

Meet & Confer 3/25.2009

Present: Quistgard, Erickson, Peterson, Brown, Smith, Cutler, McManus, Brown, Wolf

Erickson: This M&C concerns paused and unpaused positions. We released information on some searches that were paused and then very recently released. After this was done we thought we should have presented it at a M&C and so we called this to explain.

The paused positions that have been released and are now going forward include the one for Economics, two for Computer Science, and those for Professional Education.

More information will be forthcoming. The position in Music that opened due to a resignation will be filled temporarily with a fixed term position. Another in Business is being discussed.

Brown: Is it a plan to change probationary positions being searched to fixed-term positions?

Erickson: we need more time to evaluate positions going forward. There will be a fixed-term position in Professional Education in Reading/Language Arts. The criteria for making this decision included budgetary concerns, Departmental & Program needs, the requirements of the Board of teaching.

Brown: Why were these positions released?

Erickson: The person teaching in Economics cannot be kept as fixed-term according to the Contract. And we have to have Economics to support Business. The Computer-Science Ed. position is controversial, there may be a shift away from Programming to Information Systems as that could be a main focus going forward. And we are going forward with a fixed term position to replace Marty Wolf who is serving as HLC Chair. Education needs Language Arts for their program, it's a fixed term position replacing a faculty member on sabbatical.

Cutler: How long will the Education position replacement last?

Erickson & Quistgard: We are not sure.

Erickson: For Tech Studies, it's a large program with many majors.

For Education in the DLite program, we are changing from 2 FT and 2 Probationary, to 1 FT & 3 Probationary.

Peterson: Is there a timeline for deciding on the 7 remaining "paused" positions?

Erickson: No. We want to get started as soon as possible, but budget issue is very serious. We may have to opt for fixed-term replacements on an interim basis.

Peterson: If some of these positions are not filled, it will be de facto retrenchment, a minor will

be non-viable.

Erickson: I understand that argument, but the person in question was not even in Geology.

Quistgard: we must agree to disagree over whether retrenchment applies to this case.

Brown: It's getting to a point where it is problematic to do searches, they become more expensive and find less than ideal candidates. The time factor is getting critical.

Quistgard: we want to make plans, but too much is not clear. The normal schedules for searches is tipped over all over the United States. We would really rather not have to get going with searches and then have to pull those back.

Brown: the reduction of \$5 million initiated two years ago saved us from calamitous cuts now.

Quistgard: We would probably be faced with having to cut \$9 million over the biennium had we not done that. We are glad to be going well with this.

Brown & Quistgard: agreed that there need to be forums on budget news and a session on how the allocation model bears on what we do. Involvement of faculty is crucial as we go forward.

Peterson: Is there a similar pause on administrative positions?

Quistgard: same approach as with faculty positions. Some positions have discrete funding sources, but most come out of the same pot of money and we are looking closely at them also.

Brown & Quistgard: agreed that positions funded this way can make for odd-appearing funding decisions.

We also want to have considered the Foundation Board: it bears on funding and its investments shape what it can do.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brendan McManus