Senate meeting minutes
November 2, 2015

Attending: TBA
Meeting begin: 4:02 p.m.

Bill Joyce- Motion to approve the minutes from October, 2015
Second- Larry Swain
Passed

Guest from Student Senate, Matt Steichen – to discuss plus/minus grades
General discussion of grading across MnSCU and whether to go number of decimal places
Brian Donovan suggested discussing with records as to how they grade.
Jeff- our Bill was to support plus/minus grading, and that still stands.
Matt - will be meeting with student senate tonight to discuss this, and then meeting with administration. Want to get it rolling before the end of the year
Question- it could cause overall averages to decline, and this should be acknowledged/discussed
Matt- if a student is truly a 4.0, they should be working to get the 4.0. We’re not really sure how it affects exactly, but overall it should represent those who score the high Bs, and those who score the high Cs.
Question- If you left for ABCD, and don’t go for the grade point, it will look better on the transcripts as a more plus/minus qualitative
Paul Kivi- as faculty, we preferred the flexibility. If this is really want students want, you can probably count on faculty to back it.

Jeff president’s report
Jonathan Bohn is due to speak, will make time if he gets to meeting in time.

AFSCME contracts weren’t passed. Musaf and IFO contracts were passed. Back pay is supposed to be here Dec. 11. Contract is moving forward, don’t know if it’s been signed yet, but is moving forward and enforced until told otherwise.

Holiday party
Last year was successful, hoping to do again. Same location planned for this year, but cannot do the 11th, suggest reading day 12/9.

Motion to approve $2000 for the holiday party. Exec committee put forward motion. Tom Fauchald second. Approve.

Presidential search committee.

We tried to get more BSUFA representation, but were unsuccessful. Found out today that they are going to start reviewing application on 18th November, which is very short turn around.

Jeff cannot attend the Dec 7 Senate meeting, suggest change to Nov. 30? If we cannot change meeting, Larry will run meeting on Dec 7. Jeff has conflict that he cannot change. Motion to change date?

Run on the regular date, Dec. 7.

Jonathan Bohn... IFO government relations

Met a lot of us last year, in May of 2015. Replaced Russ Stanton, little bit different- organising communication and govt relations. Lot of exciting things happening in IFO, earliest contract ever settled and now in effect. Our contract and musef contracts approved. Mape and afmscme not approved, have to wait 30 days, we were lucky enough to earn Republican votes, and nice we don’t have to wait 30 days. Should see lump sum back payments on Dec. 11 cheque. Could be possibility sooner, but that’s the date they’re telling us right now.

Also working on GRC. Tom Fauchald is co-chair. Is great you have a leader from BSU on the committee. March 8 is start of session and this year there are a couple of big things on the table- is an even year so will be a bonding year. We have a project here at BSU that we will be working hard and vacating for. Except it to be a billion dollar bonding bill, which leaves a lot of room for education. Could be as much as 2 billion budget surplus year, which is an enormous surplus to have. Will know more later this month. Didn’t pass tax bill, so left money sitting there with hopes to come to agreements and get to that. Could leave an enormous surplus on the table.

Last year we asked for 142 mill and got 100 mill. We’re about 20 mill short, and now talking about making a request for that additional 20 million which would be sent out to all campuses through the allocation formula.

May have heard about current battels re HLC and enrolment. They came out essentially saying they will enforce their old rule and will beef it up a little bit. Increasing the levels teacher credit required, and gave warning that they will start to enforce this rule. Legislature is freaking out about this, had a
huge hearing to discuss this. Legislature doesn’t have any standing with HLC, but encouraged the HLC to change their plan, HLC declined. We created an ad hoc committee for this, a notice will be sent out to get a BSU rep. in an effort to provide me with more guidance, we will pull together faculty from each school, have a conversation and provide a recommendation to the board. It affects each university differently. Can have serious impact on schools, and we need to have a discussion on this state-wide.

The action committee has reformed, new members, will be focusing on building a new brand of the IFO on the campuses. The local communities are great, but it’s felt that the state base isn’t as big a presence. Will be doing a lot of work on equity issues, would be getting a survey shortly, how does the contract affect you. We need more feedback on that. We hope you’ll take a few minutes to complete that for s. questions will be different for each type of appointment.

Tom- any update on salary equity? We are years behind on this

Jon- the salary equity committee met for the first time in five years. Due to your president Jeff Ueland, this was made a priority

Andy- any more details?

Tom- this can be a big deal, and I appreciate Jeff putting pressure downstate.

Cheryl- this is specific to the bonding, and you said there were five different schools seeking? Where are we on the priority list.

Tom-think we are 6th out of 21.

Jeff- we are the first big dollar, the ones before us are smaller dollar.

Jon- the last piece is kinda new, is communications. I handed out signup sheets, we are changing the way we do newsletters, used to get a 12pg PDF and trying to make a little more interactive. In email, tonne of links that will bring you to the information that we are talking about, trying to make a little bit more engaging. Will try to bring in some more stakeholder information; will only be twice a semester. Issue updates will be interim measure, and only sent to those who sign up for them. I do about one legislative update a week, depending on what’s going on. Looking for information on sign-up sheets, personal emails and cell phones. I want to change some information to text messages, as they are timely updates. Need personal email as BSU email is considered state.

Some of the communications work that we’re doing- we have changed the IFO logo and the brand. To build more community around the state. It has the state, the seven stars to represent the universities. Have been working with local media relations to get more stories about your research projects, classrooms etc.
If you have stories, it’s important to get the information to us. We want to promote the good stuff that you’re doing. Collect some of the stories, get more play off the stories, at some point you’ll be getting emails about what you’re working on in the classroom.

Budget reallocation

Was initially told we would be 900k short. Was told that was based upon student enrolment decline. Tom ran numbers, and it only equalled 200k... they pulled a bunch of carry forward, and are funding to the tune of 61%. Strongly encourage you to check your numbers. That should have been put in last week, ask your chairs to check your numbers. The IFO funds were rolled over and should have been put in your accounts. Mine were put in wrong account- check your accounts to make sure that the money is there.

They’re using carry forwards to deal with this- renovate TV studio, furniture in Decker/moving mass comm to deputy and renovate academic space... didn’t give anything formal, need to look in the minutes to M&C.

Don’t ever expect carry forwards again, spend your money. Make sure you spend it by whatever date they give you, if they are that unrestricted piece. For next year, things are not looking great. If we keep enrolment, if everything stays the same, we will be short 2.5mill.

If we get 130 new students, we would only be down 1.5 mill, but in all likelihood will be in neighbourhood of 2mill.

Karen Snorek said issues were insurance and salary raises. Contracts come on line.

Jeff asked about solutions, as to how they think they’re going to solve this. Apparently will be looking at summer profits. Will be opening up for summer weddings, doing contract work, maybe looking at how they do summer classes.

They talked about going after some equipment money. Also talking about supplemental funding bill, rolling the dice on that and hoping they get a little something. Maybe hoping to get .5 mill

We will be bringing this up at M&C on Wednesday. It will be main focus of the meeting. Hoping there will be healthy discussion about this. All of their information should be online (LOOK FOR THIS AND LINK- Karen’s PowerPoint, one page handout)

Name change for TAD- School of technology, art and design. Will being that forward to M&C, if there are no objections.

Reason for change- extremely diverse and we feel that the title of department doesn’t fit us and that school is more fitting. No plan to request own dean.

Response to graduate studies proposal.
Have been told verbally that Martin liked it and wants to implement it, but can’t do it right away. Jeff has to wait and see what we officially get. Biggest sticking point is that there’s no money for it. Will be at M&C. Jeff is trying to press them on this, but not getting much officially, unofficially is being told they support it. Jeff will tell when he knows more.

$65

How the deans use this and how is implemented across campus. We don’t know the answers to this, is kind of like the Wild West. Will be asking for data, who is doing what and how.

Arranged course form.

The admin requested a change to clarify what they say is the same course. If you do an arranged course, you need to provide a syllabus. Any comments? None. Move forward.

Tom- need to advocate that you push your deans to fill vacant positions at the end of the year. If things get worse re enrolment, those positions will go away. If they’re dragging their feet, take to Jeff and will go to M&C.

Jeff- nobody is saying that the positions that are supposed to go forward will go away, but will try to roll them out later in the year, spring hires. Might trickle a few out.

Mike- what about the adjunct grievance positions?

Jeff- don’t know. Until I have something official, won’t speculate. Assume they’re going to honour exactly how is written. If they don’t honour, we have to take it forward. Will go forward under premise as being honoured until it doesn’t happen. We just don’t know.

Curriculum

Donna- issue with time given 10 days turnaround.

All recommendations from committees to approve.

Larry recognised Dennis Lunt, director of leadership

Our only change was writing a capstone course, MnSCU said they were ok with the change. Certificates will require just one extra step.

Curriculums passed.
The recommendation (link)

Jeff- is clear that martin wants this, but not really hearing what the issue is.

Bill Joyce- is there a reason that students weren’t being surveyed?

Dude- we talked about it, and not opposed to it, but students don’t really understand the structure.

Our committee is underpopulated, so if anyone wants to join....

Motion carried.

One credit sustainability.

Motion to take off the table.

Tom

Brian Donovan second

Approved. Discussing the motion again.

Larry.

Because we couldn’t field enough P&E courses, started putting in other courses, like people and the environment. Logjam of students trying to get the sustainability credits. Not enough seats in courses. So lib Ed asked to take off as a prerequisite.

Mike Murray- talked about it in our dept. meeting as it greatly impacts us. It increases our burden having this one- credit course, and unanimous support to remove the prerequisite.

Pat Donnay- I guess I need some info re status of lib Ed and the committee... what’s going on with lib Ed overall.

Larry- we have no director of lib Ed, currently five on committee, only two of whom are returning and so we are trying to find our feet. Right now treading water trying to work out what needs to be done.

? Is this retroactive?

Jeff- yes.

Andy- so I f I have a student who wants to transfer in, given there’s not lib Ed director, who looks at it?

Larry- randy
Motion Larry to continue meeting

Second Janice

Brian Donovan- speak in favour of the motion. This cobbled arrangement, won’t be suffered downstate. Days are numbered.

Motion carried.

Grievance report

Mike Murray

We won a grievance on duty day for summer faculty. Only paid two duty days for search over the summer. We won, faculty were paid. Moving forward, must be mutual agreement between faculty and dean on how many duty days to be paid. Discussion between chair of search committee and committee as to how many days, then chair meets with dean, then dean agrees to it, and then search committee gets paid. If you’re a chair in the summer, as soon as your search closes, look at number of applicants, meet with committee and work out how many days needed, and then go to dean.

Brendan- we are in position of dictating how many days will take.

Tom- is critical that we play hard on this. Searches will be taking place in the summer more and more.

Mehdi- can deans hire without a search committee?

Jeff- no. need a search advisory committee. They don’t have to follow the recommendation of the committee, but there HAS to be a committee as per affirmative action.

International studies

Martin still kinda wants us to say something about this,. Exec motion. We are proposing... PLACE LINK

Is there a discussion on the amendment?

Motion: there would be five members as opposed to three, and no department would have more than one member on the council

Amended motion carried.

Mark- will this committee operate in a vacuum, or would they talk to us? My hope is that the ad hoc committee would not be operating in isolation from the existing international committee.

Amendment- part of the charge would be as a starting point to meet with the current international committee

Second Mehdi
Amendment carried.

Brian move to strike the word “foreword”
Second- Brendan
Carried

Motion carried.

Bill Joyce

Motion: 15 week to 16 week semester.
Larry second
Will MnSCU allow that?
Jeff is local decision
Keith move to table
Tom second
Carried.

Adjourned 5:37pm

Submitted, Lainie Hiller