BSUFA Senate Minutes
7 Oct 2013
4:00 pm HS 107

Attending: Virgil Bakken, Porter Coggins, Pat Conely, Laurie Desiderato, Tom Fauchald, Drew Graham, Daniel Guentchev, Andrew Hafs, Heidi Hansen, Janice Haworth, Rod Henry, Michael Herbert, Craig Hougen, Rich Jahner, Bill Joyce, Christel Kippenhan, Tim Kroeger, Lynn Maltais, Mike Morgan, Kristi Nei, Francois Neville, Donna Pawlowski, Sanjiv Pukan, Erika Svanoe, John Truedson, Blanca Rivera, Sarah Young

Not attending: Amber Fryklund, Vivian Delgado, Cheryl Byers, Tim Brockman, Tom Beech, Eric Medberry, Judy Olson, Carla Norris-Raynbird, Sarah Tarutis

Call to order at 4:00 pm.

Fauchald moved to reorder the agenda to allow Provost Tadlock to address the BSUFA. Henry seconded. Motion carried.

Provost Tadlock on Creating a Distinctive Lib Ed Experience

As I requested at the start of fall semester, I seek a distinctive Lib Ed experience, distinctly different than other MnSCU schools. Something we can promote and that will make us competitive within the system. Questions?

Kippenhan: It seems MnSCU tries whatever they can to throw us all into one pot and that hinders us in being distinctive. How can we do this?

Tadlock: If you go with whole new array of courses, that will disrupt but if you come at it by reworking courses, you won’t.

Rivera: How can we envision what you mean by distinctiveness? Are there any numbers, for instance, that students attend particular schools for particular subjects?

Tadlock: I don’t know. I can ask James Parker about that. Most of it’s about location and comfort on campus rather than attending a campus because of subject. Instead of the smorgasbord approach to Lib Ed, I’d prefer to have us offer something distinctive.

Rivera: We’re responding to limited resources.

Tadlock: We have to be financially sustainable. But we can still determine what our Lib Ed experience will be. Look to our location and our strengths. I want students to say “I get that at BSU, and you don’t at X.”
Haworth: So it’s the outdoor center and international emphasis.

Tadlock: Those are two. I’m not looking specifically for that, but you could. We have three signature themes. Does our Lib Ed reflect those? I would say not, outside of People and the Environment.

Desiderato: MnTC is prescriptive, so from the perspective of a student or parent, to say we also do something better, that may be seen as a negative - a disincentive.

Tadlock: I understand.

Fauchald: As we become more dependent on transfer, we don’t want to add disincentive.

Tadlock: I’m not asking you to add anything. This idea is for new traditional students, coming here from high school.

Guentchev: You said our majors provide distinctiveness? Could you explain?

Tadlock: We are recognized as the best place to get certain majors. It used to be Education was well known. We have several of those.

Herbert: Criminal Justice is an example. We were the first in some programs to differentiate our Criminal Justice program from others.

Guentchev: Wasn’t there an earlier move to redo Lib Ed that was scrapped? Will there be a commitment to this?

Tadlock: We have signature themes. You could attach a distinctive experience to those. Or perhaps to service learning.

Murray: I’m concerned about the logistics. We have a Lib Arts subcommittee, then a Lib Ed committee. How do you see those working together?

Tadlock: Lib Ed is your core group. Work with them.

Brown: It’s the Lib Ed committee that speaks for faculty.

Tadlock: UPC is planning how Lib Ed fits with the faculty.

Peterson: Lib Arts means the four year degree, not Lib Ed. We may have to rename the first two years to avoid the confusion.

Brown: I heard that the system is going to look at the transfer curriculum again. If you can massage this to be more in line with what we do, it will be better.

Tadlock: I spoke with downstate today, and I gave them your name.
Fauchald: The MnTC is looking for volunteers. That’s how we change the way things work: Get on the outstate committees.

Tadlock: If you’re not at the table, they won’t listen to the administration. Get on the MnTC committee.

Henry: There was a question about the health of NTC.

Tadlock: They are up in enrolment this fall over last fall. That number will come to M&C. The census isn’t here yet. They did need a loan, but we reduced the amount of the loan.

Tadlock: Let me stress that it’s your curriculum. I’d like you to be able to give our students something that sets us apart from others. Thank you.

Approval of minutes of 9 Sep 2013

Fauchald moved, Marek. Correction made: Porter Coggins attended last senate meeting. Carried.

President’s report: M&C update

We have another M&C this coming Wednesday.

Intern documents from MnSCU are mandatory, and have been for a couple of years. We were not using them because an administrative assistant didn’t pass on the information. We are phasing them in.

There will be a TRIO member on the new Admissions Committee.

SEMP Committee. Faculty will serve on the committee for two (2) years. We’re still trying to find out who else is going to be on the committee. Until we know, we can’t say if two is enough or not. Thus goes back to M&C for more discussion.

The administration seeks faculty on the re-awakened Space Allocation Committee. We’re seeking more clarification on this one, too.

Issue of Requiring First-year Students to Live on Campus. At your request, we got the student feedback that the administration was citing as evidence. Morgan: Students wrote that they were leaning towards acceptance, but spent only a line on the issue. That’s a small nail to hang a hat on.

Proposed new guidelines for Fac_Staff. James Parker has come up with a plan to moderate fac_staff in order to reduce the number of tangentially important messages. Fauchald moved to send it ACC; Henry seconded. Henry: Have they thought about opt-out system? Hopefully that will be discussed. Desiderato: Most institutions have a calendar and we can see when what is going on, rather than relying on a mail list. Motion carried.
Carry Forwards

Henry: Have IFO travel funds been released? Have the carry forwards been made?

Brown: We’ll be asking on Wednesday.

Fauchald: The carry forward is important because the word is that administration are taking some of the carry forward money for building reallocation. I’m concerned about these things.

Brown: The administration is reaching out to us. There will be a football game on Saturday for free, and reduction of $29 off for the Blue Man Group at the Sanford Center.

Officer’s Reports

Board. Brown reported. The Board meets monthly. This one was about a visit from Chancellor on his Charting the Future plan. We approved the IFO talking points on the document that formulate our official position. The majority of those points address with the document not recognizing differences at campuses, and the move to centralize. At our next meeting we’ll be drafting our official response. Other: Metro State have not been receiving payroll. This is related to the HR system at Metro. There are also problems reimbursing people for lack of payroll. We use the same processing system here - so keep an eye on your paystubs. Other: Recent legislation lets us provide more PAC money, so the IFO added to key legislators. Fauchald was appointed to Academent Technical Council, and we approved the Campus Climate survey. Morehead is talking a $4.9m retrenchment, offering early retirement. Haworth: Are we at risk for retrenchment. Brown: No. We’re good. Morehead is suffering from lower enrolment. Fachauld: Mankato opened the gates and let in students they normally wouldn’t. SCSU is down 5.6%.

Negotiator Report. Murray, interim negotiator. We traded openers at the meeting last month. There were a couple tentative agreements. The Negotiation Team is requesting open letters to assure the coaches’ pay is accurate. Brown: Programs should contact Murray after the meeting. Henry: Were there any real zingers in the opening that stood out? Murray: No. Apparently it’s a typical opener. Our opener will be posted on IFO.org, so you can view it. Peterson: Do you think this contract will happen in a timely manner? Murray: Veterans are saying get ready for a long haul. We’ve set meeting dates through February.

Henry moved to request appointment letters for coaches and music faculty, as under PELRA. Fauchald second. Murray: We would want one year. Henry that’s fine. Houghen: What does this mean for coaches? Murray: It’s to assure that you’re paid what the administration promises. Henry: The letters are written to ensure that they are doing what they are saying. Haugen: I’ve never seen this. Brown: Seeing the letters is trying to get more ammunition for negotiation. Henry: The idea is to see what’s going on in the letters and comment. Haworth: I’m concerned that if the letters are out there, our pay could get cut back. Motion carried.
Brown: Concerning those who negotiated insurance, known as Coalition. One of the benefits that got cut was free dependent coverage. That got cut through power of other unions, and benefits are being reduced. A long contract negotiation is going to serve us better in keeping our benefits longer. With a reduction in benefits, they took 5% out of our pockets. Don’t be shy about mentioning this.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Report. Pukan put forward proposals attached. Math, Political Science, and Phys Ed. The Committee approved these unanimously. Kippenhan reported that the Graduate Committee recommends approval. Carried. Pukan: We hope to have Geography proposal for next meeting


Recessed at 5:13

BSUFA Senate of 6 Oct 2013, Part 2

Called out of recess at 4:00 pm by Brown

Attending: Virgil Bakken, Tim Brockman, Chris Brown, Cheryl Byers, Porter Coggins, Pat Conely, Drew Graham, Daniel Guentchev, Andrew Hafs, Heidi Hansen, Janice Haworth, Michael Herbert, William Joyce, Christel Kippenhan, Tim Kroeger, Josefina Li, Lynn Maltais, Keith Marek, Mike Morgan, Mike Murray, Kristi Nei, Francois Neville, Judy Olson, Sheila Paul, Donna Pawlowski, Debra Sea, Rachele Schafer, Erika Svanoe, Sarah Tarutis, Sarah Young

Not attending: Vivian Delgado, Laurie Desiderato, Tom Fauchald, Amber Fryklund, John Truedson, Carla Norris-Raynbird, Eric Medberry, Craig Hougen, Rich Jahner, Blanca Rivera, Rod Henry, Sanjiv Pukan

President’s update

Brown clarified some of the Senate Rules for new members. We begin at 4:00 or when we reach 50% of members +1. The back two rows are for visitors. Senators should sit forward. We try to get done by 5:15 unless extended by action. We’re posting the agenda on IFO web, and send out agendas during the week before the meeting. Committees and others need to get requests to us 10 days prior, but we can accommodate shorter times. Attendance: Bylaws state that a senator may miss three meetings per semester. If something’s coming up and you need an extension of that, let us know. The bylaws do not permit proxies. Posts are for two years. As per contract, the Senator post is part of your rights. Swain is our Parliamentarian. Forward questions on procedures, etc. to Brown. The bylaws are at on the BSUFA website: http://www.bemidjistate.edu/faculty_staff/faculty_association/. And if you have suggestions, bring them forward.
Committee Reports, Part 2

Government Relations Committee Recommendations, Brown reported for Fauchald: The IFO’s response to the Chancellors Charting the Future was distributed.

Rules Committee. Swain displayed the roster that’s been distributed. All the committees are organized. There are vacancies. We’ll be sending roster again this week. Rules Committee looked at Bylaws from 2006. There are a few we need to revise, but we have opportunity to rethink The Senate. Right now, we have apportioned seats. We can stay with that, or move towards a senatorial model. The committee asked Senators to go back to their departments to get ideas, just to get things started. First meeting will be Oct 23, 9:00am, but that’s ongoing. Byers: Gritzmacher brought the idea of restructuring forward in 2011, and it was rejected. Swain: Sharon had a particular restructuring that was rejected. We’re asking for Senate input if we want to restructure at all, and if so, how.

Brown: Bring ideas forward. Swain: We can take more on the committee. This is ongoing.

Old Business

The Lib Ed charge to rethink Lib Ed had been tabled until Tadlock addressed us. Morgan moved to reopen, Marek seconded. Carried. Brown recognized Deb Peterson, the current and future Lib Ed director. Question posed: What does Tadlock mean by innovative and integrative? Peterson: Martin wants us to define what we mean by that. American Colleges provides some guidelines. But it’s not earth shattering. Part of the impetus for revising Lib Ed is that our students don’t make sense of the smorgasbord model we use. The hope is that we can rethink how we deliver Lib Ed, cosmetic or deeper. It depends on the will of the faculty. Doing this by February might be ambitious. We might look at March. Hafs: Do we have to put the AACU and LEAP in the charge? Peterson: I could take it out. Motion carried.

New Business

Peterson: This is an FYI. Lib Ed is seeking endorsement of their evaluation of rubric goal area 2. Scores were flat and were disconnected from a nationally administered critical thinking text. The Lib Ed committee decided to ask us to change our way of thinking about Crit Thinking as MnTC does. The problem is that the learning outcomes from MnTC often conflate two dimension of Crit Thinking. Morgan: The problem might be that these are not adequate criteria for evaluation, or that the scale is not fine grained enough to get a measure. Peterson: That might be. We can change that. Marek: With 130 students in a class, it’s tough to place any particular student on the scale. Peterson: We’re taking the burden off by asking to limit the numbers to evaluate. Brown: We occasionally have adjuncts doing this evaluation, and not getting paid for it. We’re asking the administration that adjuncts be paid. Tadlock is leaving that decision up to the deans. It’s up to us to keep an eye on the deans. Murray: I think the scale is out of line. Schafer: Can we train faculty to evaluate on your scale? Peterson: Yes. Olson: Might add examples to help score.
Acceptable and Proficient are so close in language. Peterson: Thank you for your input. We’ll go back and work on it.

NTC alignment issues. Brown: Take this back to your departments. We’re getting messages from the IFO to remain firm and not sit on committees that include NTC members. We’re the canary in the coalmine. A case in point: We’re in the process of hiring a web person. The administration requested us to provide an IFO member on the committee. NTC was also asked. The question is: Is this a BSU position or an NTC position? The administration replied that they are hired to work for both. If they are 90% us, and 10% NTC, then we should have appropriate representation? We have to make an example of this. On the other end, we can choose not to sit on this committee. But we don’t want to not know. Another example: NTC and BSU Nursing faculty with be co-located in Benson Hall. These faculty have different pay, different hours. By the same token, many of our support staff are now part time support staff. I want to know what HEC is going to think about this. Do we want to see our resources bled out - in addition to the $500k loan we gave NTC? If we rename this place, we have officially merged. If we merge, we would need to vacate all the NTC jobs and open them to IFO positions. I have been working with administration to make this work, but it can’t just be me.

My request is for senators to go back to your departments and discuss how far you want to go with the IFO position on merger.

Marek: Where was this concern from downstate four years ago? Brown: It’s come to the forefront because the Chancellor’s Charting The Future has co-location written all over it. It’s getting vocalized now that local support is not available here because those support people are at NTC. The administrators have stated that they can handle the stretch to cover both BSU and NTC. But can they?

How far does this body want to go with a merger? I am receptive to your ideas, thoughts about it. We need some rationale, some reasoning concerning why we should or should not align with NTC.

Peterson: I feel hampered by the IFO if asked to not even sit on the committee. My concern is that we are joined. Refusing to meet serves the state IFO but it doesn’t serve the purpose of this university.

Brown: I serve membership. You bring a resolution forward, I will bring it downstate. My concern is conflict of interest - trying to increase enrolment at both.

Nursing faculty: We were told as the faculty that we are aligned. That shouldn’t be an issue. Herbert: What would happen if we sent a letter? Is there really anything we could do? Send a list? Brown: In my mind, there is a lot you can do as faculty. You have a lot of power. Hanson can cast quite a shadow - but that’s all it is. If you are really upset, he listens. When I see $500K loaned out to NTC after losing 30 faculty here, it’s hard to see any good stuff on our horizon.
Byers: I appreciate the difficult job of working with us and balancing downstate, but I go with Deb Peterson that this time the case may not be in our best interest. Refusing to participate wouldn’t be our best interest. I want you to go to the IFO with our best interests in mind. Brown: I was directed not to participate in any joint committee. Byers: But what if we want something else?

Hafs: I don’t have enough information on this. What do I do? Brown: We need a resolution.

Kippenhan moved, Marek seconded to charge the following committees to develop comments on the implications of a merger with NTC, and report back on the Nov 4 BSUFA Senate meeting: Lib Ed, Academic Affairs, Budget, Academic Computing, Student Services

Young: I want to bring in Counseling. Brown: That’s a question for M&C. Kroeger: What about the departments? Kippenhan: I can ask for input from the department. But I want to explore within a committee then to take it to departments. Hafs: I like this because I can bring this back to departments to continue discussion. Swain: This is a huge HLC issue. Any merger means we aren’t accredited. We need to hit this hard. Marek: I like this motion because it gives us a way of moving ahead with our committees. Kroger: We don’t want this as individual options, we want department support. Brown: And want guidance on what to do. Keep in mind, if NTC becomes a 4th college, they are here, those faculty would have to meet IFO criteria.

Motion carried.

Adjourned, 5:13 pm

Submitted

M C Morgan