Senate meeting Feb 2 2015

In Attendance: Andrew Hafs, Donna Pawlowski, Brian Donovan, Paul Kivi, Heidi Hansen, Keith Marek, Mark Lawrence, Daniel Guentchev, Pat Donnay, John Truedson, Deb Peterson, Christel Kippenhan, Porter Coggins, Kris Nei, Keith Gora, Jan Heuer, Cheryl Byers, Bill Joyce, Joann Fredrickson, Tim Brockman, Lyle Meulebroeck, Debra Sea, Pat Conely, Sarah Young, Tiffany Hommes, Jennifer Atteberry, Mary Fairbanks, Larry Swain, Jeff Ueland, Sheila Paul, Sarah Tarutis, Tom Fauchald, Rod Henry, Troy Gilbertson, Francois Neville.

Apologies: Judy Olson

Absent: Carolyn Townsend, Janice Haworth, Carol Nielsen, Amber Fryklund, Craig Hougen, Rich Jahner.

Guests: Zak Johnson, Morgan Bartlett.

Meeting called to order 4:00 pm by Jeff Ueland.

Minutes to approve

Deb Peterson asked that list of attendance be added to December minutes. December minutes were approved, with this proviso.

January. On P6. Should be “critical thinking” as opposed to “course”. With this change, minutes were approved.

New Business.

Motion to move agenda

Bill Joyce moved.

2nd Sarah Tarutis.

Motion carried.

Zak Johnson (advisor) and Morgan Bartlett (student researcher), joined meeting.

See attachments. 20 instructors invited, 12 responded thus far.

No objections to research by Faculty.

Jeff Ueland: News from Governor’s office re MnSCU. University of Minnesota received $35 million for general expenses and another $50 million for medical school. IFO leadership are meeting with trustees. One other item that’s tailored to that is vote passage of contract. Has been given a Bill #. Sounds like House is willing to give it an “up down vote”, and not going to bury it. Only issue is if riders are attached. Still a long way to go. Jeff will forward letter that was sent, that outlines what it is, and who are key legislators and who needs to be contacted.

One other news item is regarding factoring times of No Confidence votes in fall. Has been requested that letter from all presidents of faculty associations to Board of Trustees be released. Within that
letter was request that chancellor be removed, just want to let you know to be on guard for that. Jeff will send that ASAP to all members.

Relative to budget and broader scale issues, that’s all that Jeff has to report.

NTC.

Yet another interesting item that’s been with us since last fall or summer- fate of NTC. Recent discussion with president etc., didn’t go as expected. We thought a merger would be proposed, but the president announced independent accreditation. Based upon extension to do a site visit. At state-wide M&C, happened Friday before this meeting, Hansen was at that M&C and NTC was on agenda. At that meeting, Hansen said he’d received extension from HSC. That’s where we are now. Jeff thinks is fairly aggressive timeline. Jeff doesn’t have a lot of detail beyond that, has to stand on what president said at state M&C.

Roster changes.

See attachments online.

This was presented at M&C. Administration can organise once per year, and do programmatically, and have proposed roster changes.

1. No issue with Sachel Josefson moving to TAD roster.
2. Mahmoud AlOdeh- to a new Project Management roster, there is a small problem. TAD is not supportive of this at this time. They believe it should be postponed until it’s been discussed with departments.
3. Business is also not supportive of this change (Anoka business program separately rostered).

Library was already reorganised, so they can’t do it more than once/year. They may object, but will see how it goes.

Rod Henry- if they’re going to reorganise by geography, then anyone who teaches online can be put into a roster.

Jeff- we don’t want frivolous rostering. If budget cuts come, then cuts come based on rosters that we have. Leaves us exposed to budget cuts/scrutiny unfairly.

Tim Brockman: Mahmoud teaches technology management, teaches all technology related degrees, and to single him out for any one is an injustice.

Committee attendance

Jeff received call from a committee chair re attendance at meetings, if your committee hasn’t met, please contact your chair to get that moving. There are plenty of openings, there are many ways to join.

Lobby days are coming, we have slots for 4-5 folks. Covered by IFO. Steve Carlson and Tom Fauchald will be attending. Opportunity to meet the legislators and covered by IFO. Is a Wed/Thurs 25/26 February.

Jeff will send out a call.
Two searches CEL and AIRC director search committee vacancies

Need to have a vote. Old school way of voting via paper and mail not working. Looking at Survey Monkey, with electronic voting.

Rod Henry- move to use Survey Monkey

Keith Marek- second

Larry Swain- By-laws have been amended to allow electronic voting.

All in favour- approved.

Enrolment updates.

See handout. Enrolment comparison. Relative to all campuses 2 and 4 year. We’re sitting pretty well compared to others. Only a couple of universities that are in the black. We’re doing better than many other institutions. Peruse at your will.

Officer reports. Sheila Paul- Treasurer

See attachments.

We have budgeted for 10 Senate meetings @ $220/meeting. Proposed budget- slight changes – meeting from 9 to 10 meetings for the year.

Aramark might make a change re payment methods and allow credit card in the future. If this occurs, we would like to use our credit card and have our balance returned to us.

Tom Fauchald motion to approve

Rod Henry 2nd

Approved.

Committee reports. Lib Ed. Deb Peterson.

Follow on from last meeting.

Faculty were asked to go back to dept. and come back with questions or concerns. Motion on the floor.

Cheryl Byers- Social Work faculty reviewed and says was ok.

Bill Joyce- Accounting dept. asked how critical thinking is defined and how it’s measured.

Deb Peterson: previous senate meeting, made changes to critical thinking rubric that matches student outcomes to the California Critical Thinking Skills Test. We have cross-tracked those student learning outcomes back to the MNCTC student learning outcomes under Goal Area 2 critical thinking. So we’re using that new way of thinking. We track them back to the MNTC.

All in favour- approved.
Curriculum.

Donna Pawlowski - see attachments.

Lib Ed voted to approve Leadership.

No other discussion. All approved.

Troy Gilbertson. Handout. Please take back to your departments. Understand there might be some hiccups mapping the old website to the new one, but should be fixed. Please encourage your students to be involved. Direct questions to Troy.

Budget. Tom Fauchald

Heard Dayton’s budget- didn’t give us anything. We get the same $ figure as the U, but that’s not a big amount. Is likely that we’ll get the $. It’s really critical re the enrolment decline. Can be used against us. “you have less students, so you get less $’. The issue with this is that the 2 year schools are hurting so bad. Is a lot of pressure to get the legislature on that. Also may be tied to state funding the first two years of community college.

Maki will be having a budget forum in Feb. will be using the 32mil to get some tuition increase, if our enrolment looks ok, we may be down 1.5 million for next year. Advise that if depts. have money sitting around, that if you have cash sitting around, advise to spend it. Be very careful there will be pressure on that. I don’t think that we will have a tuition freeze. Be very surprised to see a freeze. Worth mentioning, Rosenstone required presidents to come up with an actual number of layoffs if budget requests didn’t get approved. BSU number was 36, across the board. Be cognisant of that.

Jeff- local admin took exception with this (number of layoffs, and generation thereof).

Tom- union negotiation contracts will be much more difficult this time around. We are actually treated quite well compared to other agencies. Be cognisant. Tom is betting there will be some cuts.

Keith- any indicators what budget forecast will look like this year?

Tom- may go up slightly this year. On one hand, oil situation is probably helping, but on other the expense side ??

Tabled item. Ad hoc committee.

Under discussion:

The ad hoc committee recommends:

1. That the public speaking course be removed from its current categories and placed into Category One. (Category One will remain six credits.)

2. Moving forward with an initiative to develop communication across the curriculum as a graduation requirement apart from the current MnTC under the supervision of the BSUFA Senate’s Liberal Education Committee.

Brian Donovan: the original recommendation is reflected in item 1. It’s emerging as one of the recommendations of the ad hoc committee. Lots of concern that one unfortunate by-product would be dilution of current requirement of two 3-credit for writing. Could do this PLUS a public speaking
course. Problem is we can’t staff that with current speech faculty. What then opted to do, coupled with rec 1, is rec 2.

Initial responsibility/supervision would be with Lib Ed committee. Which could change in the future. If we are able to get a new hire with the writing centre, that could be coordinated with this.

Cheryl- SW is opposed to #1. Because it would dilute the writing skill training they desperately need. Chance they would take only one writing course and a public speaking course when they really need two writing courses. Did not discuss #2.

Tom- from enrolment perspective, we talk a lot about Charting The Future and how bad it is, but the emphasis in future will be in transfer. Don’t want to be competing with other institutions. Concerns re if we have an extra graduation requirement how do we explain that to transfer students- is tough. Have deep concerns to adding on to transfer curriculum. It endangers possible recruiting transfer students.

Deb Peterson- we already face difficulties being only school within MnSCU as not counting public speaking in Area 1. There is anger from transfer students that they can’t get credit. We already have difficulties.

Donna Pawlowski - currently the objectives of the course don’t really fit into the goal areas.

Pat Donnay- how did you come to reach these recommendations?

Brian Donovan- we met twice, two weeks apart. We pushed hard to beef up the speech faculty to the point we could actually support that, using current grievance to help make that case. This is one area where administration has been grossly abusing adjunct faculty in clear violation of contract. Lots of concern in the committee lest too much hire for speech compete against need for new faculty lines elsewhere on campus. This emerged as a compromise.

Andy Hafs- some of the majors might not like this, but instead of the requirements being on students, perhaps it could be on the majors. Not a Motion, just a comment.

Cheryl Byers- Social Work really has problems with #1. Seniors have problems with writing, and also public speaking. Our students need more in the way of writing skills, problems with potentially diluting the skills that they need. If we go ahead with this, faculty lines WILL need to be moved to this and AWAY from other departments and will lose faculty, SW has concerns with where the money will be found to pay for all of this.

Deb Peterson- public speaking wouldn’t fit as currently in goal areas. Would propose it be separate.

Also, some depts. take a strong advising role in the courses they believe their students need. This requires faculty look at what their students need. If student needs something for writing, then advise then into a second writing course, that’s one of the roles of an advisor.

Heidi Hansen- agree. We can advise our students that they need a certain skill.

Brian Donovan- baffled, Cheryl, as to where #2 would be eating lines.

Cheryl Byers- if you require something for graduation, wouldn’t that require additional courses?
Brian Donovan- No. Existing courses, taught by existing faculty. Also, the idea that each dept. be required to offer one intensive writing course, but students not required to TAKE it, then we’ll have a lot of students not taking it. If it’s just a requirement that program offers just one, then lot of students will go through it without getting through it.

John Truedson- committee has done good job explaining rationale of this. I’m Calling the Question.

All in favour of Calling The Question- wasn’t 2/3. Continue questions.

Pat Donnay- on item 2, senior capstone course. How would this fit.

Brian Donovan- haven’t fleshed this out to each scenario. The motion here is just to move forward, and to figure out how to do this, but I expect that if you have a capstone course that has a thesis, then this should very well qualify.

Discussion of where courses can fit within the goal areas, led by Deb Peterson.

Tom Fauchald- go back to transfer students, and online students. Very difficult for students to get Lib Ed courses online, Nursing runs into this as well. Have concerns that if we add graduation requirements, then these classes aren’t available, can they transfer something in from another institution? Right now this is really kind of fuzzy. If this does pass, hoping there is some leniency from the committee as to what courses currently can match this.

Mark Lawrence – strikes me that those who are concerned about number 1 need to take it together, in other words understand the concern that if it goes in #1, students can play the shell game, but if you take them together then they’re going to be exposed to developing communication skills across the curriculum. My problem is that as Pat suggested it could be a capstone course, it’s too much in the 11th hour and 58th minute- devil’s in the details. How do you do this across the curriculum and not just at the last minute. Frankly, think committee should be allowed to move forward, and I want to hear more about it.

Motion:

The ad hoc committee recommends:

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2. Moving forward with an initiative to develop communication across the curriculum as a graduation requirement apart from the current MnTC under the supervision of the BSUFA Senate’s Liberal Education Committee.

Jeff- all in favour of motion as written. Unless hear discussion, it passes. Insert sound of crickets. Passes.

Jeff- one other item proposed by administration under M&C. is coming here. Dual track curriculum proposal. Don’t have to do this today, is the first we’ve seen it.

Deb Peterson- should it be referred to all relevant committees for their input- Grad, curriculum, Lib Ed and teacher?

Tom Fauchald : move.
Brian Donovan: second.

Cheryl Byers- because of a minor change that we needed to make in our curriculum in terms of credits. Concerned re how long it will take to go to committees and come back.

Christel Kippenhan- not all committees that are involved in curriculum changes are listed. Some committees were missing on this list. Need to amend that four committees are listed, or at least they say they’re ok with not being listed.

Deb Peterson- we could add stipulation that we report back in March senate meeting.

Tom and Brian ok with that.

Tom- this is huge, this could have far reaching implications.

All in favour to referring to committees for the March meeting. All passed.

Meeting adjourned 5:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lainie Hiller