

COPE/CEC Joint Meeting
June 26, 2006
11:30 am – 2:10 pm
Little Wood River Room

Present: Natalie Hardy, Connie Guthrie, JoAnn Hertz, Karen Swallow, Angela Askey, Michael Pritchett, Ray Hart, David Buck, Becky Robinson, Wade Mooso, Bill Stanton, Mark Lee, Jay Jones, Donna Richardson, Kay Skeem, Angie Tamayo-Wojcik, Eni Thompson, Shawn Shelton, Graham Garner, Barbara Brothers

At 12:13PM the meeting began

Mike Pritchett began by introducing himself as the COPE President and Ray Hart as the CEC President. Mike and Ray spoke about their individual meetings with Dr. Vailas with regard to the combining of the CEC and COPE members into one group. The time frame given to them was January 1, 2007, for both groups to meet and select one representative. It was suggested Ray would attend the President's Cabinet meetings during July, August and September while Mike would attend during October, November and December.

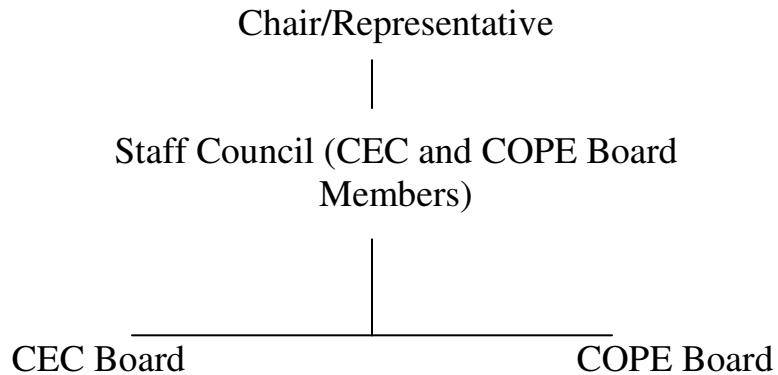
Mike Pritchett handed out copies of By-Laws from other institutions of higher education explaining how they operate under a system in which both their classified and non-classified employees are united. Handouts were from the University of Houston and the University of Idaho were reviewed and Mike spoke about his conversation with the representative from Michigan State. It was mentioned that with the two groups combining, we are now the largest constituency on campus.

The pros and cons of combining were discussed in great detail. The most important aspect is the group will have a voting seat on the President's Cabinet. In the past, CEC and COPE members have always been invited to attend the Presidents Staff Meeting, but neither group had a voice or vote at the meetings.

Karen Swallow suggested we do individual introductions with name, department where we work and whether we represent CEC or COPE. This allows for ease of identifying the person speaking.

After the introductions were complete, Mike drew a diagram indicating how CEC and COPE can combine and still have each group maintain their own identity.

The diagram is as follows:



Much discussion followed with suggestions and clarifications. It was discussed to have one representative per 100 employees and also one per every 50 employees. The consensus was the smaller the group the better. Bill Stanton summarized the diagram. It was agreed upon to join the two groups to form a “Staff Council” while allowing both groups to maintain autonomy.

At the present time CEC members serve a 3 year term on the board while COPE members serve a 2 year term. It was agreed that COPE change their By-Laws to allow members to serve 3 year terms.

Both groups agreed to meet with their constituents after Dr. Vailas has made his initial speech to the University on July 5, 2006. The new Staff Council will meet again on July 13 at 11:30 and each group will bring a nomination for Chair/Staff Council Representative to attend the President’s weekly Cabinet Meetings.

The meeting ended at 2:10pm.