BSUFA Minutes
December 05, 2005

Present:
Jim Brouwer, Chris Brown, Donald Cloutman, Harold Culbertson, Patrick Donnay, Brian Donovan, Elizabeth Dunn, Tom Fauchald, Susan Hauser, Annie Henry, Steve Heriot, Richard Hook, Craig Hougen, David Larkin, Keith Marek, Stephanie McConnell, Brendan McManus, Kathleen Meyer, Ron Oldham, Deb Peterson, Mark Schmit, Rosalie Weaver, Derek Webb, Pat Welle, Randy Westhoff, Rod Witt, Marty Wolf, Sarah Young

Visitors: John Truedson, William Brauer

1. Called to order at 4:06 PM.

2. Approval of minutes for 05 11-07 moved by Chris Brown, seconded by Marty Wolf; motion carried.

3. Committee on Committees: Pat Rogers has volunteered to serve on the MnSCU Environmental Advisory Committee. Motion to approve appointment by Brown, seconded by Jim Brouwer; Motion carried.

4. Larkin distributed an acronym quiz from the IFO Board of Director's meeting. There will be an award and prize at the next meeting for the senate members who correctly identify the largest numbers of acronyms. Entries must be turned in at the end of this meeting.

5. Larkin distributed a report from the Government Relations Committee. It includes detailed results of the contract ratification vote.

6. Discussion of delegate assembly: we have 15 volunteers to serve with 20 seats open. Larkin encouraged senators to volunteer or to recruit other volunteers.

7. There is an SNS seat open on the Student Programs and Admissions Committee (SPA). Tom Beech has volunteered for the position. Motion by Brown, seconded by Wolf, to approve appointment of Beech; motion carried.

8. Larkin announced that the Liberal Education Director position (three credits reassigned time each semester) is open effective spring semester 2006 and lasting three semesters (one and one-half years), the term potentially to be extended depending on action and status of the Liberal Education Task Force. Liberal Education Committee Chair Brian Donovan noted that applications will be accepted through December 16. Larkin encouraged applications for this position.
9. Larkin announced that there is still an IFO opening on the screening group for an Interim Director of Manufacturing and Applied Engineering. Larkin has volunteered to serve, and will withdraw if another candidate comes forward. The initial meeting of this screening group is Dec 12, 2006.

10. Motion by Donovan, second by Brown, to move into Executive Session. motion. Executive session was held from 4:16 PM - 4:21 PM. Motion by Brown, seconded by Kathy Meyer, to return to general session; motion carried.

11. Curriculum Report IV presented by William Brauer; Randy Westhoff reported that the Graduate Committee approved graduate components. Report approved.

12. Committee on Committees information presented by Brendan McManus: The Committee on Committees will be sending to the Senate (1) proposed amendments to the constitution, and (2) a charge for the proposed merged Constitutional Committee and the Committee on Committees.

13. Report from Deb Peterson, Academic Affairs Committee: the Senate had asked that the Academic Affairs Committee meet with Provost Fredrickson regarding an articulation agreement between Bemidji State University and Alexandria Technical College concerning the latter's proposed Associate of Arts degree that would utilize courses from Bemidji State. Provost Fredrickson volunteered to visit the Senate to discuss this further.

Chris Brown moved, seconded by Donovan, that the Senate ask the Provost to visit a Senate meeting to discuss the articulation agreement with Alexandria Technical College; motion carried. The invitation will be extended for the January 9, 2006 Senate meeting.

Larkin suggested that Barb Hanus be invited to participate in this discussion given her recent election to the IFO AA Task Force.

14. Donovan distributed a Liberal Education Task Force Report which included a “Working Mission Statement” that reads as follows:

"Liberal education, a central component of university life, provides an opportunity to reflect on what we value in arts, sciences, and social relations. The unifying mission of the Liberal Education Program at Bemidji State University is to promote a spirit of inquiry and to foster critical thinking skills needed to make sound choices; it serves to enhance quality of life by helping each person reach full potential. Liberal Education develops effective citizens who appreciate learning as a life-long search for understanding and who are
willing to engage and evaluate new ideas and diverse perspectives."

Motion by Deb Peterson, seconded by Brown, to accept the report; motion carried.

15. Brendan McManus reported from the Academic Computing Committee, responding to the Senate's earlier request that ACC seek answers to some questions about a rubric and other issues regarding online courses and the Office of Distance Learning. ACC learned that only courses delivered as "03" are required to use the D2L online course platform. Courses with using other platforms can be offered using other codes. It was noted that it is possible to comply with the D2L "03" requirement by using D2L as a gateway to a different platform.

Regarding the $150 payment per course to faculty and potential intellectual property rights' issues: the AAC learned that this is a payment for participating in a consulting session on the rubric, use of which, in the end, is optional. The payment is not associated with development and therefore does not mark a course as Work for Hire.

Regarding concern that the rubric interfered with academic freedom: R. Griggs, Distance Learning, said use of the rubric is optional and is not a MnSCU initiative, though it might preempt later MnSCU interference. The intent of the rubric is to help faculty in the construction of online courses.

Motion by Brown, seconded by Donovan, to refer to statewide Meet and Confer the potentially mandatory imposition of an instructional media system (i.e., the D2L platform); carried.

16. Derek Webb acknowledged visitor John Truedson, co-chair of the MnSCU Academic Instructional Technology Committee (AITC), who reported on the progress of that committee and expressed a desire to improve the structure of the committee. Larkin will try to obtain information on how other related committees work and coordinate their respective efforts.

Truedson also reported on software under review and on legislative items.

17. At 4:50 PM Witt moved, seconded by Meyer, to adjourn the meeting; motion carried.

Recorder: Susan Hauser