BSUFA Senate Minutes
28 August 2013
4:00 pm HS 107

Attending: Tim Brockman, Chris Brown, Cheryl Byers, Tom Fauchald, Andrew Hafs, Heidi Hansen, Rod Henry, Mike Herbert, Drew Graham, William Joyce, Christel Kippenhan, Keith Marek, Pat Conely, Mike Morgan, Mike Murray, Francois Neville, Judy Olson, Sheila Paul, Larry Swain, Sarah Tarutis, John Truedson, Sarah Young, Josefina Li, Porter Coggins

Not attending: Virgil Bakken, Tom Beech, Craig Hougen, Rich Jahner, Kathryn Smith, Vivan Delgado, Laurie Desiderato, Amber Fryklund, Tim Kroeger, Lynn Maltais, Eric Medberry, Blanca Rivera, Carla Norris-Raynbird, Kristi Nei, Erika Svanoe

Call to order at 4:00pm.

Approval of minutes of 6 May 2013. Herbert moved, Olson seconded. Carried.

Brown reminded Senators that the next Senate meeting is Monday 9 Sept 2013. The Executive Committee has its first M&C this Wednesday, with an onslaught of new business for the year.

Guest: Nancy Black President IFO
Brown introduced Black, Pres of Statewide IFO

Black: Greetings. Welcome to new academic year. BSU has 25 new faculty, and there are 225 new faculty across the system. For new member, we want to let you know that the IFO is the official representative to the system for teaching faculty, librarians, and counselors,

A lot has happened this summer. The Minnesota Legislature ratified a 4.6% rise, the first in 4 years. Same sex marriage has been legalized, the higher ed budget passed. Importantly, the Scrivener arbitration came through, a grievance dealing with overload payment to faculty. We don’t go to arbitration lightly. As part of the arbitration, Prof Scrivener received additional funds, and the arbitration confirmed that, as written in the contract, overload is offered to faculty before adjuncts.

We have a serious issue with Chancellor Rosenstone called Charting the Future, the Chancellor's office version of their proposed long-term strategic plans. The timing of the release of his plan during summer was not accidental, coming when faculty are not teaching. The Chancellor released the report to the Board of Trustees on 19 June, along with a request to give him another $50k this year for the plan. Particularly onerous was that Chancellor sent it out before it came to the union. Faculty were not given
the report before it went out. We had never seen the 6 strategic directions that are the cornerstone of the plan. Those came from the Chancellor and not from the workgroups. We are looking at suing if the Chancellor quotes individual responses on terms of the contract, as this sidesteps PELRA. The proposal will be released again in September. I urge you to read it carefully; there are many changes recommended. Email Chris Brown and cc: N Black with your thoughts and concerns.

Now, the Chancellor has every right to distribute the draft plan to faculty. But I told him this violates a working relationship. It was unprofessional to send it out without notifying the faculty on the board.

Some background on how this proposal came about. The Chancellor set up three workgroups of 46 individuals, who were supposed to envision the workforce of the future. Faculty on the workgroups were not representing the IFO or faculty at large but only themselves. The Chancellor wants strategic directions, Change is fine - as long as it is open and aboveboard. Some of these ideas are far-reaching. We challenged the Chancellor before and we’re going to challenge him again. We need to compose a constructive response to the Chancellor, but timeline is tight. He wants a meeting this fall, and then to present the final draft at the October board meeting.

The faculty need more time to consider and respond to something of this breadth. I asked for the end of November. I was delighted to see your provost for pointing out the concerns in the plan. The plan centralizes and makes it look like the system will be calling the shots on all decisions. They are proposing Master courses we all follow. They are proposing one way in for all access to elearning.

The challenge for us is separating the wheat from the chaff.

Another bomb from this summer concerns the possible merger of NTC and BSU. It seems that Pres Hanson wants to continue a taskforce on this. But It’s unclear who’s making decisions in the system. If we go to Pres Hanson, he says he doesn’t know what the plan is. Rosenstone says he’s giving the campus local autonomy. But they cannot merge the institutions. If they do, we will grieve it.

Fauchald: Tadlock asked for faculty volunteers on the merger discussions.
Black: Faculty do not need to be part of this. Just say no. They have to go through the union, otherwise it’s a violation. They can’t go around the union by creating task forces.

Herbert: One concern is the innuendo on the table to reduce the number of programs in the system, however they determined what programs are.
Black: Yes. They said they were going to reduce duplication. and phrased it without declaring agency: a decision will just be made. Consider that if they push online courses, then face to face offerings at individual campuses could be seen as unnecessary duplication.

How can you work effectively when you are not open about who’s making the decisions. Read the report: Item 6 is union busting in that it attempts to merge unions.
Fauchald: My concern is Education MN. If lower division is taught by MSCF and upper division by IFO, the system will save money - so they’re motivated to do that. EdMN has a lot of political power. Is this being discussed?

Black: Yes. Ed MN outnumbers us. If we were to affiliate with them they could swallow us. Some IFO wanted to affiliate with MSCF and Ed MN to be a solid block. I’m against this because we would give up our goals to theirs. The Chancellor’s focus is on the workforce. There is little in the plan about liberal arts. The thing is, he sent his people out to businesses and they said they wanted creative workers. The businesses would train them. What we got back from the Chancellor was that businesses need techies - who they would pay up to $14 an hour. We can’t give that up for our students. The Chancellor and Board know very little about higher ed, but they know about efficiencies. They push for efficiency, so they even want to put under-represented groups on online education.

Email black@ifo.org

President's report
The Faculty Association welcomes you back. Pres Hanson has done some good things this summer. We have a lot to talk about these first couple of meetings. Extended cabinet needs to be talked about.

NWT/BSU. The Executive Committee has a M&C this coming Wednesday, and Senate meets again two weeks from today.

Labor Day Picnic
Park House. Pulled pork, bevvies. Hanson, some politicians. is having a pork roast 11:30 = 2:30. Drop in. Notification coming from BSUFA admin assistant Lainie Hillard.

Update on BSU/NTC Co-Location Study Group
This is on hold. We’re not doing anything until we get advice from downstate. It’s a statewide matter.

Fauchald: Can we get the provost not to ask for alignment committees? Brown: As Nancy Black said, Just say no. They have to come through the BSUFA to get a committee. Black: They have to bring all this to the bargaining table. It’s not a matter of committees.

Call for Negotiator
We are without a negotiator. Our interim was made chair. We’ll be calling for an interim to cover until Jeff Ueland is back from a Fulbright. Step up to the plate.

Meet and Confer topics
Just to bring you in on the first agenda: Affirmative Action Interim appointment. We have concerns about this being an interim. It’s an important position and want to know when it will be filled permanently. Lib Ed of Distinction: We haven’t heard any kind of a formal charge brought forward. When we get something from the provost at M&C we’ll have something to look at. CAS Dean Search committee: We will be calling for faculty participation soon. We have six new faculty positions, so we’ll be seeing what
departments and programs those are coming from. Deans at M&C: Deans have requested to be present at M&C. Fauchald: When the deans are present, it becomes difficult to discuss a dean. Fauchald moved and Henry seconded that Executive Commitee continues past practices of not having deans present at M&C. Murray asked for the advantages of having deans present. Brown: Deans were suggesting that they weren't getting the full story on M&C events from the administration. Motion carried.

We have a new PDP calendar that has been condensed into one page. The timeline hasn’t changed, only the brevity of the instructions. Have a look and get back to us.

Henry: What is the idea of an extended cabinet about? Brown: The administration has the idea to expand the number of administrators involved in cabinet. Henry: My main concern is that if faculty are part of the extended cabinet body and it makes decisions, then we can be held to those decisions. That goes around M&C. Fauchald moved, Henry seconded that faculty not participate in extended cabinet. Carried.

Some reports we have already heard about. All chairs - not just chairs of departments of four or more - will receive extra duty days for extra work.

New Disability Lannguage for syllabi: They bypassed faculty on this one, so we’re talking about it in M&C. Henry: The problem was that it was phrased to suggest that faculty were supposed to take the lead. Brown: M&C will clarify this. This is all good and should be there. Just clarifying phrasing.

Adjuncts and evaluation. This year’s adjunct contracts included phrasing that suggested adjuncts would have to engage in program assessment over and above grading. Adjuncts are already paid poorly, and additional duties aren’t contractual or right. W want to get something solid from the administration on this one. Black: Any payment for assessment like this has to be in the form of an MOA. Expect more at the next senate meeting.

The Strategic Enrollment Committee will come to us for discussion.

A final request by Brown: Recuit recruit. If you have new faculty, bring them into the IFO. We want new people as senators and on committees.

Old Business
Marek reported for the Calendar Committee: We redistribute the revised calendars. If you have responses, send to kmarek@bemidjistate.edu. We’ll vote on the calendar at the next senate meeting

Adjourned at 5:04

Submitted
M C Morgan