BSUFA Senate Minutes  
8 Sep 2014 - 4:00 pm HS 107

Attendance:
Andrew Hafs (Biology), Donna Pawlowski (English), Heidi Hansen (Math), Janice Haworth (Music), Mark Lawrence (Geography), Daniel Guentchev (Humanities), John Truedson (Physics), Deb Peterson (Sociology), Christel Kippenhan (HPSE), Porter Coggins (Prof. Ed.), Kris Nei (Prof. Ed.), Keith Gora (Psychology), Jan Heuer (Criminal Justice), Cheryl Byers (Social Work), Bill Joyce (Accounting), Tim Brockmann (TAD), Drew Graham (TAD), Debra Sea (Mass Comm.), Pat Conely (Library), Sarah Young (Counselling), Tiffany Hommes (Nursing), Amber Fryklund (Athletics), Larry Swain (ex officio), Jeff Ueland (Exec), Keith Marek (Exec), Sheila Paul (Exec), Sarah Tarutis (Exec), Tom Fauchald (Exec), Rod Henry (Exec), Troy Gilberston (Exec), Carolyn Townsend (Exec).

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Ueland at 4:00.

Attendance:  Ueland passed around a roster for folks to sign and to make sure information was accurate. He asked that departments check for accuracies and to identify any new senators so the roster can be up to date for the year. He also asked folks to check the current seniority roster for accuracies.

Tom Fauchald clarified that some departments may have additional members given special appointments (i.e., exec committee officer) on Senate and to keep this mind when checking/identifying the number of senators within departments.

Approval of minutes of 25 Aug 2014. Tom moved to approve minutes; Keith Marek seconded. Carried.

Ueland identified a slight change in agenda, adding the confirmation of uncontested committee members and shifting Hagg-Sauer conversation to the agenda space with the forum and responses.

Committee elections. Larry Swain from Rules committee indicated that there were a number of spots that only had one name identified on the committee roster and moved to ask the Senate to confirm those uncontested spots. Hansen asked if she was on the graduate committee; Larry confirmed that she was listed for Math. Motion carried to accept uncontested committee members.

There were five spots where two or more individuals were interested in particular spots on committees (Academic Affairs, Academic Computing, Lib Ed, Equity (2-IFO Feminist Issues Rep, and At Large). Swain stated that a ballot would likely come out this week for members to vote on these positions. Swain (and Ueland) moved to propose granting executive committee to confirm the slots after voting so that committees can begin working as soon as possible (rather than waiting until the next Senate meeting for confirmations). Peterson stated, “I like it.” Carried.
Ueland encouraged individuals to make suggestions for executive committee to bring ideas to Meet and Confers (M&C); if we have issues, want something to be discussed, don’t hesitate to contact executive committee to bring up ideas at M & C.

**NTC situation.** Ueland clarified that in the summer, administration clarified that BSU and NTC is not a merger. That stance still holds – only BSU involvement is some oversight of programs and operations. No money from BSU and document from summer is still what administration is pushing. Fauchald indicated that the President said no more money into NTC but we need to ask more questions. NTC’s staff is undergoing some “board early incentives” but that is just for staff now. Faculty discussions in November, but just working with staff members currently; but no layoffs identified for BSU.

**Reorganization.** A three-year proposal has been drafted and available for discussions. Ueland stated that administration indicates this proposal is still wide open for discussion and that Martin Tadlock (Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs) is encouraging folks to comment regarding department structures. Ueland asked departments to take a look at the re-organization and asked us to examine what works for us - Where do departments want to go? He encouraged us to contact administration with concerns and indicated that some departments are already being proactive. Hansen asked where the information was located. Ueland states it is on the Academic Affairs page. Cheryl Byers asked about the driving force behind the reorganization – what was the impetus for making these changes. Ueland stated there were two main issues that he understood; NTC situation of figuring out how to connect NTC programs to BSU programs and management, and that there is a disparity among the BSU deans with regard to how many faculty members reside within the colleges – this is a way to try to create equality in the number of faculty for the deans.

Christel Kippenhan stated that her area (Human Performance, Sport and Health) is very concerned regarding the reorganization and that the proposal for HPSH is not appropriate. She stated that the reorganization is picking apart programs and ruining the interconnectedness of programs in that area. For example, the exercise science program would be severely hurt via the proposal because health and physical education need to be together for licensures and that her department is being proactive; indicating there is a lack of understanding of that area as a whole with regard to licensures and such. Ueland reiterated the danger of these issues and licensures. Fauchald stated that it is not supposed to be breaking rosters within departments. Janice Haworth indicated there was not a candidate for some programs. Fauchald moved to have senators go back to departments and review reorganization structure and bring back department thoughts to Senate. Marek seconded. Peterson asked a timeline for bringing ideas back to senate. Ueland: next senate meeting. Motion was amended to include “next senate meeting” as timeline for departments to report back to Senate. Carried

Rod Henry asked what reorganization has already been done, and that we needed clarification from M & C regarding reorganization. Ueland stated that the library has already undergone reorganization and it was just “done and reported” without much input; but the Library folks didn’t have issues with the particular changed structure. More clarification will be requested at M & C.
Hagg-Sauer (H-S) forums and responses. Two forums took place last week whereby various models were proposed. Ueland asked Senate for feedback and any models we would like to pursue. M & C is Sept 24; and stakeholders meetings are second half of Sept, thus limited time for input. Daniel Guentchev stated that it is poor timing with this H-S project and the reorganization; it is difficult to say what is best when we don’t know how reorganization of departments will be finalized. It is “siloing” us when we are to have synergy across campus. Peterson stated her concerns for community and loss of community and that all options seem to break the community (i.e., among 2nd and 3rd floor with colleagues); these proposals do nothing to foster community. Byers stated that there is minimal clarity and it is generating apprehension and fear; hard to take a stand without clarity. Hansen stated that there this will create so many classes on the far side of campus for the students and that Bangsberg solution is not a good solution.

Peterson indicated that HS has large classroom delivery and it will impact the major and delivery of the major. Peterson moved to reject the Bangsberg as classroom only option – option F.1. Byers seconded. Marek stated that he went to both forums and that it appeared that there is no other real place for classrooms, but that it is difficult to make a decision without clarity. Fauchald indicated that we need to have something by Sept 24th as administration’s response needs to be submitted to the system. Vote: division – voting by show of hands. 14 approve; 10 opposed; 5 abstentions. Motion carried.

Guentchev continued discussion that some of the hardest hit departments in retrenchment are not looking at not really having a home – it is unsettling and many are uncomfortable about the current situation. Kippenhan added that it is more than HS – other departments are affected by recalibration and/or reorganization and that too many questions are not answered. Peterson indicated her strong frustrations regarding the six million deferred maintenance that was discussed in the forums, and that it demonstrated a severe inattention to the HS building for repairs when other buildings have been maintained. Marek stated that the timeline is too fast and that we need more concrete information.

Fauchald made a motion (Henry seconded) to request a detailed plan from administration before M & C so faculty had more details and that department could discuss the situation. Hansen indicated that the classroom issue was a concern for the lab classes in more than just the HS building and those issues need to be resolved. Paul stated that these issues are also tied into the central scheduling issue. Marek said it is not practical and that we need the nuts and bolts of the plans – we need something more detailed. Henry amended motion to include “requesting a detailed plan and detailed timeline from administration before M & C” regarding the HS situation. Continued discussion by Henry indicating that MNSCU does not spend time examining our daily lives – some people generated numbers and made decisions without complete consideration to what we do day-to-day. Paul asked about any information regarding the consequences of the plans and that we need more details. Kippenhan asked a clarification as to when we should ask for information/time necessary for responses. Ueland said he would ask for this immediately and would request information within a week from administration; thus Henry amended motion to add needing information within a week of receipt of request. Peterson suggested an emergency meeting (based upon responses) if necessary to continue with Senate concerns. Drew Graham asked about timeline and the rush – if we had opportunity for another
meeting. Ueland stated that mandate comes from MNSCU, the campus present bonding ideas to MNSCU and then MNSCU sends the selected proposals to legislature as one complete package so BSU needs to decide which option it wants to push forward to MNSCU. Paul indicated that the money is already there for demolition and design. Tim Brockman aired concerns that this situation will be similar to what happened with Bridgman. Hansen reflected concerns overall with student morale also regarding these changes. Carolyn Townsend asked if there was a way to get together with Student Senate to discuss this issue. Pawlowski stated that she asked at the forum about student involvement and that students were initially approached but there is nothing in the current committee structure. Ueland summarized the discussion as one of overall consensus of many unanswered questions, too many what ifs, no specified plan, and limited timeline. Motion to have detailed timeline and detailed plans from administration within one week (and before M & C) was carried.

Centralized scheduling. Administration stated that we are the only institution without centralized scheduling. There is currently a proposal for centralized scheduling. Byers asked if there is still time to discuss this issue and that administration is not the ones teaching and should not decide on this issue on their own. Troy Gilbertson stated that he heard Martin state that this will go “live” in 2016 so clarification is needed; and that there are also concerns whether this is scheduling only or if there will be any duplication. Fauchald stated that we need more accurate utilization rates with courses/classrooms regarding scheduling. Ueland agreed and indicated that it is anecdotal evidence with their numbers stating that people are not around on Friday’s when many times, people are here. Kippenhan said that there are too many optimization variables that make central scheduling difficult. Many of their students are athletes and are in practice after 3pm; thus needing classes earlier in the day. Ueland/executive committee will get more clarification at M & C regarding central scheduling.

Contract vote logistics. Vote starts Monday. Ueland said we should get letters in the mail this week – they come from New York. Let him know if we don’t get them. Two items of interest on letter – contract settlement and addition of Metro board member. Gilbertson reminded people to use a different email address than BSU; BSU email should not be used for this voting.

Grievance training - Oct 10,11 in St. Paul. If anyone is interested in going with Ueland to the training, let him know. Henry suggested that this is great training for anyone wanting to be chair or become more involved in the administrative process.

Union Representation in meetings. Ueland wanted to reiterate that if anyone is called to the Dean’s office for any particular reason, faculty can request to have a union representative with them in meetings. Faculty do not have to be on Senate to be represented.

Chairs: Review hiring: adjuncts, FT, probationary. Ueland asked chairs to be attentive to those they are hiring and to pressure administration for positions if needed. In looking at historical context, people who are always hiring adjuncts/fixed term folks for the same thing, departments may be able to argue for tenure-track positions.

WSGS Director Position. Two individuals (Judy Olson and Carla Norris-Raynbird) have applied for the Director of Women Studies/Gender Studies position. Ueland asked for Senate’s
recommendation. Byers moved to recommend Norris-Raynbird. Porter Coggins mentioned that Senate typically forwards both names as practice. With this clarification (though it was recognized that more clarification needs to be provided overall with appointment processes), Byers removed her motion. Coggins then moved for Senate to recommend both names forwarded to administration. Merak confirmed that historically unless Senate has reservations regarding one’s qualifications for the position, that Senate usually forwards both names. Motion carried.

Before moving to reports, Ueland wanted to thank Senate for the past two meetings and indicated that meetings work best when people move items along with motions, and the work of the committees. He indicated that committees are dedicated and work hard; and present items in the meetings for some possible “reshaping” and questions, but we should allow the committees to “work out the hard stuff” for us. He encouraged involvement in the meetings and to not be afraid to forward motions on issues.

Treasurer’s Report. Paul reported that we are in good shape with overall money. Between the three funds, we have $14,000+ funds. The Bank fund is $10,138.89; the ARAMARK is $2,000 prepaid; the prepaid BSU account is $1,803.60. We use approximately $220/senate meetings, networking is $30/month, $15/hour for office manager. IFO allocation is $12,083, which includes the Senate Secretary funding. Ueland indicated that we should keep an eye on the funds and to make sure we utilize them so we don’t jeopardize losing any funding.

Committee reports. Rules committee already reported at the beginning of the meeting. Pawlowski reported for Curriculum Committee (for Sanjeev Phukan) indicating that the Nursing proposal (4 year track) via majority vote was approved by curriculum and seeks Senate approval (Curriculum Report I distributed of Senators by Catalog on 28 Aug 2014). Fauchald reported for Budget – shortfall of $500,000 due to enrollment; which is down about 100 FTE’s for the year, but in good shape overall, enrollment at BSU better than most universities.

New business. Ueland was asked to provide a review of Liberal Education Committee charge in bylaws and Fall 2013 charge to make BSU LibEd “distinctive.” Relevant Senate Minutes posted regarding this matter include 9 Sept 2013, 7 Oct 2013, 13 Jan 2014, and 7 April 2014. Ueland asked for any discussion; none identified.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Pawlowski (proctor for M C Morgan).