BSUFA SENATE Meeting 04/06/09
Absent: Benson, Bowen, Gangeness, Donovan, Higgins, Hougen, D.Smith

Call to Order 4:04

Student Senate Report
Ryan Schwingler: Elections for Student Senate a great success: we had online voting, 530+ with a record 90% Satisfaction, all the Senate spots were filled. Presidential elections next week. We had a survey that just passed the human subjects committee on student response to budget issues. We want to learn what students want protected at BSU. Urges faculty to allow students to give this survey in classes.

Fauchald: please give a copy of the survey to Chris Brown.

Ryan: yes, hopes to have some response on the survey by the 15th of April.

Beech: Next week?

Ryan: Yes.

Approval of Minutes of 02/02/09 Moved by Driscoll, seconded by Nestle.

Motion to approve was carried.

Approval of Minutes of 03/16/09 moved by Fauchald, seconded by Marek.

Motion to approve was carried.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Moving the ACC Report to the beginning:

Bobrowski: Mitch Davidson, CIO, has shared the Strategic Plan. There was not a lot of communication. Davidson wants to restart the lab-managers’ meetings (in response to ACC & faculty requests). If there are concerns regarding the strategic plan or policy, urges that these be shared with the ACC.

Brown: We need to spend some union funds. We can donate some to Moorhead State College.

The situation there is unpleasant. If the students get 5 more days of classes, they would pass a threshold and not be entitled to refunds. If they get the five days, students could still be entitled
to take courses over next year for free. The water/flooding issue is big. Another crest could cause massive disruptions. President Brown will circulate more information on the flood as it comes in.

Salscheider moves and Byers seconds a motion to donate $500. No danger of a problem with the obligation to serve all faculty including those who pay the fair-share fee. Everyone sympathizes with the people in Moorhead.

Meet & Confer issue. We have been asked to respond to a proposal presented by the administration on using “best-practices” for evaluating teaching. President’s view is against acceding to this. The contract gives us a lot of flexibility on how we demonstrate teaching effectiveness. We should not give up what is a contract-defined issue outside of negotiations without other contract concessions.

Wolf moved and Fauchald seconded a motion to send this issue for further study to the Academic Affairs Committee.

This motion was carried.

A report is expected at the September meeting.

Next Issue: the faculty-administration Engagement Survey. Response to the summary & Powerpoint. The standout figure is that Faculty & Staff don’t trust the Senior Administration.

Next: There is a rumor from Chairs Meetings that Department Chairs are being told they need to teach in the Summer. This is not true. The contract does not require this.

Peterson: The contract assigns chairs 25 duty days in summer. Deans have told chairs they must teach as part of this.

Brown: Departments may be upset, but this is not required by the contract.

Rules Committee
Spring Call will be out soon. There are openings available.

Meet & Confer Budgetary matters
Differential Tuition: a response to MnSCU’s harder line on fees -- the “take product away” issue -- will be the elimination of some course fees. A partial response to this is going to be more differential tuition on select courses. But not all courses having their fees eliminated will have a higher tuition. Some departments may have to move monies around to support courses and programs with course fees that are being eliminated.

Cloutman & Driscoll: As course fees are cut, we are personally better off. Tuition waivers would cover the cost of increased tuition, but as it is now, we pay those fees when we or family take
courses.

Brown: there will be more information on this going forward.

Brown: Budget forum tomorrow
$2 million cut plan, $1 million out of A.V.P.’s area (VP Maki is breaking down spending areas a bit differently.)

Peterson: A.V.P.’s area encompasses 70% of all BSU spending. So $1 million out of 70% of the budget seems less bad than it might have been.

President Brown has a more detailed breakdown.

Brown: Next Senate Meeting scheduled for May 4. Should we move that back? Perhaps to April 27?

Fauchald: Budget information will come out at the end of the month. The later the meeting, the better.

Salscheider: There will be a curriculum packet ready for May.

Brown: urges that Senators attend meeting in May. It will be finals week, but we need to act on things.

IFO Board Report
Peterson: The report was sent out to faculty. Urges that it be studied. There is an important intellectual property issue: Metro-State “Master-Courses” belong to Metro-State. We have a superior intellectual property policy; Bob Griggs designed it. We have rights over the courses we create. Also, take note there is an IFO survey coming on Information Management Systems to help guide MnSCU.

Brown: Looks like MnSCU is cooperating. But there is also discussion on a cap on guided, self-directed courses (the $65/credit courses) to 12 credits and 100 students per semester.

NEGOTIATOR’S REPORT
Ueland: The contract settlement is moving very quickly through the legislature. It looks to pass soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Curriculum
Salscheider: 3 recommendations: Mass-Com, PHED, and Psychology.

Wolf: The Psychology packet had a graduate component.
Grad. Committee Chair: The Grad. Committee approves of this.

The motion to pass the recommendations was carried.

Liberal Education
Brown: Last week there were questions raised about the new liberal education. We requested that the members of the Lib-Ed Committee be here to answer the questions.

Truedson: I move that we impose a one-year moratorium on talking about this new Liberal Education curriculum.

This motion was seconded by Senator Cloutman.

(After a brief colloquy with the President and other Senators, Senators Truedson and Cloutman agreed to amend this motion to state that there will be a one-year moratorium on the implementation of the new liberal-education curriculum.)

Truedson: Budget issues make implementation of this new lib-ed difficult. It will be expensive. Reassigned time is being looked at and we cannot be sure the Lib-Ed director will be adequately supported. Also, the letter from Manny Lopez raises the prospect that MnSCU intervening.

Welle: It may be difficult to get support for lib-ed when we have so much change being implemented. The transfer issue is also problematic. I fear for the university if we do this.

Beech: What is the timeline?

Peterson: The review for courses at the 1000 level & University Inquiry courses will begin Fall 2009. We are proposing implementation be done in Fall 2011. So then the 2000-level courses would be implemented in Fall of 2012.

[Note: the lib-ed proposal passed by the Senate --as it stands now-- has implementation in Fall 2010]

Welle: Creating these courses will also have to go through program coordinators. Lots of work here.

McManus: (to the Chair) Is this a motion to Rescind? The motion changes substantively a motion passed by this Senate, does it not?

Leif & Beech: Discussion -- it’s only a delay.

Brown: No, it’s not a motion to Rescind.
Peterson: Doesn’t the Lib-Ed Committee’s intent to move implementation back to 2011 reassure faculty. We have time and the support to get this done.

Byers: What about the costs? What about the process to implement?

Wolf: In the current budget crisis, we have an opportunity to make changes over the next two years with federal money. We want to get this done while the federal stimulus money is available. If we are going to invest in a superior lib-ed program, now is the time.

Byers: But that is not certain. The fallacy with this idea is right now we don’t know exactly how much money there will be and how it can be used.

Smith: Admin. wants to invest in one-time changes that will save money going forward.

Peterson: The V.P. has said that money for lib-ed and the implementation has been set aside. It’s fenced as of now. If we delay this, who knows what will happen with that money.

Truedson: We are facing a lot of possible cuts. I am concerned that the money to implement this may be cut, making it difficult to implement.

Nestle: This is for non-professional departments only. This is a surprise. Some departments are not going to be able to offer courses for this. That’s not what we were told.

Peterson: We can offer courses for lib-ed that are outside of MnTC limits. We do that now. We are hoping to get departments outside of the guidelines involved. We want to give them a chance through Inquiry & Integration.

Livingston: Can they transfer such courses out of BSU in lib-ed through the MnTC.

Greer: We will certify our lib-ed aligns with the MnTC. Some courses may not transfer out, but students are informed of that.

Peterson: The new lib-ed is competency based. We will create a crosswalk to assign courses to the areas of the MnTC. Students will be able to fulfill the areas. There are differences now between our current lib-ed and MnTC. There will be differences between the MnTC and the new lib-ed.

Wolf: Computer Science 1107 right now is outside MnTC. But we have it in lib-ed. As long as a student completes an Area, this is valid as a package for transfer. But only if the area is completed, not as credits.

Young: I don’t think so. I am not sure they count our “asterisked” courses for lib-ed transfer,
unless a student gets an A.A. from BSU. These courses may not count even if an area is completed.

Sheikholeslami: Don’t students need financial literacy?

5:15 -- meeting recessed until 04/13/09

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BSUFA SENATE Continuation Meeting 04/13/2009, from 04/06/09

Absent: Rivera-Hokanson, Morgan, Hougen, Gangeness

Call to order 4:01

President Brown: Spring Call is out. There will be a final BSUFA Meeting to receive self-nominations for offices in this room on Monday, April 20 at 4 PM.

Resuming discussion of the motion made by Senator Truedson, Seconded by Senator Cloutman:

motion: “there will be a one-year moratorium on the implementation of the new liberal-education curriculum.”

Wolf: The meaning of this motion is just not clear, and so I propose another motion as a substitute. Motion: “The Liberal Education Committee is directed to delay the full implementation of the new liberal-education program to beyond Fall Semester, 2010. The committee is directed to take action that ensures that the new liberal-education program is implemented so that BSU students matriculating Fall semester 2011 can complete the new program within two years of matriculation.”

This motion was seconded by Senator Driscoll.

Byers: so this substitute means the lib-ed implementation will be postponed for one-year?

Wolf: Yes.

Byers: regarding the cost, I have learned that the cost issue has been addressed; the money for implementation has been secures. It’s not the same pot of money that positions or other things come out of.

Truedson: I am against this substitute. I would like Dave Carlson, the Registrar, to speak on this.

Fauchald: Also speaks against the substitute. I’m against the new lib ed. It will create a dire
situation. Wants to stop these new courses from coming in.

Leif: Not sure about this. Expresses worry that this may not be OK with MnSCU.

Beech: How different is this substitute from the original time-line?

Peterson: The Lib-Ed Committee now supports moving the implementation back to 2011.

Beech: So we are voting no change; the substitute would be the same as the current deadline?

Marek: So we are now to deal with the substitute first, and then vote on it or the original motion to pass, right?

Brown: Yes.

Greer: The change to after Fall 2010 will allow more opportunity to submit courses as faculty develop them.

Welle: I oppose the substitute motion, just to put things back a year. He supports the original motion. The faculty I represent have unbearable demands put on them. There is an enormous amount of curriculum work needing to be done now, especially with the 120-credit limit hanging over us. Faculty in the sciences cannot make time to develop these courses.

Donovan: Speaking in favor of the substitute motion. Regarding Doug Leif’s concern that this has not been approved by MnSCU. All that MnSCU has approved in the Transfer Curriculum. That excludes courses from Business, Computer Science, & Physical Education. (Languages too?) Our Lib-Ed has these elements now.

Driscoll: Concerned that the substitute amendment is too specific while the original is far too vague. The “moratorium” might be understood to block attempts to do a pilot project or get courses approved. Lib-Ed Reform is needed. Our retention is down. Based on stats regarding graduation rates, better high-impact practices such as are included in the new lib-ed will address our retention decline. Practices such as used in First-Year Seminars -- not just the FYE courses -- but seminars that are content-based with substantial writing have demonstrated strong correlation to student success. This includes common intellectual experiences based on common themes -- our signature themes are all over this. And regarding the Integration element of lib-ed, this goes to research showing higher retention and better education results, a better experience for the student. We have looked at this problem in many aspects over the last three years. These issues were raised and discussed in the Task Force and by the Committee. Now these issues are being dragged up again as if they had not been considered. Money has been set aside to support faculty developing courses and in other ways to facilitate implementation. The 2011 deadline means we can develop pilot courses next year without having to implement the whole thing.
Peterson: The cost issue was raised in the last Senate meeting. There is money in addition to the funding for reassigned time for the lib-ed Director. The money to do this is secured and it’s one-time money. Senator Peterson’s shares Driscoll’s concern on the original motion’s “moratorium.”

Fauchald: Calls the question,

Ueland: Seconds that.

The vote to call the question on the substitute passed.

McManus: I have an issue, a point of information.

Brown: What?

McManus: Is it not true that that implementation currently is slated for Fall 2010, and that this would change that to Fall 2011?

Brown: I don’t know. That’s what’s being discussed. And where is that in Roberts’ Rules of Order?

McManus: I am not the Parlimentarian. The Senate is voting and some people believe the substitute does not change the date of implementation when it does.

Brown: Enough. Later you show me that in Robert’s Rules.

The vote to amend the original motion by substitution failed on a vote of 14-16.

Discussion resumed on the original motion for a one-year moratorium on the implementation of the new lib-ed curriculum.

Brown proposed inviting in Dave Carlson, the Registrar, to answer questions.

That motion was carried.

Truedson: Will this new lib-ed create problems with the MnTC?

Carlson: Not sure. MnSCU assumes students will pass a system that is in accord with the MnTC. It’s a fairly prescriptive system and they look at it that way. Our current system is very similar to MnTC, except for Area 11.

Peterson: But the new lib-ed program will satisfy the MnTC, as long as we assure that students taking courses in it fulfill the competencies and that there is a crosswalk for the Areas of the MnTC, right?
Carlson: However students complete the MnTC, they have to meet that. There will have to be complex adjustments for the new lib-ed.

Fauchald: Do you know about the Dragon Core at Moorhead? As I understand it, as you complete the Dragon Core, you complete the transfer curriculum.

Carlson: It does look very similar to MnTC with its ten categories.

Byers: Does MnTC work with the new lib-ed?

Carlson: I do not know. The new system uses competencies, the MnTC uses areas. Deb Peterson says it will work, but I have not seen specifics.

Marek: How will this work with partial completion of Areas?

Carlson: We say when a student completes an area of the MnTC. Other MN have to accept that.

Beech: So students will have a listing of having satisfied competencies and completed the areas?

Carlson: Competencies are a new way of looking at it. Currently, we do areas & credits.

McManus: Under the current system, we have courses in lib-ed that are outside the MnTC rules - asterisked courses. But the catalog says that if BSU says a student has completed an area of lib-ed, that completion will be accepted for transfer even if it is based on asterisked courses, right?

Carlson: The catalog language is not quite accurate. Asterisked courses may not be accepted for lib-ed even if s student has completed an Area according to our system.

McManus: So the catalog is lying?

Greer: Without having seen the courses for the new lib-ed and the crosswalk, it is very difficult to give firm answers to some of these questions, right?

Carlson: yes.

Peterson: Currently, is it not so that there are courses in catalog that are asterisked -- allegedly not accepted for lib-ed under the MnTC -- that should not be according to MnSCU, right?

Carlson: Yes, languages for example. Basically it’s the professional departments’ courses like business, education, and computer science that are still to be asterisked.

Beech: To clarify regarding the issue of transfer of asterisked courses, when the catalog says a
completed area transfers, it’s not fair to say the catalog if lying.

Carlson: Well, it’s ambiguous. It is not lying.

Smith: Courses will have to be resubmitted for the new lib-ed curriculum, right?

Peterson: Yes, all will have to be submitted and there will probably be some adjustments to fit the various competencies.

Carlson: All new courses will have to be vetted, two ways.

Fauchald: Area 11 is a Graduation Requirement for us. In the new lib-ed, will courses based on department CIP codes be excluded if Area 11 is out?

Carlson: yes.

Salscheider: We are exploring how to deal with this issue of competencies and courses. Courses cannot be passed with a C grade in assignment competencies across the curriculum.

Cloutman: Who vets lib-ed program?

Carlson: MnSCU

Donovan: MnSCU requires us to a an Institutional Self-Review.

Livingston: So if we go forward with the new lib-ed, there will be a dual listing for courses under Competencies for our system and under Areas for MnTC, right?

Carlson: This could be done, but I don’t have the details yet.

Fauchald: In the new lib-ed, certain departments would be excluded by CIP codes. Could we still asterisk courses?

Carlson: yes.

Greer: We designed the new lib-ed program to accommodate departments excluded in this way through integration and university inquiry.

Peterson: courses could be asterisked in our lib-ed and then not in the MnTC.

Sheikholeslami: Regarding the concept of General Education & Liberal Education, we could allow courses in Gen Ed that would not be in Lib-Ed.
Brown: This is too general a question for this guest. This is a philosophy of education issue.

Marek: Regarding the problem of partial fulfillment, competencies from two areas in one course. How would a course apply to MnTC or our system that had both Natural Science and history competency?

Carlson: Right now, the system requires 51% of the competencies for a given area to be completed. 49% would not be sufficient.

Peterson: We will have to work with faculty and the Lib-Ed Committee to create equivalence between the competencies and the areas of MnTC. We have to make them fit.

Brown: Thank you, Dave Carlson for answering questions and helping us today.

Carlson departs.

Welle: We need to improve retention. Supports Lib-Ed reform generally, but generally faculty is too burdened to do the work needing to be done right now. Has great concern over the trade-off, sacrificing quality of majors for getting this lib-ed going. It is too great a burden to undertake now.

Peterson: Urges a vote against the motion (for a 1-year moratorium). It is not clear what this moratorium will mean. Will faculty be barred from even discussing new courses or submitting them for lib-ed? We are proposing a delay in implementation to give more time to get this done. What is the problem with having this go forward? 1000-level courses by Fall 2011 and 2000-level courses the next year.

Senator Greer recognizes Sally Wiltse (PHED).

Wiltse: My Department opposes this motion. The Lib-Ed Task force did an enormous amount of work on this. They were not paid. They talked about all these issues in great depth. Their work should be recognized.

Beech: So we are looking at Info sessions this semester and receiving new course submissions for the new lib-ed in the Fall, right?

Greer: Yes.

McManus: Can I ask Senators Truedson and Welle, who seem to be the most strongly in favor of this moratorium, who is harmed and how are they harmed by allowing submissions for new courses from those faculty who have time and interest in developing and submitting them?

Truedson: I moved this because we were anticipating having thirty sections of University Inquiry
in fall of 2010. I believe that cannot be done at this point. The problem is the Fall of 2010 implementation, and that’s what I want to block for a year. I am not against a pilot program.

Wolf: Having gone through all that we have gone through with this Lib-Ed, if we block this from going forward now we could face a focus visit on Liberal Education from the HLC. The expense of that would be substantial, maybe as much as $100K.

Donovan: Heartened by Senator Truedson’s statement that a pilot program is fine with him, but unfortunately that is not what some of the advocates of this motion have said they understand the effect of this would be.

Donovan: recognizes Rose Weaver, acting Chair of the English Department (there was some discussion as to whether this was appropriate, but President Brown allowed Dr. Weaver to speak).

Weaver: The English Department supports the new lib-ed and is opposes this motion. Some English courses have been or are being redesigned for the new curriculum. We believe this will be better for students and for BSU.

Michael: After so much work over four years, this motion for a moratorium seems like a last ditch effort to scuttle the new lib-ed. She plans to vote against the motion to prevent scuttling the new lib-ed. Senator Michael expressed great concern about keeping the status quo.

Smith: there is a lack of understanding of the ramifications of total implementation. I acknowledge all the work people put in. But as the Registrar expressed uncertainty how to implement this, and with Senators debating what this moratorium might mean, Senator Smith is concerned this could create problems. Wants there to be an intermediary phase (between total implementation and scuttling).

Welle: I am concerned about how this will affect faculty job security. To answer McManus’s question, this lib-ed will put a lot of pressure on junior faculty members who cannot work on this now. Students will suffer also because the faculty may have to develop these courses and will not be able to do it well. Quality will be compromised.

Truedson: I am not comfortable owning this moratorium.

Driscoll: uncertainty over this moratorium. Assessment plans for programs have been written to include moving ahead with this lib-ed. This moratorium will upset all that. Our current lib-ed is not adequate, student learning is two standard deviations below the mean. We need this reform.

Byers: Calls the question.
Wolf: Seconds the motion.

The motion to impose a one-year moratorium on implementation of the new lib-ed curriculum was defeated 13-17.

Peterson: The lib-ed committee is announcing two information sessions April 21st & 28th 3:30-5:30 PM in H-S 112. (Graphic Shown).

Driscoll: I move to adjourn.

Brown: Adjourn? We still have items on the agenda.

Driscoll: This is a privileged motion.

Byers: I second the motion.

This motion was carried.

Next Senate meeting will be May 4.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brendan McManus