BSUFA Senate Meetings  
January 22, 2007

Present: Tammy Bobrowsky, William Brauer, Chris Brown, Donald Cloutman, Sue Cutler, Patrick Donnay, Brian Donovan, Elizabeth Dunn, Tom Fauchald, George Gardner (substituting for Sandra Bland), Susan Hauser, Craig Hougen, Christina Kippenhan, Russ Lee, Keith Marek, Brendan McManus, Kathleen Meyer, Carol Milowski, Ron Oldham, Deb Peterson, Joel Pugh, Mark Schmit, Jauneth Skinner, Richard Spindler, Derek Webb, Pat Welle, James White, Rod Witt, Marty Wolf, Sarah Young

Excused: Bland, Sandra

Guests: Rod Henry, Sharon Gritzmacher

1. Call to order: 4:05 PM.
2. Minutes, December 4, 2006: The second for the motion on the BOT Teaching Award was M. Wolf. D. Peterson moved, seconded by D. Webb, to approve the minutes as corrected; motion carried.
3. The Student Senate President Cody Nelson was not able to attend today’s BSUFA Senate meeting. His report, submitted by email, is appended below. Motion by C. Brown, seconded by M. Wolf, to accept Nelson’s report; motion carried.
4. President’s Report:
   MnSCU is proposing a system-wide training on computer security, through D2L. This is still under discussion.

   BOT Teaching Award: Bemidji has been joined by Moorhead and Mankato in declining to participate in the award.

   The Governor has made a proposal to increase college offerings in high schools. This is under discussion at Meet and Confer.

   The Governor has approved an increase in the MnSCU budget. Most are one-time increases.

   Dunn recommends that faculty read the emails on downstate developments.

   On January 1, 3:00 PM, there will be a special one-item Meet & Confer on budget, followed by a campus-wide meeting (Beaux Arts, 4:00 PM, Wednesday, January 31, 2007).

   The BSUFA Executive Committee has drafted a letter in response to the administration’s budget proposal. Per the discussion, phrases will be added on the creation of knowledge, and to avoid “out-sourcing” instructional services Motion by T. Fauchald, seconded by B. Donovan, to approve the letter as edited; motion carried.
5. Officer’s Reports
Grievance Officer: R. Witt reported on the proposed May Term, which is not accommodated in the contract. Issues include lack of standardization across the system; knowledge of practice from one campus to the next; practice on one campus being presented as precedent for the system. R. Henry (State IFO Negotiator) continued the discussion adding that the IFO should pursue an MOA (local) or an LOU (system). An MOA was proposed by the BSUFA; it was rejected. A grievance is the next step.

Motion by C. Brown, seconded by T. Fauchald: Bemidji State will grieve the Bemidji State administration regarding May Term at Bemidji State. Motion carried.

6. Treasurer’s Announcement: T. Fauchald will be sending out the MnSCU portion of the Governor’s budget report.

7. Unfinished Business
Syllabus B (recommended for Pandemic Planning) was taken to Meet and Confer. Requiring a Syllabus B essentially may require faculty to create an additional course. The Executive Committee proposed the following statement, which could be included on syllabi: “This syllabus is subject to change with appropriate notice.” This was accepted by the administration.

8. New Business
Emeritus ad hoc committee: BSU awards emeritus status to retiring faculty who have at least twenty years of service. Other MnSCU university campuses award the status at ten or fifteen years. A committee was proposed to consider reducing the BSU number to ten or fifteen years. In lieu of forming such a committee, C. Milowski moved, seconded by C. Brown, that emeritus status be granted automatically to faculty who retire from Bemidji State with fifteen years of service. In addition, the policy will be retroactive for faculty who retired within the last five years. The motion carried.

President Dunn announced that the Provost’s office will conduct a Climate Survey for faculty, for use in the accreditation process.

Summer Grading Proposal: Currently grades for both summer sessions are not due until the end of the second session. The administration proposes that grades be due five days after the last scheduled day for each class. A discussion ensued. (M. Wolf recognized R. Henry; K. Meyer recognized S. Gritzmacher.) It was noted that this policy would be problematic for Sinosummer, other study abroad programs and internships. These concerns will be taken back to Meet and Confer.

Dunn noted that academic completion rules are now being applied more broadly, as required by the MnSCU Board, affecting not only financial aid, but academic standing as well. A one-semester warning is given to students in jeopardy for expulsion. The system is now in place.

Motion by M. Wolf, seconded by T. Fauchald, to reorder the agenda to move to the discussion of a Cameroon Resolution; motion carried.

B. Donovan presented information on a recent event at the University of Buea and moved
the following, seconded by D. Peterson:

_The Bemidji State University Faculty Association reprehends the use of deadly force by government forces against unarmed student protesters at the University of Buea in Cameroon on the 29th of November, 2006, the suppression of funeral observances for the slain, and the near-total silence of international media regarding these events._

_The BSUFA President is asked to issue a press release to local media noting the passage of this resolution and also to urge its adoption by, and dissemination from, the IFO Board of Directors._

Brendan Banteh, a Graduate Assistant from Cameroon, recognized by B. Donovan, elaborated on the incident. T. Fauchald called the question, citing the lateness of the hour; the motion carried. Vote on the motion by Donovan carried.

9. The Senate adjourned at 5:17 PM.

The Senate will meet again on February 5, 2007.

Susan Hauser, Recorder

Addendum: Report from Student Senate President

>>> Cody Nelson <CNelson@bemidjistate.edu> 1/17/2007 1:40 PM >>>> I will be unable to attend the Faculty Senate meeting - here is Student Senate's brief report:

* All I have to report is that I thank Dr. Beech personally for the amazing Malaysia abroad trip that I was on the past three weeks and my roommate shares the same with Mr. Phukan with his south Africa experience. * Student Senate has a new Vice-President - her name is Steph Smoley - with that we are also dealing with a lot of other turnover. * We have formed a lobby core - a group of 5 students that will be traveling down to St. Paul for roughly 3 - 5 lobbying trips - and as the need occurs. * Senate is selecting students to send down to Washington D.C. for our Spring Break lobbying trip to tackle federal issues in Higher Ed. * Senate is also beginning to focus heavily on the campus "sober cab" program that will provide a free ride back from the bars - with the idea to expand the program for a free ride anywhere in Bemidji

Another year - another Semester - time to get to work.

Thanks!

- Cody Nelson Student Senate President