Update the UWM representatives Kristine Surerus and Robert Smith

September 2, 2015

The UW System Tenure Policy Task Force held its first meeting on August 20, 2015 in Madison. The task force is chaired by Regent Vice President John Behling.  Regent President Regina Millner was present, as was UW System President Ray Cross. The first meeting was largely designed to explain the charge, review statutory changes and accompanying policies regarding tenure/post-tenure review, layoffs and program discontinuance, and provide an overview of policies in other states as potential models for adoption. The task force includes faculty and chancellors from across the state system and collectively the group expressed grave concerns over the intended goals of recent repeals to statutes protecting the tenure process. The task force also voiced concerns over the potential negative outcomes that could arise given lay-offs, terminations and program discontinuance are codified under the auspices of "certain budget or program discontinuance."  Legal counsel for the Board of Regents assured the task force that the current policy is as effective at protecting tenure as was state statute. The task force is explicitly charged with revising the current tenure policy if needed, developing guidelines for post-tenure review and merit pay, and recommending policy for lay-offs/termination/program changes. The task force is to complete its work by April 11, 2016.  The next two meetings of the task force will occur on Thursday, September 17 and Thursday, October 22.