

Arts and Sciences Caucus Report

February 2009

The A&S Faculty Senate Caucus met with Interim Dean Wierzbicki on Friday, February 13th at 8:30am. Three major issues were discussed: budget problems, travel for next year, and fall break.

With regard to the budget, some faculty have expressed concerns over rumors such as cuts to salary and negative budget impacts of the USA football program and other building projects. Dean Wierzbicki admitted this is a time of uncertainty, but cautioned the faculty against unnecessary anxiety. He made assurances that preserving faculty lines was a primary goal because faculty are the university's greatest asset. Football and building construction are complicated issues, but to not carry these out would have greater negative economic impact than proceeding. He is also working toward transparency in decision making and facilitating communication.

Travel for next year is uncertain, but there are some potential positive things in the future.

My informal conversations with A&S faculty has shown strong support for a two-day October fall break, but that an extension of the Thanksgiving holiday as one suggestion by the students has no support. Dean Wierzbicki indicated that scheduling is complicated and constrained.

Humbly submitted,

Philip J. Carr, Associate Professor