BSUFA Senate Minutes  
1 Oct 2012  
4:00 pm HS 107

Attending  
Chris Brown, Cheryl Byers, Laurie Desiderato, Tom Fauchald, Dean Frost, Heidi Hansen, Mike Herbert, Christel Kippenhan, Keith Marek, Pete McDonnell, Brendan McManus, Mike Morgan, Mike Murray, Francois Neville, Deb Peterson, Kathryn Smith, Erika Svanoe, Larry Swain, Sarah Tarutis, Mehdi Tehrani, John Truedson, Jeffrey Ueland, Sarah Young

Not attending  
Dave Benson, Tom Beech, Virgil Bakken, Eric Forsyth, Andrew Graham, William Joyce, Bonnie Higgins, Debbie Guelda, Tim Kroeger, Lynn Maltais, Carla Norris-Raynbird, Blanca Rivera, Sanjeev Phukan, Karl Salscheider, Jim White,

Call to Order at 4:00

Approval of Minutes of 10 Sept. Peterson moved; Murray seconded. Corrections to missing information noted and made. Carried.

President’s Report  
Senate Rules. Brown reviewed the Senate operating guidelines. Quorum number is in flux because we have new departments. Fauchald moved Murray seconded to set quorum at 50% + 1. Carried.

Grievance training. Grievance training is coming up in Nov 30, 12 - 3pm. Pat Arseneault will run the training. Brown encourages everyone to come. More info coming.

Student Senate Co-President Nick Nelson (with Carrie Cooper) informed Senate what’s coming up: The Provost’s idea to increase out of state tuition to 150% is opposed by Student Senate. Student Senate is surveying students regarding Gay Marriage and Voter ID amendments and hopes to come to a stand soon.

Brown encourages all to attend the Dean's Council meeting of each month. 1:00 -3:00 on the last Tuesday of each month.

Regarding BSUFA committees and downstate representatives. Committee participation is up. There are still a few vacancies - including Academic Affairs and Rules. Please, we need people to help reorganize given that we now have a School of Nursing, and that Athletics have lost representation. Contact Brown, who will also be recruiting.

Senate needed confirmation for new committee members: Sarah Tarutis, and Deb Peterson. Fauchald moved, Murray seconded. Motion carried.

Space utilization. Building shutdowns. AVP would like to reduce use of classrooms after 3:00 be using only Haag Sauer, Sattgast and Bangsburg. This would allow us to lower temperatures in
other buildings. Fauchald mentioned that this doesn’t consider the use of labs. Murray remarked that he would rather turn off a building off than loose a faculty member. Steveno agreed. Bangsberg is using a lot of power. Fauchald recognized Marty Wolfe who spoke to common start dates as a way to address power use. Fauchald recommended slowing the process down to let groups involved know. Murray moved and Fauchald seconded to table consideration until next Senate meeting so that Senators can poll their departments. Carried.

Administration has informed us that Bemidji Community Theater will be using Bangsburg. If there are any concerns, get those concerns back to Senate.

Last date to apply for President’s Council membership is 3 Oct 2012. Send names to Wendy Larson.

Call for feedback on Human Resources/Affirmative Action Officer. Our HR officer is retiring. We have had an ongoing concern with AAO officer and HR officer as same person. Function of the AAO is more than just reporting claim. The AAO is the point of contact concerning a possible violation. Other campuses tend to spearer the position, but considering our size, we don’t. At M&C, we discussed outsourcing but we’re looking for other ideas. We can’t dawdle. Smith spoke for the need of a separate AAO. We can’t handle equity issues with the shared role. Ueland moved to split the job into: one dealing with hiring practices, a second with equity concerns. Equity would report to president. Peterson seconded. Carried. Brown will pass the recommendation on to the administration.

Changes in equipment money allocation. In the past, equipment money was distributed to colleges and departments according to the number of students. AVP has a new approach. Departments are to put in requests for equipment money. The practice is good in that it addresses inequity. Beyer pointed out concerns: This means that when a department needs something as simple as a camcorder, we now have to submit a form, tie the request to student outcomes, fill out a purchase request. Plus, we’re all competing with others. Ueland: We need a discretionary plan. A second complication is that ACP claimed that HLC wants to see us tie distribution of funds to assessment. Murray: We might be able to argue we don’t. Peterson: Programs with high cost of equipment can’t get their equipment needs met in normal years. Is there a way of splitting the fund, so that a portion can be parcelled out to all, and then extra funding distributed as need? We need a level playing field. Fauchald: We think they are moving to a more complex program when there is nothing wrong with the current model. Peterson moved, Smith seconded to refer the matter to Budget to report back on Nov 5th meeting. Motion carried.

Beyer was concerned that this would be fast enough to address current equipment needs. We can report to AVP that we’ve referred it. Fauchald moved, Murray seconded that that Brown contact AVP to postpone decisions on changing the equipment money distribution until start of spring. Carried.

Fauchald on the related matter of budget carry forwards from last year. Please let Fauchald know if your carry forward is denied. Budget committee will look into it.

Officer and Committee Reports
Curriculum Committee: Approval of curriculum form revisions (forms distributed). Truedson announced that the Curriculum Committee recommends we accept the new forms. Ueland: Form #3 - Budget Plan deals with cost. Ueland questioned if we should tie our curriculum plans to costs at this level. Fauchald moved and Ueland seconded to table and address concerns. Concerns should be sent to Truedson to pass on to Committee, n the next two weeks: Oct 15th. Carried.

Board Report: Metro. Marek reporting on meeting with the Chancellor. The idea is for other campuses to tap into the metro market, but there is nothing from Bemidji. They will be building two buildings, with request of $10M in funding. We’re not sure where the money is coming from.

Lib Ed Committee: Recommendation regarding People and the Environment. Peterson: We have asked departments to offer courses for P&E. But departments can put forward only one or two sections on load. It’s becoming more difficult to get the administration to offer overload and adjuncts. The administration reports there is no more money for P&E: It was handed out for fall. For spring, we have 8 sections, and it plays that way into the next year. The expected budget shortfall complicates this further. So, the Lib Ed committee put forward a motion to modify an existing course to goal area 10:

The Liberal Education Committee recommends that:

A limited number of disciplines to consider modifying one of their current offerings to meet Goal Area 10 requirements so that BSU can offer students a limited smorgasbord to supplement the team taught offerings in Goal Area 10. It is understood that these modified courses will need to address at least 51% of the stated MnTC competencies/student learning outcomes for that Goal Area.

P&E will remain on the books. But Lib Ed is looking for courses to supplement P&E. They don’t have to be inter-disciplinary. Peterson Recognized Erika Bailey-Johnson, Sustainability Director, who spoke to the value of a course that addresses sustainability as a point of distinction for BSU. She will make herself available to departments to encourage them. She would also like to meet with admin and with students to get them involved. Informal polling suggests that students like the course. Peterson remarked that MnSCU is getting narrower in who can participate in Lib Ed. Fauchald moved, Murray seconded to table the recommendation to Nov 5th. Carried. It was recommended that Erika be invited to Lib Ed Committee meetings concerning this issue.

Equity Committee: Campus Climate Survey. Announcement by Peterson. Equity has held focus group interviews downstate. They have been asked to survey all campuses on Nov 1. Currently, they are getting approval from Human Subjects. Participation invited.

Old Business
CS Curriculum proposal: Part tabled at last meeting. Truedson reported that through meeting and emails it was made clear that the courses were different and that they have changed the name of the courses at issue. The issues have been resolved. Committee recommended to adopt the proposal. Carried.
New Business
Looking into campus-wide student evaluation of faculty teaching. From M&C: The administration is interested in putting together an evaluative instrument, to be administered by a third party, across the campus. From a contract position, the administration’s interest in this can be only a recommendation. Desiderato reported that CPD has talked with administration about this. Input from students is important. The CPD is somewhat supportive because whole-faculty evaluation easier if there is a system set up. The administration would like to see the instrument standardized, and data shared with administration. Beyer recommended an hoc group be set up, and to look into who is already doing this.

Beyer moved to extend meeting by five minutes. Desiderato seconded. Carried.

Peterson moved, Beyer seconded to direct Academic Affairs to look at campus-wide student evaluation of faculty teaching instrument. Carried.

Desiderato recommended that Academic Affairs look into a Faculty Scholarship day for faculty to present their scholarship.

Adjourned 5:21
   M C Morgan