BSUFA Faculty Senate
Minutes for December 11, 2000

Members present: Chris Brown, Pat Conely, Deanna Evans, Eric Forsyth, Rod Henry, Richard Hook, Brendan McManus, Charlie O’Connor, Ron Oldham, Deb Peterson, Elizabeth Rave, Jack Reynolds, Jim Richards, Kay Robinson, Pat Rosenbrock, Scott Sasse, Barb Schuldt, Jeff Totten, Ken Traxler, John Truedson, Randy Westhoff, Rod Witt, Sarah Young

Members absent (excused): Charles Gagel, George Gardner, Jo Jordan

Members Absent: Pat Donnay, Rich Gendreau, Del Lyren, Wally Peck, Pat Rogers, Carol Struve, Pat Welle,

I. President Brown called the meeting to order at 4:05

II. Approval of minutes for December 4, 2000. Senator O’Connor moved and Senator McManus seconded approval of the minutes from December 4, 2000. The motion passed.

III. President’s Report

A. Presidential Search Committee: Reporting for the Executive Committee, President Brown asked that senators approve the following five faculty members as the faculty representatives on the search committee:

- COPS: Jack Reynolds
- SNS: John Truedson
- CAL: Rose Weaver
- SAS: Sharon Gritzmacher
- Executive Committee: Rod Witt

Senator Reynolds moved to divide the question. He asked that all of the people who had been put forth from the various areas and committees be added back to the list of those that senators consider for committee membership. Senator O’Connor seconded the motion. The motion passed. The full slate of candidates considered by the senate was as follows:

- COPS: Jack Reynolds, Dan Siems
- SNS: Louise Jackson, Rikki Scheela, John Truedson, and Rod Witt
- CAL: Rose Weaver
- SAS: Sharon Gritzmacher
- Executive Committee: Charlie O’Connor and Rod Witt

Senators approved Sharon Gritzmacher and Rose Weaver as committee members as these areas were uncontested.

The vote proceeded in the contested areas. Jack Reynolds (COPS) and Charlie O’Connor (Executive Committee) were elected.
As there were many potential candidates from SNS, Senator O’Connor moved and Senator Peterson seconded a motion that the selected committee member be elected with a majority of votes. The motion passed. The senators elected Rikki Scheela as the SNS representative.

Senator O’Connor moved and Senator Reynolds seconded the motion that the search committee elect its own chair. The motion carried.

B. The IFO Board asked President Brown to report on BSU’s planning committee structure. He did so this last week. He has also been asked to give this same presentation to the IFO Executive Committee this week.

C. Faculty position searches. Departments having searches were reminded to get their paperwork in.

IV. Officer’s Reports

A. Negotiator. Senator Henry reported that there has been one negotiation meeting. They are currently putting proposal language together. If faculty members have any concerns related to the contract please bring them to Rod Henry’s attention by the first week in January.

V. Committee Reports

A. Academic Affairs. Two academic calendars have been submitted to us for our approval. Before deciding on any particular calendar, Senator O’Connor moved that we first reduce the calendar question to whether fall semester starts before or after Labor Day. Senators will be asked to argue either for starting before Labor Day or starting after Labor Day. Each side will be given 10 minutes to state their case. A coin flip will determine who starts first. After the debate senators will be asked to vote by a show of hands which starting point they prefer. The winning side will then have until January 22 to submit calendar(s) to the senate. The final voting will take place on February 5th after they have been distributed for two weeks. Senator Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed.

1. Arguments presented for starting after Labor Day:
   - The current calendar is in its first semester of testing and has not yet been adequately tested for a full year.
   - The semester is more compressed.
   - Students do not have to pay rent for August.
   - Day care problems are avoided. (Many day care centers/providers take a vacation at the end of August.)
   - Many employers want students to work through Labor Day.
   - Starting after Labor Day helps when recruiting students.
Many students have school-age children and many schools do not start until after Labor Day.
It costs BSU more money to bring student athletes here earlier.

2. Arguments presented for starting before Labor Day

- Students and faculty need breaks during the semester. The current calendar packs too many class days together without a break. The calendar proposing that we start after Labor Day provides no days off during fall semester other than for Thanksgiving. The only break (other than mid-semester break) during the spring semester is the Martin Luther King holiday, which occurs to early to be of much benefit.
- Starting after Labor Day results in an uneven number of teaching days. This poses a pedagogical problem for faculty members who teach sequenced courses or who teach the same course both fall and spring semester; less material can be covered during the shortened fall semester.
- We need more of a break at Christmas time, and starting prior to Labor Day allows for a longer Christmas break.
- The current calendar is too compressed. Students and faculty are tired and many have become sick.
- Starting before Labor Day allows us to break during the October MEA break.

3. Senators voted to start before Labor Day.

B. Academic Affairs.

1. Senator Robinson reported that the committee has met with Mr. Griggs to discuss issues concerning the Center for Extended Learning. They will probably meet with him again to continue the discussion.

2. Senator Robinson also reported that a statewide task force has been developed to examine issues related to the use of adjuncts and individuals holding fixed term contracts. Carol Richards is serving on this task force.

C. Liberal Education Committee. Senator Robinson reported that the statewide IFO Academic Affairs Committee is developing a task force that will work with technical colleges and community colleges to discuss general education and liberal education issues. The task force plans to meet in September 2001.
D. Computing, Technology and Learning Resources. Glen Richgels reporting.

1. Fred Hartmann has received and is compiling the laptop survey data. He will be writing his report soon and plans to have town meetings in January. Current plans are for purchasing PC’s soon. Since there is an anticipated improvement in Macintosh computer technology, these will be purchased this summer.

2. Instructional Media Software. Web CT is the software package that has been recommended.

3. Web standards. The committee reviewed a draft of the standards recommended for computer use. The committee hesitated to accept the recommendations, as faculty members were not a part of the committee that drafted them, and as the recommendations do not address faculty issues and concerns very well. The committee asked that the senate direct the BSUFA Academic Computing Committee to develop a committee structure to work on web standards and/or a campus World Wide Web plan and to bring the proposed plan back to the senate for its consideration. Senator O’Connor so moved. Senator Oldham seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. Data from the student surveys have been entered and are being analyzed.

5. We have an opportunity to start rebuilding the computer internet network on this campus. If we take advantage of an offer from CISCO Systems by December 31 we will save money. The committee is pursuing this opportunity.

VI. The senate meeting was recessed at this point until the following week.