BSUFA Senate Minutes
3 April 2017

Present: Jan Heuer, Carolyn Townsend, Joann Frederickson, Steve Carlson, Derek Webb, Larry Swain, Mike Murray, Veronica Veaux, Debra Sea, Sarah Young, Bill Joyce, Kerry Openshaw, Amber Fryklund, Kris Nei, Ryan Sayer, Katie Peterson, Dennis Lunt, Andy Hafs, Tammy Bobrowsky, Brian Donovan, Keith Gora, Miriam Webber, Francois Neville, Paul Kiwi, Samantha Jones, Mike Hamann

Call to Order: 4:03 PM

BSU Student Senate Pres. Kayley Schoonmaker
Discussed student survey regarding implementation of the +/- scale. 33% wanted to keep it. Student Senate repealed the system.

Murray discussed the rubric from Academic Affairs. He noted that this system helps students. Kaylee addressed that it doesn’t help those going for a 4.0. Joanne asked about seeing the survey results. Derek showed those on screen. Survey completed in January. Ryan asked about questions 3 and 4 and how answered. Janice asked whether we knew how many faculty are using the system. Kaylee said no, only anecdotally. Hafs remarked that M&C suggested a dual calculation system to collect data on what actually helps students. Hafs also noted that right now we faculty can choose systems. Paul noted that the difference between and 80 and an 89 is significant and is frustrated by giving both B. Murray noticed too that it is helpful to students seeking to raise GPAs from say a 1.6 rather than 1.0. Joann asked about our past position on the issue being lukewarm. Lunt said that if he needs to make a judgement call, he favors the student. Another issue is that the simple A, B, system encourages grade inflation. Kayley thanked us and will take back to Student Senate.

Webb asked how we wanted to proceed. Travis moved to consider next month, Donovan seconded. Paul asked about getting data about how many +/- were given. Francois asked if Admin is generating data, that we see it. Motion carried.

Approval of March Minutes: Donovan moved to approve Francois seconded. Some discussion about simple corrections going directly to Lainie. Motion carried.

President’s Report:
Provost Search: out of date, recommendation has been made.
Dean of HSHE: closed Friday March 31.
Strategic Planning: please attend
Admin plans on having a grant office up by Fall
A list and contact information where to get assistance on various issues
ICE Document—call Pres office and security
DACA—information regarding the DACA process (international students)

IFO Organizing Efforts-board passed a motion to hire a prof. organizer for 18 months.
M&C Provost and Dean be given opportunity to give feedback to search committee. Swain recommended no, giving up power. Hafs said that was not his take but rather what was wanted was opportunity for discussion. Murray said that a discussion would prevent the dean from making odd ball hiring decisions. Mike moved and Katie moved to bring back to depts. And discuss further next month. Motion carried.

No probationary or fixed term searches on pause. Murray remarked that the psych position is on pause. Keith Gora said that Desiderato contacted Pres. and informed the pres that the online program would be on hold if the search did not go forward. Progress has been made and 2 additional candidates have been called.

No significant budget updates at the last M&C. Carlson remarked that all scenarios point to deficit. Governor’s budget proposal most advantageous to MNSCU. Webb remarked that we’re watching whether there will be a tuition freeze and whether they will put money in to cover it. Murray remarked that we received the univ heights lease and the Sanford lease as info. Webb says that they have been fairly transparent. Webb also remarked that we gave them a list and wanted to know from Admin where they were cutting outside Academics.

We will schedule a summer M&C in case it is needed.

Spring social event April 18, focused on fixed terms and adjuncts. Hafs suggested voting on the budget for the event. Webb asked Senate. Joanne moved that we hold an event with a budget of up to 1500. Paul seconded. Webb mentioned that chairs have the most contact with adjuncts and fixed terms and asked chairs to help spread the word. Motion carried.

Officers’ Report
Negotiator’s Report—opener has been given; meeting with other side in May for interspace bargaining (mutual interests). Try to get develop funds continued when contract expires, Webb reported that that was agreed to.

Grievance Officer—grievance training occurred on March 25. All committee members went through training. Listed the committee members. 1 step 1.

Old Business
Desktops in classrooms: IT is backing off removal. Not enough adjuncts are given laptops. So there is need to keep desktops.

New Business
Grad Committee Report: changing policies to have associate graduate faculty with terminal degrees or documented experience may provide 5000, 6000 classes at dept discretion and approval of Dean and Provost. Donovan asked about “tested”, Cristal explained. Motion carried. Hafs asked about progress regarding raising the 6 cr cap for TA. Cristal was not certain, missing the last meeting. She will check the minutes.

Re: research involving faculty…must come through Senate. Webb asking about institutional memory that this is the case. Donovan averred. Webb asked about a motion in this regard:
Donovan moved that it be kicked to Rules to draft language for Operating Procedures. Does that include Dean evaluation Hamann queried. Joann asked about exempting administrative surveys. Mike seconded. Motion carried.
IT resource request: looking into a process for requests that would parallel the software request process but govern large requests.

**Other:**
Cristal noted that she found in Sept minutes that Grad committee made the request to raise TA tuition waiver. But notes that she can find no response from Admin.

Murray notes that language exists IRB….that includes faculty surveys.

Paul and Mike moved adjournment at 5:05.

Respectfully Submitted,

Larry Swain