Senate Minutes for April 21/2003


Continuation of Meeting of April 7.

Committee Reports

Curriculum (M. Fulton)

- Under Curriculum Report 12. A joint proposal from the Professional Education and Modern Languages department to add a course in sign language was sent forth without recommendation. D. Gartrell moved that the Senate consider this proposal. The principal objection to the course was that it was to be staffed by adjuncts. **Course Approved by Senate.**
- Under Curriculum Report 13 there were changes to the prerequisites for graduate courses in Professional Education. Recommend Approval. **Carried**
- Under Curriculum Report 14, new course offerings in Biology, Political Science and Professional Education. Recommend Approval. P. Welle raised concerns about the absence of cross listings between Environmental Studies and Biology, which were contained in the original proposal. A vigorous discussion ensued. R. Henry motioned to divide the report and pull out biology – motion failed. Welle proposed amending the report to its original submission where Environmental Studies and Biology courses were cross-listed. **Carried. Amended report Carried.**

Constitutional Review (B. McManus)

- Currently there is an ambiguity that has both Curriculum and Graduate Committee technically having authority over Graduate Courses. Constitutional Review Committee examined the viability of removing this and giving Curriculum authority over Undergraduate Courses and the Graduate Committee authority over Graduate Courses. Recommend this change. **Carried**

Graduate Studies (C. Kippenhan)

- There is currently no formal policy, only an unwritten rule, that Graduate stipends be the same across campus. This committee recommended that the Dean of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the Academic VP and the Graduate Committee, set that amount of assistantships. There will be a base stipend for all, but individual departments may augment this by using non-campus funds.
- There was a move to table this to the next meeting by B. McManus that failed.
- This proposal was **Carried.**

Meeting of April 7 adjourned.
Meeting of April 21


President’s Report (C. Brown)

- Require feedback from faculty on handbook for students with special needs.

Salary Equity (M. Wick)

- Responsibility to come up with recommendations based on series of studies. Bemidji’s deviation less than the average across MNSCU. Recommend that we seek adjustment of one standard deviation from norm, for those at the bottom of the pay scale. Also, suggested that we employ campus, rather than system wide model. Both Carried

Committee on Committees (S. Gritzmacher)

- Elections will be coming up, numerous committee vacancies from COPS. Also, some question re the expiration dates of Senate terms, faculty will be contacted.

Continuation of 4/21 meeting on 2/28


Excused: K. Robinson

Guest: J. Brouwer

Budget and Governmental Relations (T. Fauchald)

- Carrie Rudd voted against pay freeze.
- Leg likely to pass legislation easing process of acquiring concealed weapons permits. There will be limitations on carrying on schools and buses. Current bill will allow schools to regulate students and employees but not the public.
Two higher education bills currently going to conference committee – House bill calls for $50 m more than the governor had proposed, with $22m going to MNSCU. Senate called for $148 m more than the governor’s proposal. They offer to pay for this by cutting appropriations for state grants and ceilings of maximum amounts. Will impact private more than public universities.