BSUFA Senate Meeting  
May 7, 2001

Senators Present: Jim Brouwer, Chris Brown, Pat Conely, Pat Donnay, Eric Forsyth, Charles Gagel, George Gardner, Rich Gendreau, Rod Henry, Louise Jackson, Jo Jordan, Wally Peck, Deb Peterson, Jim Richards, Elizabeth Rave, Jack Reynolds, Pat Rosenbrock, Barb Schuldt, Carol Struve, Jeff Totten, Ken Traxler, Rose Weaver, Pat Welle, Randy Westhoff, and Sarah Young

Members Absent (excused): Deanna Evans, Janice Haworth

Members Absent: Brendan McManus, Charles O’Connor, Ron Oldham, Blanca Rivera, Scott Sasse, John Truedson, Rod Witt

I. The Senate was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. Approval of the minutes from the April 2, 2001 meeting. Senator Peck moved that the Senate approve the minutes from the April 2, 2001 meeting. Senator Totten seconded the motion. The motion passed.

III. President’s Report

A. In the event that the senate is needed to conduct university business over the course of the summer Senator Henry moved and Senator Reynolds moved that the senate empower the Executive Committee to act on its behalf. The motion carried.

B. Generally speaking, planning committees should not meet over the summer, as faculty members are not on contract. If the planning committees do meet then faculty members should get paid for the work they do.

C. The constitutional amendments were ratified and have been inserted into the constitution.

D. Faculty members were notified by email this week that they are to notify the administration when students stop attending. Sharon Gritzmacher (recognized by Sarah Young) reported that certain federal programs (Pell Grant Program) are asking students to return grant money for the portion of the course they did not attend. Senator Reynolds informed us that the Vocational Rehabilitation Program works in the same way. Senators expressed concern about this regulation. The general consensus is that it is the students’ responsibility to drop from classes and notify the university that they have done so. No action was taken on this matter.

E. Print Shop. In a previous Senate meeting, the Budget Committee was asked to explore the financial implications of closing the Print Shop with the
administration. The committee has tried to meet with the administration, but the administration has not been forthcoming.

F. 2002-2004 Calendars. The calendars will be formally presented at Meet and Confer this Wednesday. With minor exceptions, they appear very similar to the calendar the Senate endorsed.

G. Please get ballots in for elections on committees.

IV. Negotiations. All information regarding the current status of negotiations are on the web.

V. Committee Reports

A. Curriculum (Senator Forsyth reporting)


There was some question as to whether Personal Development (PSY 1010) is worth 1 or 2 credits. It is worth 2 credits.

The Senate approved Curriculum Report IX.

2. The committee recommends that the Senate approve Curriculum Report X for 2000-2001, containing reports from Business Administration and Mass Communication, Computer Science, Indian Studies, Industrial Technology, Mass Communication, Physical Education, and Sociology. The Business Administration CIS courses should not be considered a part of this Curriculum Report. They were only put on the report by mistake.

The Senate approved Curriculum Report X with the exception of the Business Administration CIS courses.

B. Graduate Studies (Senator Westhoff reporting)

The committee recommends that faculty have the opportunity to offer graduate courses (5000 and 6000 level) through the Center for Extended Learning (at the discretion of the department). It also asks that the Center for Extended Learning investigate the possibility of compensating instructors comparable to offering graduate courses.

C. BSUFA Academic Affairs. Presented a draft policy statement for CLEP exams. The policy statement consists of seven specific recommendations. These are:
1. The BSU testing office shall contact all BSU departments who have used CLEP to review the newly normed CLEP tests and request that departments determine whether to continue to offer the CLEP test, the course(s) the test will substitute for, what the credit-granting score will be, and any additional requirements for waiving credit for the course.

2. The BSU testing office shall contact departments which have not participated in CLEP exams in the past and make available new information about CLEP tests in the discipline. The departments shall determine whether to offer the CLEP test, the course(s) the test will substitute for, what the credit-granting score will be, and any additional requirements for waiving credit for the course.

3. Informational materials about CLEP testing shall be made available to students and advisors on a regular basis through periodic announcements, a thorough description of CLEP in the catalogue, an informational website, and during SOAR advising. Additional departmental CLEP requirements must be clearly stated and disseminated by the department and the university testing office.

4. Students are encouraged to complete CLEP testing within their first two years (or 45 credits) at Bemidji State University.

5. Students may not CLEP out of more than three classes.

6. The BSU testing office shall monitor the number of students taking CLEP tests, which tests are taken, and how many students achieve passing scores.

7. The CLEP testing program shall be reviewed every five years by the BSUFA Academic Affairs Committee, the University Academic Affairs Planning Committee, and any other interested and appropriate parties. The next review shall occur in the fall of 2005.

Senator Jordan moved to approve recommendations 1-4, 6 and 7 (to be renumbered as 5 and 6). Senator Brouwer seconded the motion. Several senators asked why students would be limited to three classes. The rationale was to force students to get more of a liberal education experience. The motion carried.

Additional discussion focused on the extent to which BSU policy on CLEP exams is reflective of other schools around the region. Senator Henry moved that implementation of the policy be delayed until the committee finds out this information. Senator Schudlt seconded the motion. Senator Totten called the question. The Senate agreed to vote on the motion. The motion passed.

D. Academic Affairs Planning Committee. The Committee requests that the Senate approve the use of four instruments (a test of student computer knowledge, an inventory of faculty/staff expectations of students for computer utilization, and inventory of students’ opinions about student services at BSU, and a test of critical thinking). The Committee further recommends that all University assessment instruments for students be administered as a pilot test during 1 or 2 classroom hours (as needed) during the first week of the fall semester. The
student computer knowledge test, the student services opinion survey, and the test of critical thinking will be administered simultaneously to the appropriate samples of students. Instructors will be asked to handout and collect tests which will be pre-sorted for their convenience. The faculty/staff computer utilization inventory will be sent to respective persons for return to either the dean’s secretaries or to the Office of Research and Assessment. This inventory will not require individual identification, but to be a valid indicator of computer utilization expectations for students, every faculty/staff person should complete the inventory.

The motion passed.

E. Liberal Education. Dr. Robinson reporting.

1. The Committee recommends that the courses it has reviewed for inclusion in Area III be approved by the Senate, that the course additions it has reviewed for Area V be approved by the Senate, and that course modifications it has reviewed be approved by the Senate. The motion passed.

2. Because the English Department has changed its Area I courses, the Liberal Education Committee proposes the following adjustments for Area I:

   • This area will be 2 courses, 6 credits (currently 2 courses, 8 credits);
   • New course numbers are English 1101 (3 credits) and English 1102 (3 credits);
   • Total Liberal Education credits remain at 42; and,
   • The two credits will be assigned to a culminating course required of all students; this course is in the early stages of “construction” and will be brought to the Senate next year for discussion.

Senator Jordan moved to divide the question and consider the first three bulleted items only. Senator Totten seconded the motion. The motion to divide the question carried. After discussion about the actual number of courses students must take to satisfy Liberal Education requirements, Senator Totten called the question and Senator Schuldt seconded the motion. The motion to call the question passed. The motion to approve recommendation of the first three items passed. Motion passed.

Senator Jordan moved that the fourth bulleted item be referred back to the Committee for further review. The motion passed.
F. Committee on Committees (Sharon Gritzmacher reporting)

1. Senate Membership for the next academic year. Few people have been nominated for Senate membership for next year. The Committee has decided to send email messages to departments telling them that the person now serving will serve by default unless the department notifies the Committee otherwise. Information needs to be in the Committee’s hands by September 4th.

2. There are a number of openings on the committees. The perception is that there are a few people who are doing most of the work. The Committee asked that the Senate charge them with speaking at the Dean’s Council tomorrow (May 8th) and requesting that the deans and administrators place greater value on committee service. Senator Welle moved and Senator Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Unfinished business.

A. Faculty Honor Roll. Senator Jordan moved that the BSUFA Academic Affairs Committee meet with appropriate representatives from the Student Senate to discuss the faculty honor roll. Senator Gendreau seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Senator Jordan expressed her thanks to all committee workers as we have tried to implement the new planning process. Senator Richards seconded the motion. All senators agreed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Peterson