BSUFA Senate Minute
February 6, 2006


Guest: William Brauer

1. The Senate convened at 4:06 PM.
2. Amendment to the January 9, 2006 minutes by C. Brown, seconded by D. Cloutman to reflect that Dave Larkin was present. Minutes approved as amended.
3. Larkin distributed a green handout titled "FY 06 IFO Membership Statistics."
4. Larkin announced a dinner meeting for delegates to the General Assembly. This meeting will be held in the lower level of the David Park House on March 20, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss resolutions for the General Assembly. Chris Brown described the process. Resolutions may be brought to the March 6, 2006 Senate meeting. There are three more openings for delegates and Larkin encouraged the faculty to volunteer for the positions and to encourage other members of the bargaining unit to consider participating in this event.
5. The Human Subjects Review committee still needs a representative from the College of Arts & Letters.
6. There were no officers' reports.
7. Curriculum Report VI, 2005-06: Curriculum Committee Chair W. Brauer recommended approval of the undergraduate items in the report; C. Kippenhan, Graduate Committee Chair, recommended approval of graduate items. Both recommendations were approved by Senate.
8. Constitutional Review Committee, B. McManus reporting for CRC and Committee on Committees which had met in joint session: As reported to the Senate fall 2005, the CRC and C on C agreed to move toward uniting. Stage One: amendment to the constitution to create a joint committee (Rules Committee); the CRC and C on C would be deleted from the constitution. Step Two: write the charge. A motion to accept the joint report was made and seconded. The motion carried. The amendment to the Senate constitution will now go to the membership. Step Two, creation of the charge, will take place after the amendment vote.
9. Liberal Education Task Force Report
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The Liberal Education Task Force met in plenary session on January 30, 2006. At the meeting Dr. Marsha Driscoll provided a brief report on information obtained at the AAC&U conference she attended from January 24-28. Dr. Driscoll outlined the relationship between learning outcomes and assessment and shared successful liberal education reform strategies from other universities. Task Force representatives spent the remaining time during this plenary session comparing the working mission statement to previously proposed learning outcomes. At the next meeting, on February 13, representatives will continue to work toward developing a list of learning outcomes for possible adoption.

Submitted by;
Colleen Greer, Chair
Liberal Education Task Force

10. Liberal Education Committee, Stephanie McConnell: (1) Update on the Task Force. (2) Recommendation from the Liberal Education Committee: Appoint Susan Hauser as LE Director for two-credits for the remainder of this academic year.

11. Motion to accept the report, C. Kippenhan, seconded M. Wolf. Motion carried.

12. Governmental Relationships Committee, T. Fauchald: A report was given and a handout was distributed. Concern was expressed regarding certain aspects of President George W. Bush's recently released proposed budget.

13. Academic Affairs Planning Committee, D. Peterson: The committee voted at their last meeting to drop the planning aspects of their committee work (which they have generally not engaged in) and to address only assessment activities. C. Kippenhan moved, T. Frauenholtz seconded to accept the Governmental Relations and Academic Affairs reports. Motion carried.

14. Larkin reported on a nepotism policy proposed by MnSCU: it has met considerable resistance and is still under discussion with little prospect for passage.

15. M. Schmit reported on negative and positive aspects of seniority rosters based on programs (vs. departments). There are currently two such rosters in Technology Studies. A similar situation exists in Professional Education for D2L. A discussion ensued.

16. D. Larkin reported on Metro State's seven-year sabbatical policy (versus Bemidji State's ten-year policy). A discussion ensued regarding backfill for courses.
17. D. Larkin and D. Webb: Concerns have been raised regarding delays and time lines in the hiring process. Efforts are being made to address the situation. Larkin noted that the topic is being discussed at Meet and Confer sessions.

18. D. Larkin and C. Brown: Inquiries were made regarding evaluations of administrators. It appears that Bemidji State is the only MnSCU University that does not participate in such evaluation. Efforts are underway to redress this situation. A discussion ensued.

19. S. Young reported on the SOAR schedule; she will report again at a subsequent Senate meeting.

20. D. Larkin reported on the ad hoc Women's Studies Committee. The committee roster is full. There are two volunteers from COPS and an election will be held to determine the representative.

21. D. Peterson reported on a State of Minnesota proposed constitutional amendment prohibiting same-sex marriage. The Department of Social Relations and Services requests that the Senate take a position on this. Motion by T. Fauchald, seconded by D. Webb ("Together Minnesota" language) to endorse the following statement: “The BSUFA opposes any amendment to the Minnesota Constitution that prohibits or limits marriage, civil unions and/or legal protections for same-sex couples.” A discussion ensued. Motion carried.

22. Motion to move into Executive Session by D. Webb, seconded by M. Wolf, 4:56 PM. Motion carried.

23. Return from Executive Session, 5:27 PM.

24. Motion by K. Meyer to direct the Executive Committee to draft a process for disciplinary action regarding dissatisfaction with the administration.

25. Substitute motion by P. Rosenbrock, seconded by J. Brouwer: Motion to authorize the Executive Committee to be prepared at the next Meet and Confer to (1) inform the administration that there is concern among the faculty about the performance of administrators, and there is discussion about developing an evaluation process from the faculty's point of view, and (2) to call on the administration to evaluate administrators this semester.

26. Motion to Table by J. Brouwer; not seconded.

27. Call for the question (for the substitute motion) by E. Dunn, seconded by R. Hook. Motion carried.

28. Vote to approve the substitute motion carried.

Note: The next Senate meeting will be held on Monday, March 6, 2006. D. Larkin will be out of town; Vice President E. Dunn will preside.

Recorder: Susan Hauser