BSUFA Senate Minutes
3/17/08 (continuation of 3/3/08 meeting)

Present: Tammy Bobrowsky, Chris Brown, Cheryl Byers, Sue Cutler, Brian Donovan, Marsha Driscoll, Elizabeth Dunn, Susan Hauser, Michael Herbert, Christel Kippenhan, Ivy Knoshaug, Russ Lee, Keith Marek, Richard Mayer, Brendan McManus, Kathleen Meyer, Darren Olson, Deb Peterson, Kathryn Smith, John Truedson, Jeffrey Ueland (for Pat Donnay), Derek Webb, Pat Welle, James White, Marty Wolf

1. Dunn called the Senate to order at 4:03 PM.
2. Unfinished Business:
   a. Brown reported on the status of the IFO contract.
   b. Dunn noted that there is room for one more person in the BSU Delegate Assembly contingent. Interested faculty should contact Dunn immediately.
3. New Business
   a. Grade challenge policy, out of the Office of Student Development & Enrollment: McManus reported that the Academic Affairs Committee passed it without objection; Dunn will take as feedback the following concerns:
      i. regarding academic integrity and the new policy;
      ii. regarding grades being challenged during a semester when an instructor is not available for consultation;
      iii. regarding process of item D.2: how does the process work regarding responses and counter-responses in writing?
   b. VSA: Voluntary System of Accountability <www.aascu.org/accountability>: Dunn presented information on this alternative approach which provides a national comparison vs. a system comparison.

      Webb moved, seconded by Meyer, that the Senate encourage the administration to move forward with an application to VSA; motion carried.
   c. Green fee student initiative: a student fee assessment for a “green fee” was passed by the Student Senate, along
with in initiative for a “sustainability” position. Webb reported that the administration is supporting this effort. The President of the Student Senate has asked that the faculty support their actions. A discussion ensued.

Driscoll moved, seconded by Welle, that the Senate formally support the two “green fee” resolutions presented by the Student Association; motion carried.

4. Dunn presented a request from President Quistgaard for four faculty representatives on the President’s Futures Council. Motion by Donovan, seconded by Wolf, that the one representative be elected from each college plus one from Student & Academic Services. Kippenhan noted that the question of how to apportion the seats was previously sent to the Rules Committee; McManus (Rules Committee) noted that they questioned the reasonability of making such decisions prior to college reorganization. A discussion ensued. Dunn noted that a decision on college reorganization will be announced at the March 26 Meet & Confer and that, according to our constitution, committee elections must take place in April.

Donovan and Wolf withdrew their motion. Motion by Meyer, seconded by Driscoll, that the Rules Committee develop a timeline and solution for electing committee membership under a new college structure; motion carried.

5. Dunn announced that the departmental reorganization as previously proposed has been put in place. The reorganized departments have been asked to write constitutions and bylaws.

6. McManus asked about the status of a faculty position on the Foundation Board. Dunn noted that she is continuing pursuit of this concern.

7. A discussion took place regarding legislation on common course numbering. A request was made to pursue the details of the case of a student who claimed to not be able to transfer credits to Bemidji. Dunn will make inquiries regarding this particular case.
8. Donovan noted that Normandale Community College has formally requested that first-year languages be allowed in Category 8 of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum. The proposal is gathering support around the system. The Liberal Education Committee will be discussing the proposal at its meeting on Monday, March 24. Donovan requested that the issue be put on the agenda for the next Senate meeting.

9. Senate adjourned at 5:50 PM.