Senate Minutes 11/25/02


Absent (excused): J. Skinner, C. Struve

Guests: M. Fulton

T. Fauchald proposed that minutes of 11/4/02 meeting be approved. CARRIED

President’s Report (C. Brown)

- C. Brown will miss next Senate meeting (12/2), meeting will be chaired by Vice-President E. Forsyth.

Committee Reports

1. Curriculum (M. Fulton)
   Music Department Resubmitted changes to curriculum. APPROVED

2. Budget (T. Fauchald)
   State and University facing severe budget problems. At the forum last week, the administration presented different scenarios, with a $3.9 million shortfall as a worst-case scenario. Largely due to increases in health care costs. Question of how much tuition rates can realistically be increased.
   R. Henry moved to receive report. CARRIED

3. Governmental Relations (T. Fauchald)
   Recent election was quite favorable to Republicans at the state level. In the MN state House, Republicans gained 11 seats, strengthen majority. In the State Senate, DFL majority reduced to 3, rumors that Governor may attempt to appoint some DFL Senators to positions, necessitating special elections in their districts. New governor also Republican (Pawlenty), has pledged not to increase taxes to deal with budget problems. Various options being discussed, none of which seem favorable to BSU or IFO.
   Issue of Domestic Partner benefits raised, will be discussed under new business.
   C. Kippenhan moved to receive report. ACCEPTED

Unfinished Business
1. **Plus-Minus Grading**
   Plus/minus grading implementation issues were to be examined, David Carlson to present perspective of the Records Office. He was not present at this time in the meeting, so the issue was to be re-examined. D. Carlson arrived later in the meeting, by which time other matters were under consideration, the issue will be examined at the first December Senate Meeting.

2. **Assessment Co-Coordinators**
   S. Hauser argued that current practice of Senate recommending candidates to the Deans (who have powers of selection) is inappropriate use of electoral process. Put forward motion that “Rather than voting to recommend candidates, that the Senate ask Deans to publicize openings and opportunities.” DID NOT CARRY

3. **University Plan**
   T. Fauchald put forth motion that modified version of the University Plan be accepted. CARRIED

**New Business**

1. **Domestic Partner Benefits**
   T. Fauchald argued that the changed political realities meant that the legislature would not ratify new contract as long as domestic partner benefits remained a part of the proposal. Proposed that “The Union take domestic partner benefits off the table in exchange for ratification and closure on this issue”. Essentially this would see if House Republicans would honor last offer presented to IFO during negotiation process. Any action taken here would be taken to IFO board meetings. A vigorous debate ensued.
   S. Young moved to table issue until next meeting (12/2) CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned at 5:15 PM