Senate Minutes for 11/10/03

The meeting was called to order by VP Eric Forsyth at 4:12 PM

Present were:

Brendan McManus, Drago Bilanovic, Richard Gendreau, Dada Maglajlic, Marty Wolf, Todd Frauenholtz, Christel Kippenhan, Pat Conely, Annie Henry, Patrick Welle, Carol Neilsen, Susan Hauser, Russ Bennett, David Griffith, Keith Marek, Rod Witt, Tom Fauchald, Elaine Hoffman, Rick Koch, Tom Beech, Carol Struve, Eric Forsyth, and Janice Haworth. President Chris Brown arrived at approximately 4:45 PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

A request was made by Kippenhan to amend the order of the Agenda to accommodate her Graduate Studies Committee report so that she could leave for another commitment.

A motion to do so was made by Kippenhan and seconded by Gendreau.

The Senate voted to approve the amended Agenda.

Graduate Studies Committee Report:

Kippenhan reported that the GSC believes that Graduate Studies don’t get the attention they deserve. Although MnSCU has the goal of expanding Graduate Studies, GS are not included in the University Work Plan. A Statement of Value was distributed to members of the Senate with a request that the Statement be included in the Senate Minutes. Because this was a committee recommendation, a second was not required.

Discussion:

Dada suggested the inclusion of a statement encouraging the exploration of more graduate program options.

Kippenhan indicated that the GSC members did not believe that this was appropriate in a statement of values but they do believe that the exploration of additional graduate program options is important.

Senate voted to include the Statement of Value in the Minutes.

Statement on the Value of Graduate Education
October 2003

The Graduate Committee submits the following statement concerning the role of graduate education at our university and states as strongly as possible that the graduate programs must remain robust in order for the university to continue to function well.

Among the many contributions our graduate programs make to the university, state, and region are:
• An enhanced image among the public;

• Enrichment of undergraduates’ educational experience;

• Attraction for recruiting new, excellent faculty and retaining them (Goal 16 of the MnSCU Strategic Plan 2002-2005);

• Increased opportunities for faculty development and scholarly activity;

• Fulfillment of the needs of employers throughout the state for graduate-level-prepared employees such as K-12 educators, community and technical college teachers, and business, industry and government professionals and leaders;

• Staffing for many university services, such as the Professional Development Center, Online Services, and the Library;

• Staffing and research support for a variety of programs such as Athletics, Biology, Center for Environmental, Earth and Space Studies, Center for Research and Innovation, English, Industrial Technology, Physical Education Health and Sport, Professional Education; and

• Opportunities for faculty across the campus to work in their areas of expertise with advanced students.

Having a master’s degree becomes more and more a necessity in today’s workplace, and Bemidji State University is able to offer quality degrees that employers respect and demand.

During these difficult budget times, with pressure to sustain or increase undergraduate enrollments, we must not lose our focus on our graduate education mission. Graduate education is a vital part of our mission and what we do as a comprehensive university. As the number of high school graduates begins to decrease, our graduate students will play an increasingly important role in maintaining the enrollment the university will be seeking. We have realized an increase in graduate FYE from 41 FYE in FY ’02 to 47 FYE in FY ’03 to approximately 75 FYE this fall. It would be shortsighted to decrease our emphasis on graduate education at this time.

This view is supported by MnSCU as it lists the expansion of graduate education as one of the goals in the 2002-2005 MnSCU Strategic Plan (Goal 9).

Graduate education is an important component of this university and promises long-term growth. Thus, it must be nurtured and supported in these challenging times.

**Curriculum Committee Report:**

McManus followed up on last week’s discussion of course cross listing. Curriculum Committee wants to include cross-listed courses in the catalog but eliminate simultaneous enrollment within any one semester.
In answer to the question about whether simultaneous graduate/undergraduate course listings caused data management difficulties, the answer according to Dave Carlson is yes. This is termed a problem, but an unavoidable one.

**Discussion:**

Drago suggested that this seems to be a simple computer issue that could be solved through programming changes.

Welle expressed the concern that not allowing simultaneous enrollment may take away a collaborative tool used between departments. He suggested creating an Interdisciplinary prefix for cross-listed courses.

Hauser spoke in favor of the proposal maintaining cross listing in the catalog but not within the schedule.

The question was called. A voice vote was taken with unclear results. The proposal was then passed on a show of hands with 16 in favor, 5 opposed.

Welle again stated that he would like to work toward another option, perhaps one with an Interdisciplinary prefix.

McManus stated that it would be added to the next Curriculum Committee Agenda.

**Parking Committee Report:**

John Truedson distributed a slightly outdated map of campus parking lots, considering that the Hagg-Sauer parking lot had been closed as of this date.

Truedson indicated that the Parking Committee doesn’t want to antagonize the students by designating specified faculty parking lots. He also stated that BSU has the lowest annual parking fee of the MnSCU universities. He discussed the option of a tiered parking system whereby desirable lots closer to academic buildings would be priced higher than less desirable lots. He also indicated some talk of buying up the block South of Bangsburg for additional parking.

Noting that a parking garage would be cost-prohibitive, Truedson asked what Senate wanted in terms of the parking issue.

**Discussion:**

Heated discussion followed. A statement was made that students want equal access and equal time.

Fauchald asked how much a desirable parking tag might cost.
A. Henry asked about other State Universities and how they handled parking. She also spoke to the concern about teaching night classes and then having to walk unescorted to a distant lot.

Beech mentioned that we lose spaces in the parking lots during winter when lines under the snow are not visible and people park all over.

Struve asked why the University couldn’t establish a shuttle system hiring work-study students to drive back and forth from distant lots to campus locations.

Fauclald moved and Gendreau seconded that Senate go on Record for a tiered parking system and elimination of overnight parking in the Ed Arts, American Indian Resource Center, Bangsburg, Decker and Rec Center lots.

Bennett asked if any of the MnSCU universities provide free parking to their faculty and staff. The answer was no.

Witt stated that by voting in favor of the motion Senate was placing the issue in the lap of Administration, which is where it belongs.

Senate voted to pass to motion.

**CURRENT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

At 4:50 PM Brown took over broke the agenda to discuss the current state of contract negotiations. He stated that because the agenda had not been completed that Senate would meet again next Monday, November 17 at 4:00 PM.

Brown discussed the special one-item meet and confer held with Administration and relating to the state of negotiations. At the meeting it was requested that because so much time is being spent in trying to settle the contract that for the present we suspend timelines with the exception of PDP, Promotion, Tenure, and Grievances.

Brown then discussed a negotiations conference call with which he had been involved, and read a statement outlining the most recent proposal coming from the IFO negotiating team. In essence, the IFO rejected MnSCU’s ability to unilaterally impose the DOER-approved insurance policy regarding health insurance. The IFO maintains their ability to relegate these matters to the judiciary and retains their rights to continue negotiating.

Discussion of possible implications of that proposal followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Gritzmacher