Faculty Senate
Minutes
6 March 2017

Present: Larry Swain, Derek Web, Kerry Openshaw, Bill Joyce, Veronica Veaux, Joann Fredrickson, Tim Goodwin, Debra Sea, Carla Norris Rainbird, Steve Carlson, Christel Clever, Mike Hamann, Andy Hafs, Samantha Jones, Tiffany Hommes, Jeanine McDermott, Keith Gora, Ryan Sayer, Judy Olson, someone from HPSH looks like another Christel, Eric Lund, Francois Neville, Miriam Webber, Pat Donnay, Sue Ricket, Tim Brockman, Brian Donovan, Gary Rees, Katy Peterson

Called to order 4:08 PM

Moved and seconded to approve January and February minutes as corrected

Moved reported that the Pioneer had asked him regarding a reported student senate decision to rescind +/- grading. No one else had heard anything.

President’s Report
Some information updates on meetings and searches.

With a Gorsuch appointment to the Supreme Court, likely will overturn the case that allowed for union states and so remove fair share membership and the funding received from fair share members. In addition there will likely be a falling off regular members. Downstate office is looking at strategies to address these expected shortfalls in membership and funding.

Pat Donnay asked if the documents shared would be sent around. Derek reported that he has been asked not to pass the documents around, and so presented them this way. Paul mentioned that he worked at Morris, a supposedly more prestigious university and non-union, and makes 10k more here because of the IFO. He recommended making that crystal clear to people. Christel mentioned a colleague who is in a similar situation. Travis Ricks also illustrating the point. Derek noted that we have a good relationship with MNSCU and certain things such as transfer pathways are accomplished BECAUSE we are unionized and unified. The existence of the union benefits the system. Season Ellison was recognized by Brian Donovan and she remarked on her experience in Arizona in contrast to here in Minnesota. Brian Donovan noted that in order to have an outreach to fair share members we first need to know who they are. Derek said that there are national organizers who will help. Derek shared some ideas that he has regarding these things, including reaching out to new hires, people brought to campus to interview, meet with all new faculty at startup, membership events especially at the end of the year.

Officer’s Reports
Negotiator’s Report—nothing serious yet. They are meeting now.
Grievance Report—Derek filled in; Grievance board training will occur toward the end of the month with our legal team. Otherwise things have been quiet.
Old Business
Brian Donovan reminded Derek that the membership meeting in February had referred to Senate to consider the NTC allocation. Derek mentioned that this motion was his and noted that administration has not reconsidered the allocation in years. He wants them to do so. Christel noted that this could potentially shoot us in the foot. Bill Joyce asked if there had been any effort to “debundle” NTC from BSU. Steve and Derek both reported that they had heard nothing from anyone downstate about uncoupling the institutions. Donovan said that he understood that enrollment at NTC had dropped substantially, but also noted that decreasing the allotment might indicate a lack of solidarity with our union brethren there. Jeanine noted community appreciation of NTC. Dennis Lunt addressed those concerns. Carla said we are remiss if we do not consider this, particularly if NTC continues in deficit. Derek noted that NTC has not experience retrenchment whereas we have. Andy Hafs moved that Dennis Lunt’s proposal BSUFA requests a formula and justification of same of how BSU/NTC administration makes the allocation between the two institutions. Carla seconded. Motion carries.

Katy Peterson noted that the wording of some of the motions from the membership meeting in February was not what ended up being voted upon and should be updated.

New Business
Curriculum Report: Moved the report, save #19 which the department is changing. Graduate committee approved all touching their area. Dennis Lunt raised a concern regarding the bioethics, #9, course is very close to the Philosophy course already offered. Season as Lib Ed director notes that the Lib Ed committee did not feel that it was within the committee purview to make that distinction but that Season should raise the concern with administration. Curriculum committee did discuss that issue somewhat. Both Season and Donna note that there is some uncertainty whether addressing that is within the purviews of the various committees. Christel noted that the course in question is at N. Hennepin and online. Donovan asked if N. Hennepin was now teaching 3000/5000 level courses that should be here. Mike Haman explained that the instructor is a BSU instructor and the students BSU students. Motion carries.

Transfer Pathways update: Derek noted that there were some concerns expressed at the downstate board meeting. Nursing in particular. But he had not heard anything from local BSU faculty about any concerns. Jeanine explained some of the Nursing issues regarding Lib Ed issues. Other concerns involve Special Ed. Tim Goodwin said that was more about elementary ed. Judy Olson is cochair. It is still active. But action may be postponed because of a request to step back until elementary ed was closer. PE and Health was addressed by Christel. Noted that there were major issues there due to Board of Teaching issues, qualifications issues, and so on. Donovan expressed appreciation to the members of the union who are involved in the process and stated his belief that these people should have reassigned time. ?? Social Work was up in the fall but she sees nothing about proposals or about minutes of the last two meetings. Derek noted that IFO board asking them to pause on implementation. Transfer Pathways was set to begin in the Fall but will be delayed.

Desktops in classrooms update: during a period of discussion, Derek asked Rob Carruthers to bring a written proposal to M&C because we want to know specifically what is being proposed. Derek notes it seems piecemeal.
Campus Compact Task Force: completing an action plan to encourage our students to be more civically engaged. We currently have no infrastructure. First phase will be more data gathering, so talk to more people about where we are to civic engagement.

Other Business

Motion to adjourn: Christel and Paul moved and seconded and carried at 5:07.

Respectfully submitted, Larry Swain.