BSUFA Senate Minutes
14 Sept 2009
4:00 pm HS 107

Attending: Tom Beech, Dave Benson, Chris Brown, Cheryl Byers, Donald Cloutman, Sue Cutler, Phil Dahl, Laurie Desiderato, Brian Donovan, Tom Fauchald, Jeanine Gangeness, Janice Haworth, Mike Herbert, Butch Holden, Christel Kippenhan, Ivy Knoshaug, Tim Kroeger, Doug Leif, Co Livingston, Keith Marek, Mike Morgan, Tom Murphy, Dianne Narum, Bud Nestel, Shari Olson, Miriam Rivera-Hokanson, Karl Salscheider, David Smith, Kathryn Smith, Jeffrey Ueland, Pat Welle

Call to Order at 4:01

Approval of May 4 and August 24 2009 minutes: Smith moved, Fauchald seconded. Amendment: Grad Committee Chair is L Jackson. Motion carried.

Student Senate Report
Co-presidents Leo Clark and Andrew Spaeth presented the Student Senate's plans for the academic year. They will be emphasizing school spirit and pride, and will be engaging the FY students. The plan to get FY students sitting together in groups at the games, plays, and student events, and hold wine and dine night at plays. The Student Senate taking part in environmental stewardship by looking into organizing student ridership on local transport. The are looking into a safe ride program. Tom Rukavina will be escorted by Student Senators, as will Mark Ritchie on 22 Sept. Student Senate is looking forward to working with BSUFA this year. They have a had a good relationship with BSUFA in the past, but want to build on it more this year, and they look to us to offer advice.

President’s Report
Please contact Sharon Gritzmacher to let her know who your senators are. We're looking for a recording secretary.

Senate reviewed the Senate Operating Procedures, with some modifications. Brown asked Senators to sit to the front, leaving the back three rows for visitors. When we get a call for show of hands, voting will be taken by holding up senatorial sign

Nestel moved to amend item 2: that the back two fixed rows would be held for visitors. Smith seconded. Carried
Moved to support the procedures as amended
Motion carried.

Brown reported that Keith Marek has self-nominated to be on the IFO Board and sought confirmation by the Senate.
Fauchald moved; Cutler seconded. Motion carried.
H1N1 is on its way. U of M has seen cases. MnSCU and BSU have indicated they have an emergency plan, but we haven't seen anything from the administration yet. Brown recommends that we be patient with students; they may have to sit out for a week.

Kroeger: I'm concerned about new faculty who have not accrued much sick time. Will they be taken care of?
Brown: We'll take that question to M&C Wednesday.

Students First MnSCU initiative
This is being discussed by the IFO downstate. MnSCU is centralizing back office procedures, but they are including centralized advising. MnCSU has brought in John O'Brian to head it up, so the initiative is moving along. We are not naysaying the idea. But we are concerned that MnSCU will use this to advise students away from the students' chosen campus.
Fauchald added that MnSCU is talking about implementing Students First in 2010.

Petition for a Referendum
On 14 Sept, Brown received a petition signed by 25% of the BSUFA membership calling for a referendum vote on the new lib proposal. The actual petition will be sealed and sent to an IFO CPA to preserve the anonymity of those who have signed. A threat had been made by a BSUFA member that signers of the petition would be treated differentially.
Brown: I place a petition before the Senate
Brown placed the petition call on the overhead, along with the IFO bylaws that apply in this case:

The Petition
"We the undersigned petition for a referendum (a direct popular vote) on the Liberal Education Committee's proposed new Liberal Education. As per the authority of BSUFA Bylaws:

Section E: Referendum
If twenty-five percent of the members of the BSUFA sign a petition objecting to a decision of the Senate, and if a majority of Senate members hold to the initial Senate position, the Senate shall submit the matter to the members of the BSUFA for referendum within ten days of receipt of the petition. A majority of those BSUFA members casting ballots shall be sufficient to decide the matter and the Senate shall be bound by the result of the referendum. The initial decision of the Senate shall prevail until the result of the referendum is announced by the BSUFA president, which shall be no later than twenty days after a petition is first submitted to the Senate.

Murphy: We don't get to see who signed?
Brown: I'm turning the petition over to a CPA for validation to protect the signatories.
Donovan: I'm not sure the petition is before the Senate until we have some objective validation of the signatories.
Byers: Any time I have signed a petition, that signature has been public. When you sign, you know it's public.
Kippenhan: We have to take it on face value that Chris has seen the petition. I would have to vote no to seeing this.

Smith: Moved that Brown fax the petition to an IFO CPA for validation; and that when the signatures are validated Brown email a copy of the CPS's validation to the Senators. At that point, the Senate will consider the petition seen.
Donald: Seconded.
Bensen: I have no concerns about who signed. I signed and want to see the body vote.
Desiderato: This has been a lot of back and forth. This petition undermines the Senate.
Murphy: 25% of the faculty is not the majority. I'm bothered by the secrecy.
Bensen: I see no reason why we can't have the body vote.
Donovan: Point of information. Who is the CPA? What is the nature if the threat?
Brown: The CPA will be a CPA from the IFO. I don't think it's appropriate to get into the exact nature of the threat. The gist is that a BSUFA member would treat signers of this petition differentially. If you want, and vote for it, I'll state the nature of the threat.
Beech: Did anyone ask that the names be held confidential?
Brown: No. But if you vote for it, I'll put them up.
Byers: I'm not bothered by the call for a referendum. It's the sense of secrecy.

Welle: It would help me in voting on this matter to hear from the Lib Ed Committee on what this would mean to their timeline.
Murphy: The new lib ed has been approved by MnSCU. It meets the transfer curriculum. We're looking at implementing phase 1 in 2010, phase 2 in 2011.

Smith: As a grievance officer, I see a concern for retribution on this campus. I wish it were different. But to have the list validated would be prudent.
Knoshaug: If none of the members who signed it express a concern, then you should make the names public.
Bensen: This is a matter of getting on committees. I want to see a referendum vote. I'm not comfortable with the new lib ed.
Marek: We're debating the question of what it is to receive for validation, not the signing.
Brown: Any more discussion?

Motion that Brown fax the petition to an IFO CPA for validation and that when validated Brown email a copy of the validation to the Senators carried. According to the bylaws, upon receipt of validation of the petition, the Senate has 10 days to hold the vote called for, and 10 days following that to report results.

Donovan moved to show Senate the signatures on the petition. Desiderato seconded.
Welle: Isn't this contradictory to the motion we just passed?
Beech (Parliamentarian): No.
Murphy: That motion was to verify the petition, not to share the names.
Byers: This is in contradiction.
Brown: The previous motion did not make the names secret.  
Question was called called by Marek.  
Vote divided: Opposed 19.  For: 5.  
Motion to reveal names of the signers was defeated.

Officers reports  
Smith: Grievances.  We had three grievance meetings last week, with extra grievance officers attending. 1) issues relating to announcement of budget changes.  2) An issue related to hiring of adjunct faculty without making overload available.  3) Issues reviewing IFO development and travel monies.  These are ongoing.  Smith encourages members to bring grievances forward.  
Brown: Make sure you have the ok to spend your IFO travel money before you spend it.

Committee Reports  
Rules.  Gritzmacher distributed a list of committee seats still vacant after the fall call.  One HSHE seat is available.  A ballot for an at large seat, and two other seats will be coming out this week.  There will be an election for COPE; there are 4 nominees.  Salary equity is covered.  Please encourage your membership to get on committees.  
Donovan: There is a vacancy in CAS on the Lib Ed committee.

Brown on Senators: Mass Comm does not have a senator, and there are a couple of open seats in Education.  English reports they have elected Mark Christensen.  Bud Nestel has been verified.  No one from PE was present to report on new senators.

Lib Ed Committee  
Murphy: We have a proposal for Ojibwe left from spring. This was circulated to the Senate last week.  
Nestel: Curriculum Committee is ok with it.  
Byers: Are we accepting this lib ed addition with the new lib ed?  
Murphy: This is for the current lib ed.  
Beech: Will this proposal be implemented on approval?  
Murphy: Yes  
Recommendation carried.

Murphy introduced a motion:  

The Liberal Education Committee moves that the BSU Faculty Senate recommend a two-step phase-in process to the Liberal Education Program.

In Phase I, fall 2010, University Inquiry courses will begin to be offered. Students beginning the university that semester will have the option of taking one University Inquiry and one first year writing course in lieu of two first year writing courses. During the 2009-2010 academic year (this year), the Liberal Education Committee's efforts will be focused on approving courses for University Inquiry; however, programs and departments may submit proposals for
courses in the Foundation Core, Diversity of Knowledge, and Integration for implementation fall 2010.

Final implementation of the Liberal Education Program will begin in Phase II, fall 2011 when all components of the Liberal Education Program will be offered. Faculty will have the 2009-2010 academic and until October 15, 2010 to submit proposals for the fall 2011 offerings in the Liberal Education Program.

For students completing their liberal education under older catalogs, the university will guarantee that courses that are proposed and approved for the new program will ipso facto be approved for specific categories in the older catalogs.

Murphy: Beginning in July, MnSCU looked over the new lib program and liked it. MnSCU has approved it. VP Erickson is preparing a memo on this. Louise Haxworth signed the approval.
Kroeger moved to implement phase 1 in 2010 and phase 2 in 2011.
Marek: How does this differ from what's in place?
Murphy: The key element is different.
Ueland: Are we formalizing the plan?
Deb Peterson, guest, recognized by Murphy: We're trying to delay implementation of part 1 of the plan.
Welle: With regards to the letter of approval from MnSCU. Didn't Dave Carlson raise questions about how MnSCU would take the plan last year?
Peterson, guest, recognized by Murphy. A letter will be coming from Erickson to the faculty this week explaining how departments will deal with the plan. We wanted departments attached to this because we wanted FTE recognized in the department that is teaching the course.

Nestel: I'm in favor of the motion, regardless of what happens with the referendum. We need a sequence to phase this in, in any case.
Marek: What does the last paragraph mean?
Murphy: Students can use their entrance catalog to determine what lib ed courses they take.
Kroeger: This transition proposal will limit what students are able to do during the transition.
Morgan: To clarify: Students will be able to use their entrance catalog in declaring their lib ed track?
Murphy: Yes.

Brown placed the meeting recess at 5:15, to resume Sept. 21, 4:00 pm, HS 107
We had a motion on the floor to Implement Phase 1 in fall, 2010, and phase 2 in 2011.

Welle: I speak in opposition. The best recourse would be to reverse the lib ed vote and spell out the remaining problems. UI going on is not connect to departments. This is another reason we'll have problems with MnSCU. Dave Carlson warned us that of we have departments in the plan that don't fit in MnTC, and MnSCU will hit it. People and the Environment has been giving us half the credits. Taking UI through that system is dodgy. It's better to be straight forward than to try to disguise it.

Don: Any guarantees of that matter comes from the AVP on Tuesday. If we can't expect the credits to go, we are in trouble, but at that point it would seem we would have to give up on UI altogether. In the Lib ed committee meeting we voted that courses that fulfilled the competencies should be admitted to whatever area of the program it fits. We have a fight on our hands for that.

Murphy: Dave Carlson has doubts about how UI will fit, but at other times, he's said no problem, so I don't know what to think. This is an issue so we need to get it reviewed.

Welle: Part of the mechanics of that concern me is that we have to put asterisk courses in there that won't be part of the transfer curriculum. This is going to make it more complicated. I ask you to rethink UI. Use department prefixes - or we might lose it.

Fauchald: If there's is a prefix issue, we will.

Murphy: to Welle: MnSCU has reassured us that this will work. If there's somebody at numbers crunching who will screw us, then I don't know what to do.

Beech: I speak in favor of phasing it in. It's better to find it out with a UI course.

Marek: I don't mind, but I don't like the last para.

Donovan: when we make a change to our curriculum, it is practice to ease students into things, and cut them slack to fit in courses.

Dahl: About the English College Writing courses. If students choose not to take UI can they take two College Writing courses instead?

Donovan: Yes.

Livingston: A course that is approved for UI counts somewhere else in the lib ed plan?

Donovan: We're holding that open.

Byers called the question. Nestel seconded. Motion carried.

Motion carried.

Referendum procedures
The meeting was turned over to Morgan, with Beech to assist, to prepare for the referendum. The minutes are sketchy as Morgan could not both run the meeting and take the minutes. The meeting followed the bylaws on procedures surrounding a referendum: Section E: Referendum.

It was moved that the Senate reconsider their vote on the New Lib Ed. The Senate debated the motion, and voted to take no action.

Senate debated the means of voting: by distributed ballot, in the manner of voting for committee members; or by overseen balloting, in the manner of voting for the contract. Senate moved, debated, and approved the motion for a vote by overseen balloting, from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Weds 23 Sept to Friday 25 Sept, to be held in the Union.

Senate was then presented with language for the referendum, drawn from the petition. The language of the ballot and the choices was moved, debated, and approved, as follows:

As per the BSUFA By-laws, Article II, Section E: Referendum

Given that the BSUFA Senate has received a petition signed by more than 25% of the faculty calling for a referendum on the New Liberal Education plan; and given that the BSUFA Senate was given the opportunity to change their support but did not; a vote to support or overrule the Senate's approval of the New Liberal Education Plan is now open to BSUFA members at large.

Vote for one.

_____ I vote to support the BSUFA Senate's approval of the New Liberal Education Plan.

_____ I vote to overrule the BSUFA Senate's approval of the New Liberal Education Plan.

It was moved, debated, and approved to handle absentee voting by email, with Sharon Gritzmacher verifying membership and forwarding the tallies, withholding names.

Morgan thanked the Senate for their help, and Beech for his assistance.

New Business
Brown: Draft academic calendars for 2010-11 and 2011-12, and summer calendars have been distributed. Fauchald moved to table until October. Seconded by Higgins. Motion carried

Kroeger pointed out that we have are people who have been defined as program coordinators that have no assigned duties. Has asked that the senate address their duties.
Faucauld seconded.
Leif: Math and CS has a long history of this.
Faucauld called the question.
Moved to take the item to M&C. Carried

Adjournment (5:15)

Next Senate meeting:
Oct. 5, 4:00 pm, HS 107