Senate Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 5, 2015

Attending: to be added  

Meeting opened 3:58pm

Approval of minutes  
Motion to approve Larry Swain  
2nd Bill Joyce  
Motion approved.

President's report  
There is a letter coming in the mail for contract ratification vote, it will be “snail mail” with a code for the IFO website; plug your code in, is anonymous. It’s a secure way of not using state resources to ratify vote. Voting starts on October 9th and goes for one week. If four of seven campuses approve, and a majority of those voting approve, it’s passed. Any questions in general? None.

Upcoming presidential search. Email today asking you to serve on the search committee (two BSUFA reps). It’s not as cut and dried as it would seem. NTC got two people, we should get more. Jeff was told proportionately doesn’t matter, but that “this is how we have always done it”. Jeff is lobbying for more than two people, with formal request to chancellor this morning via email. Jeff has asked for four BSUFA reps, don’t know if we will get more, but will try. Currently are at least eight people who have self-nominated, and it will be an electronic vote open to all faculty to determine the two BSUFA reps.

Keith Marek- what was the last presidential search MSCF?? .that was two years prior to Winona.  
Jeff- that’s a good question.  
Tom Fauchald- they are experimenting re bringing someone in from corporate world, seeing as though we are a big experiment anyway. Other one is to look outside the presidents/provost group. Lot of interesting things floating out there. It’s not going to be like the last time with Hanson where it’s a slam dunk traditional academic. Jeff- if you have any interest, please put your name in and let’s get some folks in. Timeline- there will be an orientation workshop in October, start accepting applications in November/Dec.. Airport interviews in January, then pool will be reduced and invited for campus interviews, then normal process. Decided around april.

Jeff- international studies- the position of the past director of international studies. I communicated our concerns and questions and was forthright and direct- people are angry, what are you going to do? He communicated to me, that he would meet with internal studies council, which he has done, I have not heard back from that. Told him we wanted clarification, weren’t interested in what he put forward.
Seems amenable to the idea of keeping it going, but will need faculty to provide input/direction.
Janice Haworth- were wondering about the certificates, can we keep doing them? Does Martin have the power to say that we can just keep doing them? Wondering about the minor,

Committee call procedures
Discussion of first-serve, first come basis. If that isn't democratic enough for people, let's talk about it.
Tom- do an email, with timeline. Suggest 5 days.
Lainie- suggest minimum of 3 days, then election if contested

Motion- committee calls have minimum of three days, then election if contested.
Tom Fauchald: motion
Mary Fairbanks second
Passed

Personal email/cells.
Rod Henry- employer can go through any and all of your emails.
Tom - move that we solicit personal emails
Rod second
Rod- move to amend the motion to collect private member email for the purpose of political initiatives and/or other communications that we do not feel we have the privilege to use the BSU/MNSCU servers, with an opt in/opt out
Tom- second
Motion passed.

M&C
Not much to discuss.

Committee reports

Budget: Tom Fauchald.

“Dé ja vu” with recalibration. What’s happening is the admin is being very quiet about a bunch of shortfall, but we've heard from different sources in admin there will be at least 2mill next year, and that could grow. We’re going to ask for an accounting at some point, but the health insurance has taken a big jump, the cost for the family plan cost the university $17k. Talk we are going to be a Cadillac plan next year.
What I've been trying to do, go ahead set it up about instruction vs the other parts of the university. We become very efficient. In contrast to the rest of MnSCU programs, just our lower division programs are bringing in an extra $500k. Also clearing $307k in grad programs. Only 3 universities are in the black as far as the appropriations- we are one. BSU clears combining upper and lower $832k. Metro states clears $840k, and 75% are taught by adjuncts and we are within couple of thousands of them!!

BSUFA has formally requested a budget from Karen Snorek/administration as have not yet seen numbers.

Question (Jeanine McDonald?)- If our dept. gives us budget, can we bring to you to explain to us?
Tom- absolutely.
Cheryl Byers- this is about the 80/20 programs? Any conversations about re-examining these programs?

Jeff- martin says they're keeping it.

Jeff- this is public data, but it's never been presented publicly.

Pat Donnay- I get a sense that they're dismissing Tom's numbers and spreadsheets- so what are they using to rebut the numbers you present to them?
Tom- this time around they're not dismissing them as much and in all honesty, is just one person who dismisses them.

Summary- talking points provided by Tom Fauchald

1. There is a budget short fall this year of around $900,000 that will be met by consuming carry forwards. Departments will be affected; we are not sure how much.

2. Next year, due to health insurance increases, union contracts etc. there will be at least a $2 million dollar shortfall. If there is any enrollment decline that shortfall will grow.

3. We are pushing the administration to not cut instruction in the coming FY because BSU is very efficient in instruction, evidenced by the following:
   a. We spend only 38% of the university's budget on instruction (this includes pay, benefits, supplies/equipment, and summer school overloads etc.)
   b. Currently BSU has the second lowest instruction cost in MnSCU, the lowest is Metro State at 36% (remember over 60% of Metro’s courses are taught by adjuncts).
   c. [Link to spreadsheet with detailed information]
d. When comparing similar academic programs across MnSCU, BSU does very well on cost, generating considerable extra funds for the University. Our academic programs are some the most efficient at the state universities, being comparable to Mankato State, which is three time our size.

http://www.bemidjistate.edu/faculty_staff/faculty_association/senate_agenda_attachments/docs/20151005/Bemidji%20with%20summary.pdf

e. The amount spent on instruction in FY 2009 was more than is spent on instruction in FY 2014 in real dollars, not inflation adjusted dollars.

http://www.bemidjistate.edu/faculty_staff/faculty_association/senate_agenda_attachments/docs/20151005/IPEDs%20Comparison%20between%20FY%202009%20and%20FY%202014.pdf

4. We feel that instruction should not take any more cuts and that the cuts should be made elsewhere in the University Budget.

Grad committee
Christel Kippenhan.

Presentation here

Jeff- no formal proposal then for a recommendation?
Christel- we can't give one, as there are too many options. It's a struggle.

Larry- motion to extend 15 minutes or until we have finished discussion of that?
Keith Marek: 2nd

Passed

Rod- we could move that we have a graduate co-ordinator?
Christel- that would be the person that does the paper pushing
Rod- motion to make graduate director from faculty with release time
2nd - Tom

Mike Murray- what added value does that graduate director do? What do they do? Seems like it would a signature on a form, as the process covers the rest?
Christel- what the grad dean did, additional steps for grad curriculum proposals. Was an oversight of the graduate component of the college deans. That’s my understanding of what the grad dean was.

Tom- in answer to Mike's question- do you ultimately want to have someone who has a terminal degree or someone who doesn’t?
Mike- basically it's just one more signature?
Christel- correct
Mike- seems redundant. If I’m supervising a grad thesis, I wouldn’t let it come to the defence if it wasn't damn good, and I would make a student change it if it was bad. We could trust our colleagues?
Carol- is only defensible for a grad dean if it strengthens a program, director of grad studies has had nothing to say for the rigors of the work. The grad committee more to do with the policy
Christel- situation in defence of grad dean, if I am on committee and I am non-voting, and think the defence isn't up to par, then my only voice to deny is to go through grad dean who has power to review and deny the degree.

Carol- should the grad dean have a Ph.D.?
Christel- yes, it probably should.
Carol- I am for a standalone dean, but believe this is pie in the sky.
Andy- I am for number 1 for now
Mike Hamann- for 1 and 3, being most realistic. Which one would have the best effect for strengthening the program?
Larry- it’s not really our job to describe what’s practical or not, but those of us who have grad programs should care a hell of a lot. We need to make sure we are holding up our grad standard to a higher standard. Let’s go for pie in the sky, and it's not our job to make it happen. It’s their job to make it happen.

Pat- like to speak in favour of the motion. We get release time for purposes less important than this.

Larry - motion to amend to be a full member of the grad committee
Tom 2nd

Page before, #2 and full member of the graduate faculty
Passes. Bring to M&C

Meeting adjourned 5:33pm