addition of questions about work life balance to the survey instrument before implementation, and HR included those questions before the survey was sent out to UNH employees.

Awards- Presidential Award of Excellence was received by Karen Bennett; Seth Wilner won the Maynard and Audrey Heckel Award.

Work Life Balance Survey – Malcolm indicated that he is collaborating with the Carsey Institute on a NH work life balance survey, with telephone interviewing done over Memorial Day weekend, 2009, through the UNH Survey Center.

SPPC Update – Nancy Bradford-Sisson is EEC liaison to the SPCC; she updated the EEC on ongoing policy discussions that were presented at the SPCC meeting.

Nancy also reminded educators that HRA (\$500) is intended to mitigate the increase in health insurance costs to employees and is available to all employees, including extension educators enrolled in a USNH medical plan or the federal plan. It works like the flexible spending account. Employees will be reimbursed from their flexible spending account first and then from their HRA account. Use the Wage Works card. HRA monies not used in 2009 will roll over into next year.

EEC Representation – In terms of representation of program areas for EEC, “Natural Resources” was changed to “Natural Resources and Communities” and “Community, Family and Youth Development” was changed to “Family and Youth Development” to reflect program area changes. Nominated representatives for future EEC elections will also reflect these changes.

Malcolm indicated that he has received feedback from 4-H Youth Development educators expressing concern that there are no youth development representatives on EEC, only educators from F&CR. Nominations from 4-H Youth Development for EEC should be made for next EEC elections.

Jim Grady/Budget/Administration – Jim presented UNH-CE budget to the Provost. Based on revenue projections, UNH-CE’s budget is in the red. Part of the cause is a UNH issue; it is difficult to project available revenue from tuition because of the in-state/out of state mix in incoming students. The final student count will be available later in the summer. UNH will allow CE to dip into reserves for next year, which is good news. Final decisions are needed for FY 2011 budget, but we don’t need to do it by July 1 of this year; UNH-CE gets a slight reprieve.

Jim indicated that there is a major push on grants, where possible, with indirect cost return. UNH-CE has a hiring freeze; the only opening to be filled is in Rockingham County because the process was already started at the time of the freeze.

Jim is leading the response to the 60-page Civil Rights report from last year’s audit. No violations or major recommendations are evident, but there are some minor recommendations.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00.

Respectfully submitted by

Sharon Cowen