Senate Minutes  
December 10, 2001  

Members Present:  Thomas Beech, Drago Bilanovic, Chris Brown, Pat Conely, Laurie Desiderato, George Gardner, Rich Gendreau, Susan Hauser, Janice Haworth, Annie Henry, Rod Henry, Elaine Hoffman, Christina Kippenhan, Brendan McManus, Carol Milowski, Leon Nelson, Ron Oldham, Deb Peterson, Elizabeth Rave, Jack Reynolds, Jim Richards, Kay Robinson, Pat Rosenbrock, Barb Schuldt, Carol Struve, Jeff Totten, Ken Traxler, Randy Westhoff, Rod Witt, Sarah Young  

Members Absent (excused):  Karenlee Alexander, Brian Donovan, Jo Jordan, Pat Welle  

Guest:  Tom Fauchald, Eric Forsyth  

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

I. President’s Report – The Budget  

From last week’s Meet and Confer meeting, each of the bargaining units is being asked to provide guiding principles in regard to the state budget shortfall. In response, the BSUFA Budget, Finance, and Allocation Committee met last Friday to draft a proposal to the Senate. Committee chair Tom Fauchald presented the proposal and, as chair of the IFO Budget Committee, gave a brief report of the overall state budget picture for education and some possible scenarios.  

A. Discussion followed regarding recommendation #1 of the BSUFA budget committee proposal,  

1. Maintain the integrity of all academic programs by:  
   No retrenchment of tenured faculty.  
   No retrenchment of probationary faculty.  
   No retrenchment of tenure tract positions, even those filled by temporary fixed term hires.  
   Fill all outstanding faculty vacancies for this year and next.  

Desiderato/second moved a friendly amendment, that a preamble be added before #1, which after considerable input resulted in the following wording:  

“Whereas, our students’ educational programs are of paramount importance, and the faculty cohort is central to our core mission, and Bemidji State University’s instructional expenditures are less than fifty percent of its overall budget, be it resolved.”  

The motion carried.  

After further discussion, recommendation #1 as moved for approval by the BSUFA Budget, Finance, and Allocation Committee, including the preamble, carried.  

B. Recommendation #2. “Cuts should be made to areas that contribute the least to the quality of learning. Cuts should not be across the board.” The recommendation was discussed.
Desiderato/second moved a friendly amendment to remove the first sentence. The motion carried unopposed. After further discussion, recommendation #2 as moved for approval by the BSUFA Budget, Finance, and Allocation Committee, minus the first sentence, carried.

C. Gendreau /second moved that before any cuts are taken, the administration must provide the revenues and expenditures of the institution. The motion passed unopposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Larson