BSUFA Faculty Senate

Date: March 21, 2005, a continuation of the March 7, 2005 meeting


Absent: Fauchald, Henry, Hoffman, Koch, Meyer, Rosenbrock, Schmit,

Excused: Boudry, Brown, Donovan

Guests: Deb Peterson

Called to Order: 4:10

**Young:** I move that we reorder agenda to leave the SOAR request to the front

**Gritzmacher:** Second.

Motion carried.

**SOAR request**

**Larkin:** At Meet and Confer on March 9 we addressed the issue of people working at SOAR on a regularly scheduled duty day. The agreement reached with administration is that on those days faculty who work SOAR will have $225 deposited into their IFO travel fund. This gets around the issue of double compensation. Those faculty working summer SOAR who are not teaching summer school will be paid as if it were a duty day.

**Wolf:** Next time go in higher. (Laughter.) I got the memo from Fredrickson. My interpretation is that those people who are on duty on summer SOAR days, they won’t get the $225 in their travel fund.

**Dunn:** If you teach 4 days and work on Friday, you will get paid.

**Young:** There are two other days listed as SOAR days, August 29 and January 10. Those are mass registration and SOAR days. If they are paying for SOAR days during the year, these days should be included also.

**Brouwer:** I don’t agree that that is a bona fide SOAR day. There are no parent meetings.

**Milowski:** Our understanding from Meet and Confer is that this is a general policy that will apply to any SOAR.

**Brouwer:** So when they call for volunteers, those advisors will also get travel money.

**Kippenhan:** The job on mass registration is completely different than on SOAR. For me it is two hours. I don’t think you can equate that with the other SOAR days.

**Lee:** I think that is accurate. You don’t get on-going advisees and there isn’t a special SOAR program.

**Young:** The students do go to SOAR activities. If they call it a SOAR day then we should get paid. If they want to call it mass registration, that is another issue.

**Brouwer:** I don’t call it a SOAR day because we only do 2 hours at a crack. We don’t meet with parents.

**Young:** But they have SOAR activities.

**Welle:** It seems we should be advocating for faculty. If they are willing to work those times, they should get compensation.

**Kippenhan:** We are being paid for our SOAR activities when we meet with parents, etc.
Witt: I think I agree. The intent is to pay for doing something extra. If you want us to go back to the table we can do that, but I think we will lose this whole thing.

Young: There were years when we worked those days and didn’t get paid at all.

Milowski: The best we can do is take this under advisement and get some clarification. What does SOAR mean at mass registration? Do some faculty do more? Then we might have a better understanding of where we are going to go.

Larkin: I need a motion to accept the $225 paid into the travel fund.

Lee: I move acceptance of the $225 for travel but hold the rest in abeyance until we have clarification on the definition of SOAR.

Brouwer: Second.

Wolf: Can we get clarification before our next Senate meeting?

Larkin: We don’t have Meet and Confer before then. At your direction, I’ll take it to the Provost at our meeting tomorrow. Are you looking for an abbreviated amount put into travel on the mass registration days?

Bland: Can we separate what SOAR is for faculty and what is SOAR activities are for the students?

Dunn: Are faculty engaged in SOAR duties on these dates? Then there is an issue.

(Lots of discussion with which I could not keep up.)

Brouwer: Lets just call it advising and be done with it.

Marek: Another difference between summer SOAR and mass registration: you don’t have any advisees assigned to you for mass registration. We can sit at our table and get other work done. I don’t think I should get paid extra for doing that.

Brouwer: Get clarification and bring it back to the next meeting.

Wolf: Marek made an important distinction. In summer we are assigned to specific students. If a student chooses to sit down at the table, we can refer that student to someone else. The mass registration for most faculty is a very different experience.

Young: I will agree with that. My mass registration SOAR day is different. I sit there with all majors and I get a lot of students who qualify for my TRIO/SSS by virtue of being low income, first generation, or having a disability. Phil and I are very busy from the get go. Maybe that is why I am so passionate about this. That is a busy day for us.

Brouwer: I have done the same thing and if I so desire, I can send some of those students to Marek. I think the assigning of students is part of the difference.

Wolf: You may need to have a conversation with Michelle to get a better distribution so that particular faculty members are not overloaded. The rest of us should be able to help undecided students choose classes. Maybe banners announcing particular departments stand in the way of advising.

Larkin: Anyone want to meet with me and the Provost?

Brouwer: Yes.

Young: Yes.

Motion carried

Academic Affairs Committee

Wolf: I acknowledge Deb Peterson.

Peterson: I have a couple of handouts and want to offer a point of information. We’ve been working with students and administration to draft calendars for the 06/07 and 07/08 academic years. I will be sending it out via email for comment from senate members. Hopefully we can begin deliberations at our April 4 Senate meeting. Hopefully by 4th of April we could begin
senate deliberations on the calendar. Next, please look at the handout covering “turnitin.com” At a recent workshop put on by the Center for Professional Development we saw this software demonstrated. The Academic Affairs Committee is recommending that Senate request that BSU purchase a site license. The cost of that license would be between $3500 and $3600 for one year. It offers faculty and students the chance to check papers for plagiarism.

**McManus:** We could have unlimited use?

**Peterson:** Yes; it is meant to be an educational tool. We saw how easy it is to check a paper against its database.

**Hauser:** I move we request that BSU purchase a one-year site license for this software.

**Bland:** Second

**Welle:** How is this more effective than doing a Google search?

**Peterson:** It is more effective because a google search doesn’t access papers.

**McConnell:** It stores papers as they are turned in as well as storing primary sources for plagiarism. It scans papers for matches. You are much more likely to get a hit on turnitin. As each paper is turned in that paper becomes a part of the database.

**Nielsen:** Do students have to consent to having their papers sent in?

**Peterson:** I don’t think so. If you are checking for plagiarism and looking at all sources, this just takes less time. It is a tool that simplifies what you would be doing anyway.

**Dunn:** At a recent academic integrity conference this was the premier software. It is very effective and very well received.

**Drago:** Students are highly likely to copy from the sources. There is already plagiarism in the sources. You will get some false positives. Students could use this to adjust their papers so they don’t appear to be plagiarized. Why would we pay for this when we are losing subscriptions at our library? And, who can use this. Is it just English? Can the social sciences use it? What subjects are in the database?

**Wolf:** I do have some questions about the ethics of this. When a student writes a paper, they hold the copyright. We can’t turn that over to this 3rd party. We may just have to be up front with the students. I suspect that these people have dealt with these issues.

**McConnell:** They have. There shouldn’t be copyright issues. There is no distribution of anyone’s paper. Papers are only scanned in, they can’t be read or otherwise accessed.

**Wolf:** I don’t believe that I can distribute a student’s paper to another party

**Dada:** I completely agree with Marty. If we make this move we need to inform our students so that they know up front what our intentions are.

**McManus:** I suspect regarding lawyers, that we are ahead of this. Until there is a lawsuit I don’t see that there is harm. As long as we notify the students that we will do this, then they can decide to drop the course or make sure that they don’t plagiarize.

**Dunn:** Ethically, I should tell my students that this is what I will do, but I suspect that copyright issues won’t be involved because the papers submitted can’t be read.

**Hauser:** I went to the presentation The English Department hasn’t taken this up yet, but we should have Tammy Bobrowski come in and do a presentation to the Senate.

**Peterson:** I would be fine with that. I can answer Drago’s concern. This contains a wide-ranging database that includes a number of disciplines.

**Drago:** I think all departments should be equally served.

**Peterson:** If you are concerned about turning in the students’ papers, then they should turn in the papers themselves. They can give you evidence of a clean report.
Oldham: I move that we postpone action until April 4 after we have heard from Tammy Bobrowski and have more information.

Brouwer: Second.
Motion carried.

Peterson: Regarding course scheduling conflicts and how to handle things that don’t fit into the grid: The grid governs when courses can be offered. There are options for all credit options. Most of you are aware of this. But, this last semester there were a number of courses offered in conflict with the grid. Scheduling off the grid hurts students also. Academic Affairs has asked me to come to you for Senate reaffirmation of the grid. We also recognize that the grid does not seem to be working. We have posed some ideas for consideration on how to handle classes that don’t schedule on the grid.

Dunn: We need to stop students from scheduling courses on top of one another. Sometimes students have to make tough choices. It used to be impossible to schedule courses on top on each other without faculty permission. Now all we have is that a flag comes up warning the students that they have a course overlap. They can still take both courses. Furthermore, there aren’t enough time slots on Tuesdays and Thursdays. By adjusting start and end times, we could get in another full class on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Papanek-Miller: In Visual Arts we have block courses that can’t all be taught on Tuesday and Thursday. Some studio courses just can’t be taught in 50-minute segments. By exercising the option to converse with the dean, we have been able to schedule block courses off the grid.

Lee: It seems to me that an investigation needs to happen. Do departments violate these rules because they don’t understand them, or because they choose to not to abide by them because they don’t work? From my perspective, the policy is fine, but it may not be fine with others of another perspective.

Milowski: I want to take a different tack. What I experience is that these conflicts occur in lower level liberal education courses. We are putting students into conflict. They have to appeal to instructors because we can’t discipline ourselves. I’ve never had a situation when students needed to leave my class to go to science lab or art. They do want to leave to go to other liberal education classes.

Hauser: I second what Milowski said. I like the idea of rescheduling the Tuesday/Thursday block.

Donnay: I have the same problem with a student right now. She has a block course she has to take and a class in my area. She needs both classes for graduation.

Welle: I want to applaud the Academic Affairs Committee for bringing this forward. For us it isn’t conflicts with liberal education classes, it’s other classes. I want you to know that we did get permission from the registrar start People in the Environment at 8:45. When we started at 8:00 students frequently wanted to leave at 9:00 for another class.

Dada: My mind set is different. What is grid the for? We have to keep in mind that we are competing with other universities. We need to work for everyone. I would like to evaluate what we have. This is why I teach in the afternoons – so that students can be here. There would be no university without faculty and students.

Dunn: I’ve never seen a system where students are allowed to schedule overlapping classes. I’ve taught at many universities. The flexibility should be on our end. Students need to learn to plan.

Peterson: In terms of scheduling, our software doesn’t prevent students from overlapping. The MnSCU software doesn’t work that way. We have no control over this.

Dunn: Then we need to demand that MnSCU makes modifications to its software.
Lee: I move to postpone discussion pending evaluation of the grid.

Wolf: Second.

Motion carried.

Wolf: I move that we accept the report from Academic Affairs.

Oldham: Second.

Motion carried.

**Liberal Education Task Force Report**

**McConnell:** The Liberal Education Task Force met for the first time on January 31. Information from the American Association of Universities and Colleges and research reports on Liberal Education at BSU was distributed. Several questions were posed and the group engaged in conversation about the skills and knowledge that are essential to a deeper understanding of the world and the formation of citizenship. A second plenary session of the Liberal Education Task Force was held on February 14. Additional questions were addressed, and particular subgroup assignments were identified. The Task Force voted to make meetings open to the university community, and also approved a motion on procedures for chair elections. On February 28. The first subgroup meetings were held. The subgroups include, Principles/Strategies, Learning Outcomes, Integration, and Assessment. Emphases were on exploring ideals and examining constraints associated with developing a Liberal Education program, interpretations of learning, challenges and opportunities associated with developing integration, and assessment plans and models of assessing liberal education. In March, following open nominations Colleen Greer was elected to serve as Chair of the Liberal Education Task Force. Additional subgroup meetings will occur in March, and two additional plenary sessions will take place on April 11 and April 25. During these meetings, items from each of the subgroups will be brought to the floor for discussion.

Oldham: I move we accept the report.

Wolf: Second.

Motion carried.

**Constitutional Review Committee**

**McManus:** At the last meeting we submitted amendments to correct two problems with the constitution. Currently, we have no mechanism for amending the bylaws. The first amendment deals with that. The second amendment is much larger and is addresses the way elections are held. This will be dealt with in the bylaws as soon as we can amend the bylaws. Most committee seats are filled by self-nomination. It is rare that more than one person self-nominates for a particular seat. That person holds the seat by default. We don’t know why the constitution was revised to say that all elections would be by ballot. The nomination is in effect the election. It came up in a conflict last spring when I was asked a question about whether to ballot an election. We proposed these amendments to alleviate this problem. If we are going to preserve the principle of self-nomination only then this is a good idea.

**Papanek-Miller:** What if someone self-nominates but other people don’t want to vote for that person.

**Hauser:** Once you see a ballot you may not like the person running. The English Department wants paper ballots.

**Nielsen:** Can a person find out how many people voted for him or her? If some received only two votes, that person might decide not to run for election in the future.

**Gritzmacher:** The policy has been to announce the winner but not the vote count. But, anyone can ask to see the vote count privately.
Milowski: We are moving away from a paper ballot.
McManus: We are acknowledging what is happening.
Wolf: I move we extend the meeting for 5 minutes.
Gritzmanner: Second.
Wolf: I have some issues with people self-nominating and getting in. The senate could approve that self-nomination. I move we postpone this until the next senate meeting.
Webb: Second.
McManus: If isn’t resolved on April 4 it won’t get to the membership in time for a vote yet this year. We are running out of semester.
(More discussion that happened so fast your that your loyal secretary was unable to keep up.)
McManus: I call the question.
Question carried.
Motion carried.
Hauser: I move we extend this agenda to next month.
Brouwer: Second.
Motion carried.
Adjourned: 5:20 PM

MnOnline Report – P. Rogers
- Russ Kreager Invitation – BSUFA Exec. Committee
- Program Indicators Handout – C. Milowski
- Liberal Education Director’s Position