Members present: Tom Barnhart (NDSU), LoAnn Nelson (LRSC), John Pederson (MaSU), Shirley Wilson (BSC), Jim Wright (BSC), James Crawford (VCSU), Curt Stofferahn (UND), Ann Smith (NDSCS) Harlene Hatterman-Valenti (NDSU), Lisa Borden-King (MiSU), Ernst Pijning (MiSU), Neil Mueller (NDSU), Don Poochigian (UND), Milan Christianson (NDSCS), Fernando Quijano (DSU), Jon Jackson (UND)

Guest: Mike Hillman

Members absent: Gene Bender (MISU-BC), Leslie Bieber (WSC)

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair, Tom Barnhart

Approval of minutes of March 6, 2007 – Minutes were approved

Announcements:
   * Legislative Update: Mike Hillman
     Mike indicated that NDUS is anticipating a conference committee for HB 1003. There have been some attempts to reconcile the bill to match the governor’s budget amount; much is up in the air and there is some possibility that individual campus budgets may be cut to make this “reconciliation.” The reconciliation would be about 10-12 million in cuts. Curt has heard part of the reconciliation process may be paying part of health care benefits. Mike has heard that as well, since right now there is not enough funding to fund health care benefits as we have in the past. Curt raised the issue of getting current information to CCF members regarding legislative activity. Mike indicated that NDUS does have regular updates that go out from their office and that he could just add CCF to the distribution list. In addition, John and Tom have been receiving a fairly detailed report and this could just get forwarded to the CCF list serv.as well. Mike commented that he senses less support for 5% in the House than in the Senate. The budget puts one time funding on a par with ongoing funding. Tom asked what route faculty should take for voicing concerns and Mike responded that they are basically hearing that the legislature is done with information.

AAC Report: Harlene Hatterman-Valenti
   * The AAC meeting was a phone conference call. AAC discussed 605.1 procedures, which focus on tenure recommendation. They decided to allow for exceptions (early going up for tenure) but institutions/individuals will need to provide the additional information asked for.
   * 403.1 programs and 409 degrees offered – Philip Parnell had to go correct some terminology. Talked about articulation agreements from NDSU...something was wrong with them and they were withdrawn to be redone.
   * AAC is still working on the brochure for denied students. They were thinking about sending brochures to other states but decided to keep it in ND.
*There was a lengthy discussion about Learning Reconsidered – focus on assessment of student learning. Mike indicated that Learning Reconsidered is a holistic approach to student learning. Student support services and activities support the learning environment. As an example, Georgia Tech implemented music programs to round out students education and found out that this improved student retention and student academic achievement. Each institution looks at the whole environment and makes it as supportive as possible.

* Deb Hueber talked about academic standards in ND – postsecondary standards for ND. Everyone agrees that ND rules need to be stricter but not sure where to go with it.

* Academic Calendar for 2012-2013 was agreed on. John pointed out that the Easter holiday next year may be close to spring break, which could have some unfortunate consequences. Some institutions in other states are also moving this spring holiday to Th/F or M/T instead of F/M. Curt asked if there are, or should be, NDUS policies for celebrating alternative religious holidays?

**SBHE Report, John Pederson:**

* Four new policies for first reading (e-mailed to list serv this morning) but nothing really of concern.

* On the 18th of April there will be a meeting regarding a consultant to explore salaries for Chancellor and President. John’s view has been that there should be a connection between the President’s rate of pay and faculty pay.

* There was a detailed report of financial audit concerning the financial status of the system. Overall it wasn’t as good as we would like or expect – those who are interested can ask John for details.

* The SBHE heard a report on tuition waivers. Some 10,000 students receive waivers. Presenters commented that you need to do waivers if you are running graduate programs. So John asked for separation of waivers into undergrad and grad; currently, 10 million waivers are given to graduate assistants and 12 million to undergraduate students.

* There was also a review given of bills pending in the legislature. During the public comment time at end of meeting someone had said that all employees should have 25 dollars withheld from their paycheck and someone else said that would be a hardship for some. John pointed out that it is sad that 25 dollars is a big concern. Two individual SB members gave John supportive comments about that statement.

**Old Business**

1. Professional liability insurance: On hold until legislative session is over.

2. Chancellor responses to Salary/Benefits Resolution

   * There has been no additional response from the Chancellor related to our resolution we presented to the board. One of the issues was the increase in TIAA-CREF, and we also commented on health benefits and salaries. We asked that a committee be formed and haven’t heard anything. Mike indicated that the resolution was discussed by AAC and then went to Cabinet for discussion. We will probably look at having a joint committee of CCF and
Academic Officers and looking at retirement plans/ideas for the next biennium. The salary issues in general in terms of across the board increases and minimum increases are seen by academic officers as the business of each individual campus. Tom asked about the view during discussions of funding promotions separately from salary increases. Mike said that they talked about how the funding fluctuates every year so it is difficult to anticipate how much we will have available. In addition, many indicated that these are not system issues but individual institutions decisions.

3. Tuition waivers: Leslie Bieber: Neither Leslie Bieber nor Robert Larson were in attendance.

4. Dependent Benefits: Tom Barnhart
Dependent benefits are at a high of 100% at Dickinson State and a low of 0% at the UND. Many institutions are at 50%. Has there been any talk at UND to move this percentage up? UND representatives indicated that about four years ago it was discussed extensively but the President basically said this or a pay increase, what do you want? Consensus therefore was that faculty would rather have pay increase.

5. Humanities Summit: BSC does have people interested in pursuing this and will be able to provide a solid commitment at the May meeting.

6. May meeting: Members decided to hold the meeting on May 10th in order to follow up on the May 3rd meeting and complete elections and any last housekeeping.

7. Joint CCF/SBHE meeting:
*We discussed pursuing the possibility of an IVN connection for those unable to attend in person but decided to not do so. We are on the agenda for 11 am. Please let Ann know headcount for food. Talking points for meeting with the Board include: professional development and tuition waivers, TIAA-CREF issue, promotion and salary funding, Arts and Humanities summit, and thanks to the Board for their work on the 5/5 raises and Flex Comp.

New Business
1. Nomination of officers:
*President: Shirley Wilson
*Vice-President: Harlene Hatterman-Valenti
*Secretary: Lisa Borden-King
*Parliamentarian: Don Poochigian
*SBHE Representative: Tom Barnhart

Harlene Hatterman-Valenti nominated the slate of candidates and Neil Mueller seconded the nominations. Motion was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50