BSUFA Senate Minutes

9 Dec 2013
4:00 pm HS 107

Attending: Tim Brockman, Chris Brown, Cheryl Byers, Porter Coggins, Pat Conely, Laurie Desiderato, Andrew Hafs, Heidi Hansen, Janice Haworth, Michael Herbert, William Joyce, Christel Kippenhan, Tim Kroeger, Josefina Li, Lynn Malais, Keith Marek, Mike Morgan, Mike Murray, Francois Neville, Judy Olson, Sheila Paul, Donna Pawlowski, Sanjiv Pukan, Debra Sea, Rachele Schafer, Sarah Tarutis, John Truedson, Sarah Young

Not attending: Carla Norris-Raynbird, Rich Jahner, Blanca Rivera, Craig Hougen, Vivian Delgado, Kristi Nei, Eric Medberry, Rod Henry, Drew Graham, Amber Fryklund, Daniel Guentchev, Tom Fauchald

Call to order at 4:00.

Approval of minutes of 4 Nov 2013 moved by senator, seconded by Olson. Carried.

Murray moved to reorder agenda to place Curriculum at top. Brockman seconded. Carried.

Curriculum Report III. Pukan and the Curriculum Committee recommend approval of all proposals in Curriculum Report III, including Geography, Biology, Social Work, and Women’s Studies/Gender Studies. Kippenhan reported that the Grad Committee recommends approval. Peterson of Lib Ed Committee approved the lib ed components. Brockman moved, Schafer seconded to approve the proposals as a package. Carried

Returned to regular ordaining of agenda

President’s Report

NTC is in the paper. Hanson has created a task force headed by Maki to look at “reinventing” NTC. We’re not involved. We have our faculty advice and concerns on the merger coming to the Senate in January. We’ll pass that on to this task force. Note that any campus rumors of alignment are merely rumors.

Chancellor’s Charting the Future Plan, version 2 is available. This new draft goes back to the “one size fits all” approach, and the state Universities don’t seem to have a role in the plan. The IFO is drafting a letter of response, focusing on lack of money for implementing the plan. The new plan emphasizes collaboration, yet how are we going to do that under the current allocation model? MnSCU needs to come up with new allocation model.

Campus Emergency Training. Exec Committee brought this request to M&C. They are fine with it, but reminded us that if we want training, there will be practice drills that may interrupt classes, and we will need to attend meetings. We’ll find out more over the next month.
Strategic Planning. We hope to see this wrapped up soon. Hanson is bringing a draft to spring start up week 9 Jan 2014. A Multicultural Center is a new idea coming from Tadlock. Keep it on your radar.

Civility Task Force. It appears we already have a Civility Committee to address concerns, so we’ll re-awaken it.

Cabinet meetings. Brown is attending these and recommends we all attend. Students have a misunderstanding of what we do and what the administration can do that might need to be addressed. Everyone is welcome. 8:00 am on Monday. Crying Wolf.

Draft policy on computer purchases. This has been referred to ACC for comment. Also, at Downstate board meeting we heard that some campuses are rolling out software scans, checking machines, purportedly looking for instances of illegal software. We’re concerned that these scans can see other things: passwords, secure information. The draft policy is on the IFO site, and downstate is keeping its eye on this.

Board. The Board suggested that student pictures be associated with class rosters. Desiderato: Part of this has to do with identifying students in large sections. Brown: With the blessing of the Senate, we’ll give your feedback to go ahead at M&C.

Retrenchment. Morehead is facing a $5m shortfall. They are retrenching, and gerrymandering programs to facilitate cutting tenured faculty. That is, they re-rostered to create 30 new programs, then shifted faculty into those programs to cherry pick the roster. We need to support our colleagues. Write, draft letter to Morehead. On the darker side, Pat Carrier, who was cut here, is on the block again. Local IFO are trying to save his position.

Delegate Assembly is coming up in spring. We have a complement of slots and we want it full. Exec Committee attends, then we ask senators, then rank and file. We are seeking new people, so if you or any of your constituents are interested, have them contact Brown or any member of the Exec. We need to be at Delegate Assembly to defend our local interests.

Next year is the IFO president election. Nancy Black is stepping down. If you would like to run, put your name in the hat.

Committee Reports

Committee Reports on Alignment Concerns. All the reports have been sent in, except Academic Affairs, who agrees with Budget report. We would like department feedback for the January and February senate. The reports are on the BSUFA website here.

Marek reported for the ACC Committee on Merger Concerns. Marek reported that ACC met with CIO concerning issues in a merger. There are a lot of resources our students get by way of fees; having NTC get the same without paying those fees is problematic. ITS is already stretched by shared administration, and alignment will stretch it further. A Hafs: Are there any benefits to a merger? Marek: Not that we can see.

Desiderato reported for Psychology: Psychology has concerns about quality of education at NTC. When BSU faculty teach the NTC course, they are compatible with teaching we do. When NTC faculty teach it,
students fail. When BSU teaches the courses, students pass, so there’s a real concern about the quality. Academic Affairs needs to look at this. Peterson: MnTC docs declare that it’s the sending institution that specifies the Lib Ed transfer. If we don’t stand up for our own credibility, MnSCU is going to step in and assign it. Marek moved to accept the reports delivered, for senators to take them back to their departments, and report back in the January and February senate meetings. This is a Committee recommendation so no second is needed. Motion carried. The reports are on the BSUFA website here.

Negotiations Report. Murray reported that Negotiators met twice since the senate’s last meeting, but have accomplished little. Packages and some salary statements are being discussed. Negotiators have been trying to re-define the term program so administrations can’t gerrymander by creating ad hoc programs. Negotiators have asked for health insurance for retrenched faculty. We’re at 4-6% raises. Nothing’s been agreed to. Brown: MnSCU wants us to lobby against a contract rider to cover deficits from the MnSCU budget. IFO board voted unanimously to support the rider.

Rules Committee on Status of the BSUFA Makeup. Swain presented recommendations and suggestions:

Rules Committee Suggested Senate Models

Option 1. Representational Model- Status Quo with adjustments for Nursing and Coaches

Option 2. Senatorial Model- Each department, program, or unit covered in the contract has one Senator, and one only.

Option 3. Combo. Model- All departments, programs, or units under X (a number to be determined, 8, 9,10, 12…. ) have one Senator, those with more than X, have two.

Option 4. Althing or Assembly Model- Senate is every faculty person; Senate meetings comprise those who show up.

Option 5. The College model- each college (possibly determined by population) elects a certain number of Senators, based on college rather than department.

Link here.

The committee requests faculty input. Peterson: What do you do with departments that aren’t represented? Swain: We’ll ask what you want to do. The current rule is pool, but we can re-think that. Peterson: Did the committee have a preference? Swain: The easiest is #4. Murray: How many faculty would be needed for a quorum in Option 4? Swain: That’s for us to decide. If we go with 4, we’ll look at it. This is an opportunity for all the faculty to be part of Senate. Truedson: 50%+1 is the current quorum. How can you change that? You could have a big department run the rule. Kippenhan: At a club meeting those who show up is quorum. Swain: We can write into language that certain kinds of votes would require certain numbers. Marek: There are two dangling departments in the CAS pool, which is 6 departments. That’s one problem with the current model and pool. Similar problem with Mass Comm. We need to tweak language even for pool.

Brown: Take these options back to your home front and return with recommendations from your people.

Murray moved that the Rules Committee drafts a memo to all faculty for feedback. Li seconded. Carried.
New Business

ACC. There is a copy of the proposed Computer and Printer policy on the IFO site, and ACC’s response. Marek presented the overview. Administration sees that there are over twice as many computers assigned to faculty as there are faculty. They recognize the need for multiple machines but want to control costs and numbers. They are asking that if a faculty member needs more than the assigned laptop, run the request through the VP. The ACC is requesting criteria from the VP for granting the request. The norm would be to accept the request. ACC worked in language in the policy to assure that it does not remove contractual obligations. The ACC is requesting feedback from faculty.

Printing. To make the Toshiba printing system worthwhile, the administration needs more people on the system rather than using their personal printers. The Toshiba system will save money but faculty also have their needs for personal printers. As for confidentiality, the admin is looking into thumbprint ID that would hold copies until activated in the printer until accessed. We’ve asked the administration to look at how printers are actually used often between floors. See link here.

Adjourned 5:17

Submitted

M C Morgan