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**Secretary of the Faculty & Staff
and Assistant Vice Chancellor**

To: Karl Martin (Dean, Coop-Ext) and Heidi Zoerb (Assistant Dean, Coop-Ext)

Date: June 27, 2017

Re: Academic Staff Council statement regarding Policy Review Resulting from *nEXT Generation* (*nEXT Gen*) Reorganization

Following an initial review of policies in consultation with Andrea Cool, Secretary of the Faculty and Staff, we did not identify institutional academic staff governance policies necessitating immediate revision based on the proposed Cooperative Extension *nEXT Gen* reorganization. Nevertheless, to remain proactive and quickly identify the potential need for future changes during the reorganization process, the Academic Staff Council makes the following recommendations:

- Cooperative Extension's Committee on Academic Staff Issues (CASI), which represents the interests and diverse perspectives of Academic Staff across Cooperative Extension, remain in existence and continue to function as an advisory group to the Dean of Cooperative Extension.
- Cooperative Extension's CASI regularly report to the UW-Extension Academic Staff Council any issues impacting academic staff that could have broader institutional policy implications as a result of the *nEXT Gen* reorganization.
- Cooperative Extension's CASI and the UW-Extension Academic Staff Council strengthen their relationship and communication throughout the *nEXT Gen* reorganization transition process and beyond.
- Cooperative Extension utilizes an inclusive process when developing new policies and procedures as part of the *nEXT Gen* reorganization. Ideally, this process would include members of all employee groups, recognizing that per Wisconsin state statute 36.09 (4m): "The academic staff members of each institution...shall be represented in the development, of all policies and procedures concerning academic staff members."
- Faculty governance include Academic Staff representation from CASI when drafting academic department by laws and other departmental policies which directly impact or have the potential to effect Academic Staff.

As the Shared Governance group representing Academic Staff at the institutional level, we look forward to continued collaboration with UW-Extension and Coop-Extension Administrators regarding the *nEXT Gen* reorganization. Furthermore, we strive to serve as a resource regarding institutional policies and are always welcome to open dialogue and discussion to improve policies at both the institutional and divisional level.

Sincerely,

Michael Parsen, Co-Chair
UW-Extension Academic Staff Council

Michelle Michalak, Co-Chair
UW-Extension Academic Staff Council

Cc: Cathy Sandeen (Chancellor, UW-Extension)
Aaron Brower (Provost, UW-Extension)
Barb Barker (Chair, Faculty Senate)