BSUFA Senate  
September 8, 15, 22, 2008  

9.08.08  

Absent: D. Cloutman, L. Mengelkoch, M. Rivera-Hokanson, K. Smith  

4:00 Call to Order  

Pres. Brown introduces operating rules: Quorum [60%]. Senators sit forward of upper two rows (reserved for guests). Adjourn at 5:15 or before. If agenda is not completed, Senate meets on the next Monday that is a duty day. Senate minutes will be distributed via email.  

For Recording Secretary of the Senate, McManus self-nominated.  

Approval of Minutes of May 5 moved by Fauchald, seconded by Wolf. Motion carried.  

Approval of minutes of August 25 (w/corrections) moved by Donovan, seconded by Wolf. Motion carried.  

Student Senate Co-Presidents Boe & Schwingler urge faculty to facilitate efforts to register students for voting. Announced debates on campus September 30th, 7:00 PM. Bemidji City Councilor & Mayoral Candidates will appear. Hoping for State and Federal candidates. Request for faculty to moderate debates. Senator Welle urged students to go to the polls & vote vote in primary on 09.09. They can register there at the polls.  

President’s Report  
Brown urges unspecified changes to ensure that BSUFA speak with one voice and the BSUFA Senate be that voice. He suggests 2007-09 Contract is so good it will elicit call for faculty to ‘take the next hit’ if there is budgetary difficulty.  

Committee Reports: Pat Carriere, Curriculum Report I. Moved approval. Motion carries.  

ByLaws Change re: Senate Representation  
McManus (from Rules Committee) Addressing the problem of Departments with less than 5 members not having Senate representation, the Exec. Board authorized various recommendations for the Senate.  

1. Change ByLaws Art III Section B-C to read as follows:
Section B: Numbers of Seats
Each department, other unit or pool may elect senators according to the number of full-time faculty positions that it comprises, as follows:

5-9 members: 1 Seat
10-14 members: 2 Seats
15-19 members: 3 Seats
20-24 members: 4 Seats

Section C: Pools
Any unit numbering fewer than five full-time faculty positions will join a pool for purposes of Senate representation, comprising all units within the same college with fewer than five full-time faculty positions. If a unit numbering fewer than five is not within a college, it joins a pool with all other such small units that are not within colleges either. If a college-pool or non-college pool numbers less than five faculty members, it will have one representative on the BSUFA Senate.

Moved by Exec Board
Seconded by McManus
Motion Carried after amendment/correction by Donovan.

Pools will be notified quickly so that Senate Reps. can be chosen.

S. Gritzmaccher (from Rules Committee) reported that the Music Dept. had not yet named its Senator. P.E. has another Senate Seat that it has not yet filled.

There are now Two Pools: In the College of Arts & Sciences, Chemistry & Visual Arts constitute a pool. In the College of Health, Nursing & Social Work constitute a pool

Nursing continues to contend that the March 2008 Seniority list is in error regarding its membership.

Contested Elections for IFO Exec Board Seats: Sue Cutler & Jeff Ueland; for BSUFA Secretary: Troy Gilbertson & Mike Morgan; for the Environmental Advisory Board: Ellen Jones & Mark Lawrence.

Gritzmacher presented the slate of candidates who self-nominated for “Other” (Not BSUFA Constitutional) Committees and are running unopposed.

Question to Senate: Shall we have elections for new BSUFA Committees NOW, or wait until Spring?
Senator Donovan Motion to have BSUFA Committee Elections Now. Wolf seconded

The Motion was Carried

Shall we allocate BSUFA Committee Seats allocated according to an A-B-C scheme so that one-third of committee-seat terms end next year, one-third in 2010, and one-third in 2011? How do we determine who gets which seat-term when there are more than one per college?

Senator Donovan moved to have Senate approve A-B-C allocation. In uncontested elections where more than one candidate from the same college are seeking to fill an equal number of seats with different turnover dates (A&S or any for LibEd Committee), the candidate who self-nominates earlier gets the choice of which to take. In the case of contested elections for more than one seat, the candidate who receives the most votes wins the seat with the later turnover date.

P. Welle Seconded.

Discussion: an alternative was suggested by Senator Sheikholeslami that perhaps Colleges should be able to determine who gets which seats.

Donovan’s motion was carried with the understanding that Fall Call & Ballots should specify what year the Committee Seats will turnover rather than simply A, B, & C.

Also, at Gritzacher’s recommendation, it was agreed that since the BSUFA Student Services Committee is moribund and expected to be eliminated through Constitutional Amendment & Bylaws change, it will not be included in Fall Call.

Unfinished Business:
Brown brings back matter of President Quistgard’s “Future’s Council,” specifically regarding how to allot 5 BSUFA Seats. After some discussion, it was agreed to allot the seats in the same way as with BSUFA Committees: 2 for CAS, 1 each for HSHEGS, B&C, and SAS.

Regarding BSUFA membership on the BSU Foundation Board. Until 2005, Faculty had had a non-voting seat on the Foundation Board. This was eliminated by the Board. In 2007, the BSUFA Senate

9.15.08 Continuation Meeting (from 9.08.08)

President Brown calls to order at 4:06.

President Brown: The Grievance Officer (L.Mengelkoch) has resigned. The number of grievances is too large for one officer to handle (esp. w/o release time).

IFO Constitution, to which BSUFA Constitution is expressly subordinated, requires local IFO to have a “grievance committee” with a “grievance chair.”

We need an immediate stopgap to deal with current grievances until we can effect a Constitutional reform to create something that is in accord with the IFO Constitution.

Brown presents a recommendation from the Executive Board to establish an ad-hoc committee to handle grievances made up of the members of the BSUFA Exec. Board and the previous Grievance Officers (R.Witt, T.Fauchald, C.Brown, R.Henry, & L.Mengelkoch). This ad-hoc Committee will, in cooperation with the Grievance Officer (the call for someone to self-nominate for the position was included with the last call request from the Rules Committee on Friday.), process and pursue grievances. This ad-hoc committee would be authorized until the first duty day of the Fall, 2009 semester, or before that if a constitutional reform is passed and implemented that will fix the problem.

Webb: following discussions with IFO legal counselors, he recommends the creation of a grievance committee with members from each of the colleges (and non-college units, presumably). This is done at other MnSCU Universities. At St. Cloud, Grievance Committee members handle grievances not in their own college.

Ueland: Supports the “bridge” ad-hoc committee.

Driscoll: questions whether it is best to have members appointed rather than elected.

Smith: supports the proposal including the appointment of past grievance officers to the ad-hoc committee.

Truedson: supports Webb’s “model” of a committee with members from each of the colleges.

Brown: discussion is focused on eventual solution, the proposal now is for the immediate, temporary “bridge” committee. Timeliness is important.

Donovan: Notes that past grievance officers faced and won elections. The members of the Exec. Board also.

M. Driscoll: What’s the time-limit? Who will chair?
Brown: the end of the 2008-09 Academic Year in August. Per. S. Gritzmacher, the call for the BSUFA Grievance Officer (who would be the “chair”) has already gone out in the latest election “call.”

Vote: Motion to authorize *ad-hoc* grievance committee was carried.

Webb proposed & Driscoll seconded proposal to refer the matter of a permanent grievance committee as required by the IFO Constitution to the Rules Committee.

Various issues were discussed: whether we should keep an elected grievance officer who would be the “grievance chair,” or whether the Grievance Committee should be like other BSUFA committees that elect their own chair.

S. Gritzmacher urged that a member of this grievance committee hold a seat on the Exec. Board as the grievance officer now does. This is an important channel of information for Exec. Board for Meet & Confer sessions.

Vote: Motion Carried.

Brown recognized S. Gritzmacher from Rules Committee: In the contested elections, the IFO Board seat was won by Sue Cutler. Troy Gilbertson was elected BSUFA Secretary. Mark Lawrence was elected to the Environmental Advisory Board.

V.P. Erickson requests the memberships of the search committees for Deans be changed. BSUFA must approve. For the Health, Human Ecology, & Graduate Studies Dean.

Truedson: Is the Rep. from Graduate Studies from the Grad. Studies Committee, or from any member of the Graduate faculty?

S. Gritzmacher: good question. Should be the latter.

Discussion: We can approve this with that understanding. If the V.P. disagrees, we would have to approve that.

Gilbertson: It is important that someone be on this committee who is familiar with human subjects testing issues.

Driscoll: It seems that the size is large enough that someone will have that expertise.

Regarding Dean of Business Technology & Communications:

9 members (3 fewer).

Sheikholeslami: there is no Grad. Studies Rep. The Graduate aspect is important for accreditation. Urges there be a Grad. Studies Rep.
Discussion: Grad. Studies is a separate entity under the Dean of Health, Human Ecology, & Graduate Studies. Grad. Study in Business and other disciplines is under that Dean.

Donovan Moved acceptance of these changes. Truedson seconded.

It was inquired whether the Human Subjects issue might be specifically added. Some statement of the Senate’s view that this must be taken into account would be communicated.

Vote: Motion was carried.

Proposal from V.P. Erickson to create a committee with three BSUFA members to study implementation of the nine-month appointments on campus. This was a provision added to the last IFO contract and we are required to study this with the administration.

Driscoll: Three is not enough. We should have five seats, as with BSUFA Constitutional committees. Driscoll moved that. Welle seconded.

Truedson: suggests we add also the negotiator, for six seats. Seconded by Jim White.

Discussion: we are negotiating and we shall see how they respond to 6.

Vote: motion for 6 BSUFA seats on such a committee was carried.

D. Leif: Report on the meeting of the Exec. Board with the President of Foundation. Foundation President presented interesting historical and other information (that would suggest such a faculty seat on the Foundation Board is not needed or advisable).

McManus: It does not matter. If we want to have a seat on the board, we should be able to have it.

Leif: issues include liability of board for acts or statements made by board members. Foundation president asserts faculty have more influence than anyone and do not need seat on the Board. SW Minnesota State is the only other MnSCU University where the faculty have a seat on the Foundation Board. Board meetings are public some there is no problem w/transparency.

Webb & Driscoll move & second proposal to meet w/President of Foundation.

Welle: doubts the believability of some of the arguments used against faculty rep. But the liability issue is not frivolous.

Driscoll: we are better off with an acknowledged faculty rep.

Ueland: A board member has status ad can better keep open communications between faculty and Board.
Carrie recognized to speak. Noted that expenses for faculty attending BSU Foundation Board meetings are not covered by the Foundation. We are not reimbursed.

Vote: The motion (for the meeting) was carried.

President Brown announced that the MnSCU Board of Directors will be at BSU on September 22 for a retreat, “Visioning our Futures”. Although they seem less than interested, there will be a chance to meet with them, time & place TBA.

**CORRECTION: This meeting will be on OCTOBER 22 at 1:00 in the AIRC.**

Karl Salscheider: voted thanks to Rikki Sheila & Doug Leif for their work with the BSU Foundation.

Vote: The Motion was Carried.

It was announced that there has been an unofficial group interested in Wellness on the BSU Campus, “Living Well, Working Well” including Muriel Gillmann & others.

It was asked that this informal group be allowed to go ahead with a survey, already reviewed by the Human Subjects Committee, 16 questions on worksite wellness issues.

M. Driscoll & Bonnie Higgins moved & seconded approval.

The motion was carried.

President Brown noted concerns from Bob Griggs:

16 credits max load in summer: he needs input to see how this can work.

It appears there are 9 different summer-session schedule-structures for classes from May through August.

Karl Salscheider: Some do CEL to assist teachers in various small groups, courses with 1-4 students. 5 courses with such small numbers get over the limit easily.

Welle moved forming an ad hoc committee of 5, following the standard of BSUFA constitutional committees to consult with Bob Griggs on Summer & CEL. Term to end at the end of the 2009 Spring semester.

Motion was carried.

Assessment Coordinator(s): CAS is too large for only one AC; so plans are moving forward for Assessment Coordinators to work with groups of departments, across current college lines (with multiple deans). There will be no more ACs, so the ACs from the smaller colleges will work also with departments in CAS.
Continuation Senate Meeting: 09.22.2008 (from 09.08.08 & 09.15.08)

Present:  C.Brown; S.Cutler; B.Donovan; M.Driscoll; D.Frost; T.Gilbertson; C.Greer; I.Knoshaug; Colivingston; B.McManus; L.Mengelkoch; N.Michael; B.Nestel; D.Peterson; K.Salscheider; M.Sheikholeslami; K.Smith; J.Ueland; D.Webb; P.Welle; J.White.  Absent:  D.Benson; D.Cloutman; P.Dahl; T.Fauchald; B.Higgins; C.Hougen; D.Leif; D.Narum; M.Rivera-Hokanson; J.Truedson; M.Wolf.

Brown called to order at 4:06 PM

There is 1 major topic: the Assessment coordinators: following a M&C discussion, the Admin does not want there to be any more ACs. Under the old system, each college had an AC. Now, the CAS is very much larger than the other colleges. The Admin. wants to have the load for ACs redistributed so that it will be more even. This would entail ACs working across college lines.

Peterson moved that VP Erickson be given flexibility to assign ACs work across college lines. Webb Seconded.

Vote: Motion was carried.

New Business:

Donovan for the Lib. Ed Committee moved that the Lib Ed Director’s reassigned time increase from 0.25 to 0.75 be delayed until next fall. The original plan was for the LibEd Director to have this in the Spring 09 Semester. It seems that the burden of ramping up the “new” Lib Ed will not begin until Fall 2009.

Karl Salscheider: Is this much release time even necessary?

Donovan: The LibEd Task Force planned this and fully expects it to be necessary when the transition begins. But this looks to come a bit later than originally expected.

Byers: So this is to begin fall 2009-spring 2010?

Donovan: yes.
Aimless discussion for 10 minutes.

Vote: Motion was carried.

Brown: Any more new business?

Brown notes that a proposed Summer School Calendar is coming out and will require faculty response.
Also there is an academic Integrity matter to be discussed.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. McManus