



The UPDATE

Newsletter for the faculty of the seven Minnesota state universities.

Fiscal Year 14- No. 4
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Bemidji ♦ Mankato ♦ Metropolitan ♦ Moorhead ♦ Southwest ♦ St. Cloud ♦ Winona

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Charting the Future- The Final Report

by Nancy Black, IFO President, black@ifo.org

It was not until I first became IFO president in 2004 and visiting the seven state universities that I became aware of the quite distinct cultures on each of our seven state universities. I was struck by the wide variety of student interests, faculty, academic programs, as well as the extracurricula opportunities available in the arts, athletics, and community service. The richness of post-secondary educational programs in our state has helped to contribute to the success of Minnesota.

For the past year, three groups of approximately 46 individuals have been discussing the future of the Minnesota State College and Universities (MnSCU) system. Three state

university faculty have participated in these ongoing meetings to revise the document, *Charting the Future*. On Wednesday, November 20, 2013, at 1:30 pm the final report will be presented at a MnSCU Board of Trustees' Study Session by Chancellor Steven Rosenstone., President Scott Olson, Winona State University; and President Joe Opatz, Normandale Community College. While state university faculty have always supported access and affordability, some of the other recommendations in this report have been controversial. Our faculty have had campus discussions on the first version of the report this fall, and I strongly encourage you to try to listen to the study session which will be streamed online. It may be your future as well. To listen

to

live streaming audio of the MnSCU Board of Trustees Meeting including the *Charting the Future* study session, click this link mms://stream2.video.state.mn.us/mnsat/. This audio stream will be operational while the Board is in session. (requires Windows Media Player).

Your Negotiating Team has been in bargaining sessions with MnSCU since this summer and have reached agreement on 5 Tentative Agreements "TAs." The Master Agreement between the MnSCU Board of Trustees and IFO for 2011-13 barely was signed by Governor Dayton before it expired on June 30, 2013. As I write

this article, both sides are engaged in bargaining at the Roseville Radisson today as well as Saturday, November 16. The last offer by MnSCU was 1% and 1% (these figures are not typos) in each year of the biennium. This "offer" is bewildering because the Legislative Coordinating Commission Subcommittee on Employee Relations is estimating across the board increases of 3% and 3% for other state employee unions such as American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE) as well as the Personnel Plan for MnSCU administrators (Managerial Plan) and the

Commissioners Plan based on a September 20, 2013 document estimating FY14-FY15 costs of state employee salary settlements. The average of the total increase biennium-to-biennium for these groups is 6.69 percent. Our Negotiators need your support so be looking for campus announcements on how you can participate in helping to achieve a fair settlement.

Save the Date for the IFO Delegate Assembly on March 28 and 29, 2014 at the Roseville Radisson. As the supreme governing body of the Inter-faculty Organization, delegates set IFO policies, negotiation strategies,

dues and budgets for the succeeding two fiscal years as well as deliberate over resolutions dealing with faculty legislative goals. As our seven state universities, the MnSCU system, and higher education around the country face new and accelerating challenges, we need to be able to confront them with a common purpose and united voice. If you would like to be a delegate for your campus or submit a new resolution, contact your [local faculty association](#) or click [HERE](#) for more details. Faculty are contractually released from duty for Friday, March 28. Your participation can make a difference.

ACADEMIC
AFFAIRS

MnSCU's Academic and Student Support Technology Council

by Donna Brauer, Academic Affairs Coordinator, brauer@ifo.org and Tom Hergert, Academic Affairs Coordinator, hergert@ifo.org

This month we are focusing on activities within MnSCU's Academic & Student Support Technology Council. At the October 9 meeting of that group Tom Fauchald (BSU) was elected co-chair, which means that he will become the Council chair next academic year. Discussion at the meeting covered several topics: goals and priorities for this academic year, possible use of the GPS Lifeplan software (developed at Century College several years ago) as a substitute for eFolio, and need for a subcommittee to address D2L issues. As a result of the latter discussion, a D2L working group met on November 6th and discussed next steps and priorities for the coming months.

Among the topics to be discussed are:

- the split control of D2L technologies between campus IT departments and the D2L group in

MnSCU's IT division;

- choices of D2L tools that MnSCU has purchased and that are available for use ("turned on");
- approaches to dealing with D2L system failures and the repercussions on students and faculty;
- prioritization of MnSCU D2L priorities and requests in relation to other MnSCU IT priorities (ISRS, proxy server, etc.);
- and improving communications among system-level D2L staff and end users (campus faculty and students).

For more information contact [Tom Hergert](#), [Tom Fauchald](#) or [Jigang Liu](#).

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 10.

FIC Accepting Nominations for 2014 Delegate

Assembly Awards by Patrice Arseneault, Director of Grievances and Equity, arsen@ifo.org

The IFO Feminist Issues Committee (FIC) is accepting nominations for Outstanding Contributions to the IFO by a woman IFO member to be recognized at the 2014 Delegate Assembly. The FIC is seeking to honor female IFO members who provide exemplary service to the IFO and who have made significant contributions in leadership capacities and advocacy within the organization on issues impacting women faculty.

The Feminist Issues Committee is also accepting nominations for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Advancement in MnSCU by an IFO member to be recognized at the 2014 Delegate Assembly. The FIC will recognize an IFO member who has improved the lives and working conditions for professional women within the MnSCU system by creating equity and opportunities for

women faculty through serving in leadership capacities and by advocating on issues with substantial impact on women faculty in the system.

To be considered for either award, nominees must be IFO members and not have received an FIC award in the last five years; a list of past recipients is available on the [FIC webpage](#). Nomination forms are available on the FIC webpage, and may be sent by email to arsen@ifo.org or by mail to FIC Nominations, IFO, 490 Concordia Avenue, Suite 125, St. Paul, MN 55103. Nominations must be received by the IFO by January 24, 2014.

If you have questions on nominations for either FIC sponsored award, you may contact a member of the [Feminist Issues Committee](#). The FIC will present the Outstanding Contributions Awards at the March 2014 Delegate Assembly.

FIC Seeking Applications for Feminist Issues Grant

by Patrice Arseneault, Director of Grievances and Equity, arsen@ifo.org

The IFO Feminist Issues Committee (FIC) is seeking applications for the 2014-2016 Feminist Issues Grant of up to \$3,000. The grant period extends from March 2014 to March 2016.

To apply, submit your proposal by email to arsen@ifo.org (in Word or PDF format) no later than January 24, 2014. The successful grant appli-

cant will be notified by March 7, 2014.

The one-year \$3,000 grant is made possible by funding from the Inter Faculty Organization through the statewide Feminist Issues Committee (FIC). The Grant is designed to promote research, projects, or creative works that contribute to the advancement of women in the IFO and

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

For more information, please see the 2014-2016 FI Grant Announcement and Outline on [FIC's webpage](#), or contact your local campus [Feminist Issues Committee](#) representative.

Notice of Nominations for IFO President

Nominations for IFO president for the 2014-2016 term will be accepted from the floor at the IFO Board of Directors meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. on February 27, 2014, at the IFO Office at 490 Concordia Ave, St. Paul, MN 551003. Self nominations are permitted.

Any IFO member in good standing is eligible to nominate candidates at the nominating meeting or to run for IFO president. IFO presidents may serve no more than two consecutive two-year terms. IFO presidents may not hold FA office simultaneously.

Nominations may also be made in writing. Written nominations must be received by the IFO Nominating Committee prior to the nominating meeting on February 27, 2014. Written nominations may be submitted in person, by e-mail or by mail to the addresses specified below. Nominations should include the name and home university of the person being nominated.

Candidates must accept nomination at the nomination meeting or, if not in attendance, submit a written acceptance to the IFO Nominating Committee by no later than March 6, 2014. Acceptances may be submitted in person, by e-mail or by mail to the addresses specified below.

The IFO Nominating Committee encourages interested members to declare their candidacy. If you would like to receive the job description for IFO president please contact any member of the IFO Nominating committee. If you want to put your name forward now, please contact any member of the committee at your convenience.

E-mail to the IFO Nominating Committee should be addressed to:

Vicky Brockman

Paul Harris

Paul Hustoles

Mail to the IFO Nominating Committee should be addressed to:

Paul Harris
704 20th Ave. S.
Moorhead, MN 56560

An electronic secret ballot election will be held from March 29, 2014 through April 8, 2014, to elect an IFO president for the term from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016. The names of qualified candidates nominated at the February 27, 2014, nominating meeting will appear on the ballot. However, votes for write in candidates will be permitted. A plurality of those voting shall be required to elect an IFO president.

IFO PRESIDENT
ELECTION

MARCH 29, 2014 –
APRIL 8, 2014

*by Electronic Secret
Ballot*

StarID Coming to Campuses Soon

By Chris McCoy, Interim Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer, chris.mccoy@mnsu.edu

What is Star ID?

The StarID is a username with the goal of replacing your many MnSCU and campus login IDs with one ID, one password, everywhere. Once you activate it, you can use your StarID and password anywhere that accepts StarID. It is unique across the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, so you can use it at more than one school. **Change your password in one place — starid.mnsu.edu — and it will change everywhere.**

Who has a StarID?

All current students, faculty, and staff of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system have StarIDs and can activate theirs now. Colleges and universities are introducing students to StarID as they convert systems to use it.

What is a StarID used for?

Each college and university can choose to use StarID for different IT systems. The most common of these include:

- student and employee email
- classroom and lab computers
- network printers
- Desire2Learn (D2L)
- PALS

Each school determines when and whether to convert their systems to use StarID. A college or university starts the process of converting their systems to StarID by requesting a campus integration project. The Enterprise Access Management (EAM) team works with campus IT to develop a detailed project plan that fits the school's schedule.

A number of systemwide IT services accept StarID login wherever the service is used. Here are a few of these services:

- **ISRS / eServices** - All ISRS administrative web applications are configured to use StarID for login. Student-facing applications (eServices) accept StarID but do not yet require it. A project is underway to require StarID for all ISRS web applications in 2014.
- **Program Navigator** - used to create and redesign academic programs and enter them into Program Inventory and ISRS.
- **CEMRS** - Classroom, Event Management, and Resource Scheduling.
- **MnSCU Connect** - a systemwide SharePoint for cross-institution collaboration.
- **MoveItSecurely** - facilitates the secure sharing of information.
- **STARS** - Systemwide Training and Registration Site.

The individual schools determine the time and method for deploying StarID on a campus. The system office is NOT pushing this upon the campuses. Each campus is choosing their own path, and in fact were the motivators for this push in September 2012. The stories that I have heard are overwhelmingly positive, and it's the campuses that take credit for that.



IFO Negotiated Benefit: Annual Tax-Free Contribution to Medical Expense Reimbursement Account

by Patrice Arseneault, Director of Grievances and Equity, arsen@ifo.org

One of the benefits the IFO negotiates on behalf of faculty is an annual tax-free contribution to a medical expense reimbursement account. Each January, \$800 is contributed to either your Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) account for paying current medical expenses with pre-tax dollars, or into a Health Care Savings Plan, which you can use to pay for medical expenses after you separate from employment.

The balance that you have remaining in your current HRA account as of December 31, 2013, will determine whether your new \$800 contribution

will be deposited in your HRA account or into a Health Care Savings Plan. If you have a balance of less than \$700 in your HRA account as of December 31, 2013, the employer's 2014 contribution of \$800 will be added to your HRA account at the beginning of the 2014 calendar year.

Now is the time to review the balance in your HRA account.

If you have \$700 or more in your HRA account as of December 31, 2013, the employer's \$800 contribution for 2014 will go into a Health Care Savings Plan instead of your HRA account. You will still be able to use any monies remaining in

your HRA account from 2013 to pay for medical expenses incurred in 2014. Money deposited into a Health Care Savings Plan is tax free, but you cannot access the funds to pay for medical expenditures until you separate from employment.

If you desire to have your \$800 contribution deposited in your HRA account in 2014, then you must have less than \$700 remaining in your HRA account as of December 31, 2013.

JOIN TODAY

To join the union, you can sign up instantly by using the convenient online membership application found on the membership webpage www.ifo.org/membership-information or by clicking on the "Join IFO" link at the top of the home page www.ifo.org. To check on the status of your membership, contact Donna Blake at blake@ifo.org.

CONTACT
US

The IFO Faculty Update is published and distributed by the [Inter Faculty Organization](http://www.ifo.org). If you need to contact the Inter Faculty Organization, our mailing address is 490 Concordia Avenue, Suite 125, Saint Paul, MN 55103, or you can reach us by phone at 800/325-9644 or 651/227-8442. You can also send us an email by clicking [HERE](#).