BSUFA Faculty Senate Minutes
Monday, November 6, 2000

Members Present: Chris Brown, Pat Conely, Pat Donnay, Deanna Evans, Eric Forsyth, Charles Gagel, Richard Hook, Jo Jordan, Brendan McManus, Charles O’Connor, Ron Oldham, Wally Peck, Deb Peterson, Elizabeth Rave, Jack Reynolds, Jim Richards, Pat Rogers, Pat Rosenbrock, Barb Schuldt, Jeff Totten, Jon Truedson, Randy Westhoff, and Sarah Young

Members Absent (excused): Rod Henry, George Gardner, and Kay Robinson

Members Absent: Rich Gendreau, Del Lyren, Carol Struve, Scott Sasse, Ken Traxler, Rod Witt, and Pat Welle

I. The meeting was called to order at 4:05.

II. Approval of minutes. Four people should be taken off the “members absent” list, as they are no longer senators. They are Charles Alberti, Julie Larson, Louise Mengelkoch, and Kent Smith. Senator O’Connor moved that the minutes be accepted with these changes. Senator McManus seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. President’s report

A. Meet and confer Wednesday, November 8th and 4:00 p.m.
B. Rosters. Seniority rosters have come out. Please check them for accuracy.
C. Roster change. Tom Richards has requested that he be rostered in Mathematics instead of Computer Science. The department agrees with his request. Senator O’Connor moved that Tom Richards be rostered in Mathematics instead of in Computer Science. Jim Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Logo committee. Jeff Totten reported that the logo committee work is progressing. The budget has been increased to $20,000. They have also recommended hiring Russell and Herder. They have held focus groups, and a survey will be developed to get input from the BSU and Bemidji communities. The final decision will be late spring or early fall. Senator O’Connor asked what the process is by which senate will come to this information. Senator Totten responded that the committee would present information to the faculty senate as well as others. Senator O’Connor asked that this item be discussed in the upcoming meet and confer.
B. Curriculum committee.

1. English proposals from Curriculum Report II. This packet was tabled at the October senate meeting due to the possibility that some departments had not been notified of proposed curriculum changes. The English department checked their records and found that departments were apprised of changes on April 8, 2000. The departments communicated no concerns. Senator Forsyth moved to take the motion off the table. Motion carried. Senator Forsyth moved that the Senate approve the English packet. The motion passed.

2. Curriculum Report III containing proposals from Modern Languages, Professional Education, Science, Social Studies, and Visual Arts. Two corrections should be noted. For ED 3460 Teaching of Secondary Social Studies, the correct number of credits should read 2\(\rightarrow\)4 (not 3). In addition, Science 3450 should be listed as 4 credits, not 3. Senator Forsyth moved that the Senate approve these proposals. The motion carried.

3. Curriculum Report IV containing proposals from History, Industrial Technology, and Modern Languages (Ojibwe). Senator Forsyth moved that the Senate approve these proposals. Motion carried.

C. Recruitment and Retention. The committee has put together a draft of a proposal advocating that the university use the timeliness of financial aid/financial obligation completion, the timeliness of class registration, and a semester credit load dropping below 12 and/or the withdrawal from two or more classes as red flags signifying that students need help from academic advisers and/or BSU offices.

D. Academic Affairs. Dr. Laurie Desiderato reporting. The Senate charged this committee with looking at the academic schedule for the 2002-2003 academic year. One problem they have struggled with is the fact that the current schedule has six more class days in spring semester than in fall. Another problem they have addressed is that starting after Labor Day allows for no break other than a short Thanksgiving Break. In their proposed calendar they suggest starting before Labor Day.

Senator Rave expressed concern that some students’ summer jobs do not end until after Labor Day. Senator Young stated that it is a good recruiting tool to say that our school year starts after Labor Day. Dr. Reynolds reported that students with children prefer starting after Labor Day. Dr. Desiderato has heard of these students’ concerns and stated a need for polling students more widely.

Senator Evans asked if faculty could be polled to find out their wishes. Senator O’Connor suggested that senators bring the suggested calendar change to our
respective departments and bring their decisions back to the December Senate meeting. Senator O’Connor moved to table the discussion of this issue until the December meeting by which time Senators will have had a chance to discuss calendar concerns with their departments. Senator Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried. Senators were advised that starting before or after Labor Day, and whether we wanted a week off at Thanksgiving were the crucial decisions that departments should make.

E. CTIR. Barb Schuldt.

1. The Student Senate has requested that students in the 11:00 a.m. classes on Monday two weeks from today has been chosen to ask students how they would feel about being required to purchase a computer. If computers are not required, then the cost cannot be built into the financial aid package. If they are required, the cost can be built into the package. If one is to be required, minimal specifications will be provided. It will be hard to know if students are complying with the requirements, as BSU will not monitor purchases. It was also made clear that the requirement cannot be a program requirement; it must be a BSU requirement. Senator Rave asked about the data from last year. Senator Schuldt said students liked the idea of a computer but did not want one to be required.

Senators raised other questions: What will happen to the computer labs? Is this a cost neutral decision, or is it borne more heavily by students or BSU? If there is a cost to students, could BSU help offset the cost? Should this policy also apply to part-time students? If it does it will be a major financial disincentive to attend. Is the financial aid policy requirement BSU specific or system specific? Who would be responsible for the maintenance of the machines? Should we require a course in computer usage?

Faculty members will also be getting a survey to which they will be asked to respond.

2. Instructional Management Software. On November 27-29 satellite downloads of the 3 software packages will become available for review. Instead, faculty members may choose to examine a video from Leo Morgan’s office. Upon review of the software packages, faculty members will be asked to give their perceptions. Leo Morgan, the deans and Senator Schuldt will all have copies of the survey. This will be a MnSCU-wide decision that takes budgeting concerns and the popular vote into account. The surveys need to be back by 12/8.
3. Fred Hartmann is also asking faculty members to fill out a survey regarding laptop computers. The warranties on our laptops run out this (academic) year. In the Mac environment there will be a significant change in laptops that will hit by the end of the summer and Fred stated he would like to hold off on these purchases. What do faculty members think?

F. Constitutional Review Committee. Senator Jordan asked the Senate if they wanted the committee reinstated this year. Possible topics that could be discussed are: whether secretaries can substitute for one another if one is absent, removing the excused portion from absences, tying university-wide committee terms to BSUFA committee terms and making the language explicit that you sit on both. Senator O’Connor moved that the committee be reinstated/reconvened to work on these areas. Senator McManus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

V. Unfinished Business

1. Should Deans be allowed to sit on committees? The Liberal Education committee recommends that a dean be allowed to sit on the committee on a trial basis for one year with no vote. The committee deals with a number of issues on which a dean’s perspective would be beneficial. Senator Westhoff said the dean’s perspective is beneficial on his committee. Others voiced concerns about having deans on committees as turf protection could develop.

Senator Jordan said the constitution is very clear in stating that deans cannot sit as members of the committee, but that they can be invited to meetings. Senator Reynolds wants it to be clear that they be invited and not appointed.

VI. New Business

1. Center for Extended Learning—Senator Rave. What kinds of students should CEL courses be catering to? On campus Off campus? Both? If a course does have students from on-campus, is the course a part of that faculty members load? Senator Peck said the university needs to discuss when students can take external studies courses. Senator Rosenbrock moved that Academic Affairs examine this issue. Senator O’Connor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

VII. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Peterson