BSUFA Senate Minutes
Monday, August 25, 2008

Present: Tammy Bobrowsky, Chris Brown, Sue Cutler, Phil Dahl, Brian Donovan, Tom Fauchald, Doug Leif, Keith Marek, Brendan McManus, Deb Peterson, Karl Salscheider, Derek Webb, Pat Welle, James White, Marty Wolf

Guests: Rod Henry,
Becky Boe, Becky Rosendahl, Ryan Schwinger
Sharon Gritzmacher

Called to order at 4:02

President Chris Brown reminded the Senate that this would not be a typical meeting. Senate needs to firm up representation given the new College and Department reorganization. This meeting would be mainly announcements.

Brown turned the floor over to Rod Henry to address the Senate as IFO President.

Henry is on state campus tour. He stressed that full membership helps IFO statewide, and encouraged senators to recruit.

Henry thanked the membership and Russ Stanton on successful contract. Last year we received an 11.2 per pay increase, double what 2 year faculty negotiated.

Henry advised new faculty in selecting retirement: Listen carefully and select your retirement option wisely.

We will need support for negotiations this year. We are dealing with fallout of the nine month contracts, and double-contracting at MnSCU central. There will be a task force on each campus to deal with nine-month contracts. We are unsure how TRA will be responding to nine month contracts yet. Advised faculty to go slow if you’re deciding on a nine-month contract. Mentioned that consistent messages from faculty helps negotiations.

There are new policies for driving, especially regarding students. The policy is vague, and may hold faculty responsible. Check into the policy if you’re driving.

As of July 1, 2008, MnSCU brought in a new policy on textbook sales. Faculty may not sell comp copies of texts for personal gain. It might be ok to sell if money is used for department or club. Faculty can no longer donate books and take a tax write-off.

We now have data on where faculty are in their contracts. We discovered a number of dual appointments in the system. Advice: If you take a permanent contract job outside
the contract, you will need written permission from your supervisor (dean or designee). Henry advises to get permission if you’re doing consulting.

Online course loads. Henry mentioned the faculty member at SCSU who turned $120k in online courses. Under the contract, online course loads are unlimited. Henry reminded the senate that the department makes the calls on appropriate load. The department sets the schedule, which means the department can cap online courses and course loads. Talk to BSUFA if you have questions.

Henry extended an invitation to contact him if you have questions or concerns: henry@ifo.org

Brown turned the floor over to student guests: Student Senate Co-Presidents, Ryan Schwingler and Becky Boe; and Becky Rosendahl, Student Liaison.

Student leadership will be working on Get Out the Vote campaign this fall. Requested faculty help in mentioning the campaign and encouraging students to vote.

Brown outlined work for the fall.

The senate needs to take a look at senate operating procedures, find a parliamentarian and recorder.

First M&C coming this Wednesday [Aug 27]. Board execs are being encouraged to bring MnSCU changes.

9 month appointments: Membership has implications to discuss.

CAT training. Exec is taking names for training in how the IFO does what it does. If membership is interested in how the IFO works and wishes to get involved, there will be an email coming from BSUFA.

Senators were asked to encourage new faculty on full enrollment.

Sharon Gritzmacher and Brenden McManus reported on new representation from Rules committee. The Rules committee would like to get recommendations from the senate at the next (first official) meeting.

There are vacancies and realignments in representation: new places exist, others are now gone. Rules Committee is looking into how the reorganization will go, and will be contacting senators and departments. You may email info to Gritzmacher or McManus.

Past practice has been to determine representation by the latest seniority roster, counting full FTEs. There are differences between current faculty counts and seniority roster that need to be resolved. Mentioned Physics, Vis Arts, Mass Comm, Accounting, Nursing.
Seniority rosters come out from MnSCU in March and November. The current thought is to work through fall using spring 2008 lists, and see where we are in November when the new roster comes out.

In addition, we were assured that departments would consist of five or more faculty, and planned accordingly. Some departments have four. Rules committee will be looking for direction from the Senate on what to do with department representation. The first step is to gain authority to change bylaws on representation.

Marty Wolfe: proposed that the rules committee come to the next meeting with a slate of recommendations for the senate to consider.

Next senate meeting Sept 8, 2008.

Adjourned at 4:50.

Submitted,

M C Morgan