BSUFA Senate Minutes
5 Nov 2012
4:00 pm HS 107

Attending: Virgil Bakken, Chris Brown, Cheryl Byers, Vivan Delgado, Laurie Desiderato, Tom Fauchald, Dean Frost, Andrew Graham, Heidi Hansen, Mike Herbert, Bonnie Higgins, William Joyce, Christel Kippenhan, Tim Kroeger, Lynn Maltais, Keith Marek, Pete McDonnell, Brendan McManus, Mike Morgan, Mike Murray, Francois Neville, Carla Norris-Raynbird, Deb Peterson, Karl Salscheider, Kathryn Smith, Erika Svanoe, Sarah Tarutis, John Truedson, Jeffrey Ueland, Jim White

Not attending: Dave Benson, Tom Beech, Eric Forsyth, Debbie Guelda, Mehdi Tehrani, Sanjeev Phukan, Larry Swain, Sarah Young

Call to order at 4:02

Approval of Minutes of 1 Oct. Moved by Peterson, seconded by Marek. Carried.

President’s Report
Representation
We continue to settling in after the reconfiguration. Departments are forming and senator turnover is happening. The Rules Committee is looking at representation. We will also be looking at the local constitution and bylaws to put us in line with the state IFO.

Grievance training
Coming Nov 30, 12 - 3, Crying Wolf. Pat Arsenault will be providing extensive and substantial training. Everyone is invited. Deb Peterson P encourages all to come.

Report on status of HR/AAO
We achieved a goal. The administration has split HR from Affirmative Action. They will hire the new HR person for knowledge of Affirmative Action hiring practices. For Affirmative Action issues, Bob Griggs will serve as Affirmative Action ombuds person. If you feel it’s inappropriate to take an affirmative action issue to an immediate supervisor, contact Griggs. We are very optimistic about this.

Report on University Planning Council meeting
University Planning Council has met. Pres Hanson has items he wants to get started with: looking at the mission and vision statements, signature themes, lib ed, innovation, and creating “an education of enduring worth.” The council is looking for a faculty co-chair. This will be a worthy position.

Space utilization update
The administration is re-thinking the idea of closing buildings after 5:00, and has decided to do nothing at this time. Re: Equipment: 50% of the equipment money has been allocated based on past formula. We are planning more discussion with the AVP on this.
Interim Negotiator
We need a negotiator for Jeff Ueland while he’s on a one year Fulbright. Downstate likes Ueland as a negotiator and suggests we treat it as a year of absence, and elect an interim for the year. Fauchald moved we put out a call to serve as interim Murray seconded. Motion carried. Brown will get the call out by Friday.

Announcement regarding Campus Climate Survey
Deb Peterson has done outstanding work on the Climate survey. She reported 547 responses, but looking for 3000. The will email a second invitation to participate.

Voting
Tuesday will be an important day for us, students, families. Get everyone out to vote. Stanton has distributed an email with a nonpartisan attachment for students to locate polling stations and what ID is necessary. Peterson announced that shuttle vans for students will be available. We have the responsibility to remind students to vote.

Officer and Committee Reports
Curriculum Committee: Curriculum Report II. The committee moved for adoption of the proposals from Teacher Education and Philosophy. Kippenhan: The Grad committee approves of the adoption. The Lib Ed did not need to respond to this proposal. Motion carried.

Revised Curriculum forms.
Fauchald reported on the new forms. Forms 3 (for a new course) and 6 (for a new program) ask us to address funding. He had only one comment, and recommends approval of the forms. Ueland spoke against. The budgetary requirement asks us to guarantee the financial success of a program, and that stomps on academic freedom and innovation. The idea of pinning courses and programs to guaranteed financial success started with the administration rather that faculty, and we should control the curriculum. The problem is only with forms 3 and 6. The other forms are very good. There should not be any budgetary requirement if the administration wants innovation. Byers reported that a new program would have to provide a level of budgetary detail that is difficult to meet. Wendy Larson had suggested that this is a MnSCU requirement. Ueland: If it is, then the administration needs to explain matters. Frost moved, and Fauchald seconded to remove forms 3 and 6 from the motion to approve. Motion to remove carried. Ueland moved and Frost seconded the approval of the rest of the forms. Carried. Frost moved and Fauchald seconded to take Forms 3 and 6 to M&C for an explanation. Carried.

Murray moved, Neville seconded, to reorder the agenda to the Liberal Education report. Carried

Peterson brought forward People and Environs Proposal of Oct 1. She distributed a sheet of arguments.

Peterson noted the following: The P&E course doesn’t meet a lib ed requirement at any other campus. Recalibration has made it difficult to offer P&E courses, so they need to be
funded by adjunct and OT money. The CAS Dean asked for a forecast of what we could offer. We have a shortfall of courses offered. Conclusion: We don’t have enough offerings to provide this course in its current form. The Lib Ed committee met with Ericka Baily-Johnson to design an alternative.

The revised proposal, distributed to Senators.

The Liberal Education Committee suggests changing the Goal Area 10 People and the Environment requirements. They suggest that students be required to take two courses:

A 1 credit course focusing on sustainability. This course would have a UNIV prefix, which would allow faculty from a variety of disciplines to potentially field a section of this course. Each semester, 10 sections would be offered with each section capped at 30-35. Online sections could also be offered, but these would have caps of 20. The Liberal Education Committee will develop the competencies/student learning outcomes for this course, and the courses that departments propose will have to meet these competencies/student learning outcomes.

Students will also be required to take a 3 or 4 credit companion course that is discipline specific and that meets at least 4 of the 6 (51%) stated student learning outcomes/competencies from Goal Area 10 plus at least one outcome/competency from Goal Area 2 Critical Thinking. Departments would present prospective discipline specific courses to the Liberal Education Committee as is typically done. Existing People and the Environment courses could be “grandfathered” in (both on-line and on-campus offerings), provided they agree to meet the required number of competencies for each goal area (2 and 10). Existing courses from other goal areas might also be considered provided they meet the learning outcomes/competencies requirements for Goal Area 10. The 2 goal area limit per course would still be in effect (not counting Goal Area 2).

Peterson: We went back to think again about how to offer the course to reflect the importance of the requirement. The change would be from taking one 3-credit course to taking a 1 credit course on sustainability along with a companion P&E course of 3 - 4 credits. Current P&E courses would be grandfathered in. The new course would be offered under a UNIV number, and kept small to promote interaction,

Neville: Econ strongly supports model we use now of large group, team taught. Desiderato: What courses does this open things up for? Peterson: There are competencies listed in the new proposal. There might be a geology, or geography course modified to suit. This course could be a double dip. Most likely these courses are those in physical and social sciences.

Beyer: We require 42 Lib ed credits now. This plan would increase that to 43 - 44. We have enough trouble having students meet one 3 credit course.
Peterson: This would be cheaper. It would allow us to teach courses on load.

Peterson asked the senators to take the proposal back to departments for feedback to Lib Ed. Murray moved, Byers seconded to table until next meeting. Carried.

Quality Matters Report
Fauchald reporting. It was proposed in committee to do voluntary QM reviews using MOQI. Those who pass it will be able to certify their course as certified. Murray recommend the voluntary nature of the review. Desiderato: This is part of a national initiative to get faculty to get input on classes.

Negotiations Report
Ueland: Negotiations are ongoing. There seems to be some movement. We are in a position where we are trading offers. Ours is on record on the IFO site. MnSCU opened with 1/2 and a $800 kicker. The next meeting is on Dec 18. I would like interim negotiator to shadow on that date to get up to speed. Ueland encourages having new faculty in on negotiation.

Board Report
Marek reported: The Board met on Oct 25 - 26. MnSCU is hosting workforce assessment sessions, and welcoming faculty to attend on MnSCU’s dime. Another summit on Career and Tech education is coming in November. The Board of Trustees met in mid-Oct to present a budget. There is cautious optimism on the new Board. They are taking emphasis off the AA and placing it on AS. They are talking about using e-voting to ratify the contract.

Brown: They tried out Master Courses at Metro. The IFO has taken a stand against these. Such things need to be worked out with all the universities. There is a statewide M&C this week if you have issues to be brought down.

Academic Affairs
Report on campus-wide faculty evaluation instrument
Marty Wolf: Academic Affairs reviewed the proposal for a campus-wide evaluation instrument. They met with Guilfoile and Desiderato. It was unclear what the purpose and aim was: Is it to assess courses? Assess student attitudes? Guilfoile and Desiderato suggested it has multiple purposes.

Academic Affairs is recommending that a specific purpose for the instrument be established by the administration; that the administration identify members to work with to devise parameters, Academic Affairs would be willing to work with the administration and would recommend themselves. Once that was done, Academic Affairs would bring a recommendation forward to Senate.

Discussion. Ueland was curious to know what we would be voting on in the end. Wolf: Guilfoile brought forward a packet of considerations. Ueland: This plan isn’t thought out.
Senate is busy. Have the administration think it out and bring it back after the first of the year

Motion carried.

Wolf mentioned that Academic Affairs is short on representatives. They will be down to three with a retirement coming,

McManus moved and Ueland seconded to extend five minutes. Motion carried.

Report on setting up a Faculty Scholarship Day
Wolf spoke with Desiderato to recommend asking CPD to work with administration to structure the day, then bring it back to senate for approval.

Budget Committee
Fauchald has distributed at the PDFs for our review. We have some specific recommendations. Look at tuition discounting, which has been going on for a few years. We are down 7%. That's the worst in the state.

Equipment money issues are coming to light. Double check that your department budget hasn't been swept in carry forwards. If it has happened, get a hold of us.

Summer school enrollment: Budget will approach administration to discuss break even numbers. We may have to grieve this again.

Short term concern is NTC. NTC is down 23% since 2010. They have a budget shortfall and the administration is using BSU cover them. At the same time, Lib Ed expanding into tech. They will be offering more lib ed courses.

Budget committee recommends that the Senate opposes expanding Lib Ed in NTC. Desiderato stated she supports this. Motion carried.

Budget committee recommends that Senate oppose BSU lending NTC $700k to cover their shortfall. Ueland spoke for the motion: Administration cut positions to the tune of $750k. We need to clarify if we are one or are we two.

Ueland moved and McManus seconded to extend five minutes. Motion carried.

Brown: We may not get anywhere with our opposition to covering NTC’s shortfall, but we need to oppose it. Motion carried.

McManus: I’d like to have a discussion concerning a vote of confidence.

Brown: We can hold our own budget discussion.

New Business
Proposal for Director Positions regarding term limits and open calls. Brown: The administration and executive are talking about terms and open calls. We both like this idea because it allows others to participate. More will be coming.

Adjournment 5:29

Submitted

M C Morgan