BSUFA Faculty Senate

Date: 1/10/05


Absent: D. Bilanovic (Drago), C Brown, B Donovan, E Dunn, A Henry, R. Koch, M. Papanek-Miller, R. Witt

Excused: V. Boudry, P. Welle, C. Milowski

Guests: Kit Christensen, Deb Peterson, Lee Knutson, Russ Hansen

Called to Order: 4:04 PM

Approval of Minutes
Add J. Brouwer’s name to the attendance for December meeting.
Change the adjournment time to 5:20 PM.

Wolf: Move to accept.
Brouwer: Second
Motion carried.

No student senate report

President’s report
Larkin: I just came from a University Council meeting. There was a motion to approve the three signature themes. I voted against approval suggesting that we look at the IFO Master Agreement MnSCU, Article 6, Section B on pages 21 and 22 regarding faculty participation in planning. Tell me what you think. I think we should come up with a position on this.

Schmit: How do you see the themes affecting the planning process?
Larkin: There are questions about that.

Brouwer: Does anyone else get to have some input?
Larkin: It is our contractual right to comment on this. Maybe we want a second January meeting.

No Officers Report

Committee Reports
McManus: I have two curriculum reports. Curriculum report 4 includes program modifications for Accounting, Aquatic Biology, and Mass Communication as well as a new program for Industrial Technology. The Curriculum Committee recommends approval.

Kippenhan: Math and Graduate studies portions were removed because they were graduate level only.

Curriculum report 4 approved.

McManus: Report 5 is a new program, Liberal Studies Bachelor of Arts Degree. Other institutions have such a degree. It offers the opportunity for students to devise interdisciplinary programs.

Hauser and Brouwer: I support this program.

Rosenbrock: Are there guidelines? There needs to be some form and procedure.
McManus: The student should draw up an outline of how the program would develop. A certain number of 3000 level and higher courses are required.

Kippenhan: I’m not sure why, but I haven’t seen this report.

Fauchald: The students still have to meet MnSCU credit requirements.

Lee: Are there any indications that someone might be refused?

Hauser: CAL and SNS courses will be used to meet the program requirements. COPS and applied programs in sciences are excluded.

McManus: There are philosophical issues, but it could be positive.

Lee: Can the students manage to avoid taking any difficult courses.

Rosenbrock: Miami of Ohio has a model. There are 2 years of liberal education and then the student meets with a committee to present the reason for choosing particular classes. It’s more like an honors program

Schmit: Is there an applied studies program?

Hauser: Yes.

McManus: The paper work is in process somewhere.

Meyer: In principle, I support this but I would like a little more rigor; a thematic focus and a plan.

Lee: Kit Christensen is likely to be on the committee, perhaps he would speak to this.

Christensen: The major requires 45 credits at 3000-4000 level courses. I believe the rigor is built in with the upper division courses. It is a flexible program for a student who wants to take a variety of liberal education courses. It can be helpful. Students will get an education, a degree. It wouldn’t hurt anyone and wouldn’t decrease our status as an institution.

Donnay: Why is it revolving around the Philosophy department?

Weaver: It is Philosophy proposal.

Christensen: Practically, we also have fewer advisees. We are in the position to do this.

Wolf: Will prerequisites also be checked?

General discussion about this issue.

Curriculum report 5 approved.

Committee on Committees

Gritzmacher: I was asked to find members and a chair for Curriculum. No one has identified themselves.

Larkin: We have information in the BSUFA Office. Wendy will get it to you.

Larkin: I would like to move the agenda.

Approved

Email Filtering

Lee Knutson and Russ Hansen from Computer Services were recognized

Webb: I have experienced several problems with students sending me email with attachments. The attachments have been removed and I am not able to get the information.

Knutson: Filtering based on content and extension was initiated in late November. The reason was a virus that came from West Europe that defined itself as an attachment ending in exe and another extension. It was distributed world wide in 17 minutes. We check for virus every 90 minutes, which is fairly standard. From one update to the next, we had picked up the infection. There were 4 messages that infected 40-50 machines on campus. One ITS temporary employee spent 2 days doing nothing but going around
campus to remove this virus from faculty, staff, and student computers. The question is, do we lean toward the side of blocking almost everything or toward blocking almost nothing?

Fauchald: I have gotten calls from a faculty member who said I sent him something that I hadn’t sent. How does this work?

Knutson: The filter can determine the extension and the type of content it is accepts. Generally, those types aren’t the kind to which viruses would be attached.

Meyer: I keep getting cryptic messages. Is there some way that we can find out what they attachments were? I don’t have any way of knowing what this message was.

Knutson: If it was a suspect attachment, you get a replacement attachment that will say gee.text or filter.text. There may also be anti-spam messages. But, there is the chance that the students will end up in junk mail even if they aren’t spam. The vast bulk of the world’s spam is from hotmail because they don’t charge for accounts. Our spam detection looks for various things that spammers often do and so points are assigned based on what is included in the messages. (The magic number is 4.5) We don’t want to delete any email, so it is delivered anyway.

Dada: There is some kind of mail coming in that is sort of scary. It is called Department and is asking for account numbers.

Knutson: Each version of the product contains specifics. We don’t have any protections against NEW kinds of messengers. There is a new process where we will be able to teach our filter to auto learn what some spam is and filter it. It’s difficult to find words that all of us will agree on as to what constitutes a good indicator of spam. Viagra is an example. Student Health, or Nursing, or Sociology might have a legitimate interest in a message that contained the word Viagra.

Wolf: Should we shut off or remove files with a particular extension? That may have some far reading implications as well. We are concerned with being part of that decision process. When there is a threat, we have no problem about have a decision made on an emergency basis. But, when the threat is gone, perhaps we need to revisit this.

Hansen: Wolf asked what are we censoring and why are we doing it. Do you have a suggestion on what we can do to address the issue. We could be down for days or weeks, as have a number of large corporations. We know that it is inconvenient for people, but it is also inconvenient for people who are unable to work because their computers are not working.

Wolf: Give us a message that tells us when we should contact the student and have them put the file into zip format and resend.

Hansen: Just before Christmas we created the documentation to solve that problem.

Fauchald: You do have pip utility that can be sent to a student?

Knutson: That is a question for computer support.

Hauser: Thank you. You obviously have a very difficult job. Thanks for being patient with us.

Hansen: Thank you.

Unfinished business

Larkin: Confirmation of Miriam Rivera Hokenson to BSUFA Student Services Committee.

Wolf: So move.

Meyer: Second.
Approved.

**Calendar**

**Larkin:** Read a message from Milowski about her concerns that calendar begin after Labor Day and end mid-December, similar to the St. Cloud calendar.

**Brouwer:** Recognized Deb Peterson who distributed two handouts.

**Peterson:** Academic Affairs has again asked me to pursue calendar development. We have had a difficult time with development of the last calendar. There are many people who have strong feelings about start and end dates. The standard we use on campus is 15 contact hours per credit. That makes it hard to have a post-Labor Day start and an early end. I have looked at our sister institutions’ calendars. We are in the middle with regard to the number of teaching days not counting finals and counting finals. Last time we got feedback from many university sectors regarding guiding principles to be used in calendar development. They are included on the handout. Academic Affairs met this morning. We are proposing these items for consideration.

**Fauchald:** In the spring of 07, we would have roughly 3 weeks off. Students who are on j-term currently miss classes at the beginning of spring semester because they haven’t gotten back to campus. What about MLK Day?

**Peterson:** If we count back from commencement, we start classes after the Martin Luther King holiday has occurred, thus it did not need to be included as one of our days off for that spring semester.

**Brouwer:** One of the supporting factors is the 70 days. That has always been an issue.

**Oldham:** Did you get feedback on the long weekend in October? Was there value?

**Peterson:** The intent was to coordinate with MEA as a help for older than average students who have children.

**Donnay:** The contract says that faculty have 168 duty days. Where will the other days fit.

**Peterson:** Other days can be built in. We can have an assessment day or an advising day in addition to Student Achievement Day.

**Fauchald:** The precedent has been set between duty days and teaching days. There is a question about MEA. There seemed to be pressure to have MEA as a duty day for student visitations. Did anyone else hear that?

**Larkin:** We are out of time. I will entertain a motion to extend this meeting.

**Fauchald:** Move to extend 10 minutes.

**McManus:** Second.

Motion carried.

**Peterson:** The process is for Academic Affairs to get together with Administration and then everything goes through the process. We haven’t presented this to Administration at all. This is a work in progress. We want to prevent any surprises.

**Larkin:** If we sent this forward as a recommendation this would be a wonderful test case to see if our recommendations are meaningful to Administration.

**Wolf:** I like this proposal. It has divorced itself from special interests. It is well rounded and grounded in things that matter academically.

**Brouwer:** The beauty is that you start in December and count backwards.

**Schmit:** The balancing of the 2 semesters is highly important. People who do repetitive courses struggle with the difference in teaching days from fall to spring.

**Lee:** This follows the Backwards by Design principle. It is a rationale and sensible way of doing it.
Wolf: Move we put our support behind this proposal.
Lee: Second
Oldham: What is our timeline? I want to go back to my department and share it with them.
Larkin: Griggs wants a decision because students are making decisions already. I would like to consider a meeting on 1/24. We can also address signature themes.
Oldham: Move to postpone a vote until the 1/24 meeting.
Wolf: Second.
approved.
Motion carried.

Note, should there have been a vote on extending the meeting? Did I miss it, or did we skip the vote?

Adjourned 5:25 PM