BSUFA Faculty Senate
Minutes for February 5, 2001

Members Present: Jim Brouwer, Chris Brown, Pat Donnay, Deanna Evans, Eric Forsyth, George Gardner, Rich Gendreau, Janice Haworth, Louise Jackson, Brendan McManus, Charles O’Connor, Wally Peck, Deb Peterson, Elizabeth Rave, Jack Reynolds, Jim Richards, Pat Rosenbrock, Barb Schuldt, Carol Struve, Jeff Totten, Ken Traxler, John True, Rose Weaver, Pat Welle, Randy Westhoff, Rod Witt, and Sarah Young

Members Absent (excused): Rod Henry, Jo Jordan, and Pat Conely

Members Absent: Charles Gagel, Ron Oldham, Blanca Rivera, and Scott Sasse

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

II. Approval of minutes for January 22, 2001. Senator O’Connor moved and Senator McManus seconded approval of the minutes. The motion carried.

III. President’s Report

A. In recent public events Governor Ventura has called higher education an “endless pit” with respect to funding and his proposed budget reflects this negative view. The repercussions could be harsh. Already Southwest has announced that it is cutting 24 positions of which 12 are faculty positions. Of these, 5 are tenured faculty positions. They have to cut 9% of their operating budget. One of the things BSU might have to do to meet operating costs is raise tuition by over 50% over the next four years. President Brown encouraged both students and faculty members to get active and contact their legislators as well as the governor.

B. Kinkel’s legislation. In response to Senator Tony Kinkel’s legislation (see January 22 minutes), one response by the IFO is to encourage state senators to expand its scope so that it applies not only to the MnSCU schools, but also to other schools within the University of Minnesota system. The attempt to expand the scope will hopefully lead to its downfall.

C. The contract. Our negotiators will be meeting with the other side to exchange language. Language issues will be discussed first and budget issues later.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Curriculum. Eric Forsyth moved that the senate adopt Curriculum Report VII as well as the proposals from Professional Education that were unintentionally omitted from Curriculum Report VI. Curriculum Report VII includes proposals from English and Sociology. The proposal from Professional Education consists of modifications included in an Elementary Education curriculum proposal and
passed by committees, but unintentionally omitted from Curriculum Report VI. The motion passed.

B. Budget Committee. Tom Fauchauld has resigned as chair of the committee. Senator O’Connor moved that the senate approve Pat Welle as co-chair of the BSUFA Budget Committee for the duration of the position’s elected term. The motion passed.

C. Recruitment and Retention Committee. Senator Gendreau reported on behalf of the committee.

1. The committee is following a 4-phase strategy to improve publications, enrollment, the freshman year experience, and retention.

2. The most recent news on retention and recruitment is positive. Both new and transfer applications are up. Between 12 and 13% of these are on-line applications.

Retention is up from last year (to over 73%), but this could be improved. Senator Gendreau offered a proposal that has come out of his committee. The text of this proposal has been taken from materials handed out in the senate. “In order to establish and maintain a comprehensive Freshman-Year Experience, the promise of revenue from improved retention is typically not enough. This being the case, it is the recommendation of the Recruitment and Retention Committee to establish a $45 matriculation fee (this is the fee currently being charged at NDSU) to be added to the fee statement of all full-time freshmen for each of their first two semesters on campus. This fee would generate between $55-60,000 per year, which would go toward the following:

• Converting the current .5 position of Orientation Director into the 1.0 position of Orientation and First-Year-Experience Coordinator. This person would maintain current orientation duties plus SOAR training and SOAR advisor assignments (currently done within the records office). This person would also plan and manage all aspects of the Freshman-Year-Experience in conjunction with the appropriate faculty committees and the Office of Enrollment Management.
• Faculty salaries and materials for teaching one-credit seminars.
• Creation and maintenance of a Freshman-Year-Experience/Orientation Center in Hobson Union.”

Senator Gendreau mentioned that they would like to implement these plans fall 2001, but that a more realistic implementation date would be fall 2002.
The materials also included ideas on what might be included in the Freshman-Year-Experience: the establishment of Learning Clusters; the incorporation of service learning and volunteerism requirement; and the implementation of an electronic portfolio, web pages for all students, and a liberal education capstone experience.

Senators acknowledged a nation-wide movement toward incorporating service learning in the curriculum, but raised questions about its placement at the freshman level. Other senators suggested it is time for a broader campus-wide discussion on service learning. They also wondered what the liberal education would consist of. Questions were also asked about the method by which students would be assigned to group.

Senator O’Connor moved that the committee bring these ideas forward to the university council. Senator Brouwer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Departmental Brochures. The Office of Enrollment Management is trying to develop “a consistent, attractive, mutually reinforcing family of outreach publications.” To help departments develop brochures, “the Office of Enrollment Management has designed, will produce and will pay for 4-color Departmental Master Brochure Blanks that visually depict the university image. These blanks can then be inexpensively imprinted in small press runs with department-specific content, pictures and style elements.” Advantages to departments include: every department can have 1000 four-color brochures for less than $200; departments will have content and creative control over 70% of the brochure; and the brochures will be flexible and cost-effective enough so that departments could easily change their brochures twice a year if necessary.

4. The committee is conducting a SWOT analysis—an analysis of its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

D. Computing, Technology, and Learning Resources. Barb Schuldt presented on behalf of the committee.

1. The senate asked CTLR to meet with the BSUFA academic computing committee to evaluate our World Wide Web policy. They are now forming a group of faculty members to help evaluate the policy.

2. WebCT has been improved by executive council.

3. The committee has been asked to make recommendations for future technologically enhanced classrooms when money becomes available. A list of their recommendations was distributed in the senate and will be posted on the web.
4. The committee is also assessing its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

V. Calendar. The dreaded calendar issue (for 2002-2003) was before the senate once more. Senator McManus moved that the senate’s choice of calendar be accepted by a majority of the senate. Senator O'Connor seconded the motion. The senators were asked if this meant holding a run-off vote if necessary. The senators said yes. The motion passed.

Three calendar options were placed on the blackboard. Option A passed with a majority of the votes. Significant features of the calendar are as follows:

- Department Chair duty days begin August 26, faculty member duty days begin August 28, registration begins September 3, and classes begin September 4.
- Thanksgiving break will be Wednesday November 27-Sunday, December 1 for students. Wednesday will be a duty day for faculty. No are no additional breaks scheduled for fall semester.
- Fall final exams will occur from Monday, December 16 - Friday, December 20. Monday, December 23 will be a grading day. Grades are due Tuesday, December 24.
- The holiday break will be Tuesday, December 24 - January 7 (Tuesday). Department chairs will have a duty day on Wednesday, January 8, and faculty members have duty days on Thursday and Friday, January 9-10. Registration will be on Monday, January 13 and classes will begin on Tuesday, January 14.
- Monday, January 20 is a holiday (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day).
- Spring Break will be from Monday, March 10 – Friday, March 14.
- Wednesday, April 9 is a duty day but there are no classes.
- Thursday, May 8 is a reading day.
- Final exams will be on Friday, May 9 and Monday, May 12 – Thursday, May 15. Commencement is on Friday, May 16. Monday, May 19 is a grading day. Grades are due Wednesday, May 21.
- Overall, there are 81 duty days and 70 instructional days for fall semester and 87 duty days and 75 instructional days for spring semester.

Senator Brouwer moved that the selected calendar be taken forward. Senator Traxler seconded the motion. Some senators expressed concerns about the lack of days off during fall semester. Senator Totten called the question. The motion passed to vote on the motion. The motion passed.