Meet and Confer
11 February 2004

Present: Rod Witt, Rod Henry, Eric Forsyth, Carol Milowski, Jauneth Skinner, Tom Fauchald, Rich Gendreau, Jon Quistgaard, Gerry Amble, JoAnn Fredrickson

1. Memorandum of Agreement between IFO & MnSCU; early retirement

Gendreau reported a potential problem for faculty retiring this spring. Grading Day is on May 17th (a Duty Day), if they work on that day these faculty will lose their first retirement check from TRA. We need an MOA to allow retiring faculty to do a duty day prior to May 17th so they do not lose any money -- so their paychecks are not interrupted. This would help faculty morale and does come out of BSU's pockets. Written copies were given to Fredrickson. Gendreau will send her electronic version.

2. Enrollment Update

Quistgaard reported on enrollment updates, handed out a report with numbers by month from 2000 to 2004. Cautiously optimistic. Waiting for more numbers to come in.
Continuing to recruit in the Twin Cities? Continuing to recruit in Chicago? Should we change our recruitment pattern? Discussion followed.

3. Buildings / Facilities / Bonding Update

Amble reported on new construction -- addition to Bridgman building. Deadline to get theatre reopened -- no safety inspection for a long time, and Life Safety things were identified.(New rigging) So this will be finished before the High School recruiting activities begin this spring. Close to the deadline.

Financial responsibility to be able to afford the refurbishing of the residential halls. Deferred maintenance issue with old buildings (built mostly in the 1970's) Discussion followed.

Quistgaard reported BSU to be down on the list on Bonding issues. Hopeful on funding for the second phase. Hockey situation is an interesting journey. We won't know anything until the second part of the session. We got good publicity on the Hockey team.

4. Budget / Allocation Update / Legislative Update

Fauchald reported that Fuller is proposing a bill with the IFO to suspend the allocation model. Cosponsor is coming along in the legislation -- will panic MnSCU -- the newly formed Minnesota Citizens League is probably going to recommend to the Governor that MnSCU should be eliminated. Stanton says we might be able to stop the allocation formula from being implemented. Very good news for BSU. Discussion followed.
Amble reported on the 2005 planning, estimating that BSU will still lose money. Approval for raising tuition (from MnSCU). Looking at BSU's Budget Wish List. Discussion followed.

Henry: At this time we are not contemplating the lay off of tenured or probationary faculty?
Fredrickson: No we are not.
Fauchald: But FY 2006 is a different story.
Amble: It may well be.

5. NTC Update
Amble reported that BSU is helping NTC to be an independent college -- with financial aid issues and federal guidelines. Arneson will take over responsibility for their personnel, faculty and staff records. Our accounting offices will do their student workers and payrolls. Computer services trying to set them up and train them to use the Novell system. Group assigned just to NTC from MnSCU to work to get them to be an independent school. Financial issues and cash flow, etc. Loreena Cook will do Affirmative Action things for them. They have about 700 students now. They could easily go to 1000 with adjustments to their programs. We generate a lot of FTEs through their general education students. Discussion followed.

5. Searches / Positions Update
a. Administration
Fredrickson gave a report on searches for the Vice President for Finance and Administration. BSUFA Executive Board will interview the candidates.

b. Faculty Searches
Fredrickson reported on two faculty searches for Early Childhood Professional Ed position. It was a probationary position and that is going forward with a search.
Probationary position in Special Ed, to cover a retirement.

A copy of searches that are going forward was provided by Fredrickson.

Henry: Request for fixed-term & adjunct rationale. Process is not being followed to hire adjunct and fixed-term.
Milowski: It appears that some departments are not first offering overload to faculty, but instead are just hiring adjunct faculty to teach -- because of the cost savings. This is a matter of contract.
Heated discussion followed. Departments make this decision, not chairs.

Fredrickson will take this up with the deans. This is a matter of contract: Remind chairs and deans that overload should be offered to faculty before it is offered to adjunct faculty.
c. Others
Fredrickson reported on administration contracts -- language for tenure and rank as a faculty member when a dean wants to return to teaching. Department has to agree to accept this person into one of their positions if there is an opening.

6. Negotiations
Forsyth asked if we have the administration's support for our contract negotiations. We'd like to get this settled.

Quistgaard responded that he is in full support of the faculty getting their contract.
Discussion followed.

7. Moratorium
Work Action strongly supported by the Faculty Senate. Discussion went off the record.

Forsyth: To the administration -- many thanks for working for us, the faculty. We appreciate your support in this difficult time.

8. Men's Basketball's Blue Uniforms
Quistgaard reported that this issue was addressed by the administration. It has been taken care off.

9. Other

a) On-line fee attached to on-line courses
Milowski made a report on this. Out sourcing.
Quistgaard responded. On-line University model. Discussion followed.

b) Laptop initiative
Forsyth bringing this from the Faculty Senate, what is happening with the laptop purchase?
Amble reported we are scheduled to replace them in summer of 2005. We have $325,000 budgeted and we need an additional $325,000 to continue with this project. The administration are working on the new plan and will let us know.
Faculty Senate made a recommendation that this program be continued.
Milowski described her teaching routine, and how dependent faculty have become on their laptops for their research and teaching.

Witt asked about the consultants being brought in for Computer Services for a 5 year program review.
Quistgaard said there will still be time for the faculty to respond to this
10. Response to Action Questions
Quistgaard ready to respond to these. Discussion went off the record.

Administration Items
1. Equipment Dollars
Fredrickson passed out a report about last year and this year's equipment allocations. How the dollars were moved to the deans and distributed to academic departments. This year's allocation dropped approximately $130,000, total.

2. Work Plan is on web
Fredrickson reported on the BSU Work Plan. Faculty and staff are invited to review. This spring -- a call for additional input from colleges and departments. Fall -- summary and new priorities included. Planning Committees do a lot of the Work Plan activities.

Discussion followed.

3. Identifying indicators of Three Circles
Fredrickson reported on the Three President Circle meetings. Encourage folks to attend these. The first one went well.

The next two Presidential Circle Meetings are scheduled for:
   February 27, 2004 -- 2 - 4:00 p.m. East Ballroom, HMU
   March 26, 2004 -- 2 - 4:00 p.m. Crying Wolf, HMU

To impose a corporate model onto academia, how to rate programs according to costs, etc. -- how to build or cut. Are we discussing break even or making profit? This framework is good for purposes of discussion.

Discussion followed.

Quistgaard charged Fredrickson with discussing this with the deans.

3. Fixed Term and Adjunct -- annual report provided by Fredrickson.

4. Extension for sabbatical request
Fredrickson presented the issue for an individual faculty member. Discussion followed.

5. Other
Fredrickson reported on a meeting with Senate Dayton's staff -- federal funding for higher ed is the topic. Discussion followed.
6. Admissions Director Search
Quistgaard asked for representation from the faculty for this search committee.

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Respectfully submitted,
Jauneth Skinner
BSUFA Executive Board Secretary