BSUFA Senate Minutes  
25 Jan 2010  
4:00 pm HS 107

Attending: Chris Brown, Cheryl Byers, Mark Christensen, Sue Cutler, Laurie Desiderato, Tom Fauchald, Eric Forsyth, Mark Fulton, Jeanine Gangeness, Dan Gartrell, Janice Haworth, Mike Herbert, Bonnie Higgins, Butch Holden, Ellen Jones, Christel Kippenhan, Ivy Knoshaug, Tim Kroeger, Doug Leif, Co Livingston, Keith Marek, Mike Morgan, Tom Murphy, Bud Nestel, Miriam Rivera-Hokanson, Mehdi Sheikholeslami, David Smith, Kathryn Smith, Jeffrey Ueland, Derek Webb, Pat Welle

Not attending: Tom Beech, Dave Benson, Matthew Bowen, Phil Dahl, Brian Donovan, Craig Hougen, John Truedson, 
Excused: Dianne Narum

Call to Order 4:02

Approval of 7 Dec 2009 Minutes (distributed) 
Gangeness moved; Nestel seconded. Carried.

Student Senate Co-Presidents' Report
Co-presidents Spaeth and Clark reported that Student Senate ended on a high note in fall semester. They are working with Paul Bunyan Transit to set up bus routes for students. They are having a new website built. And they continue to promote the Safe Ride Program for students. Currently, they are in the middle of SAFAC requests, and they are hopeful for continued funding. Student Senate is investigating a printing policy for students. It's not an extremely popular idea, but they are doing research to see if there's a good spot to land for the number of pages
Gartrell: Is campus child care still in SAFAC budget?
Spaeth: My understanding is that they will receive funding but less then in the past. We are aware that the future of child care on campus is up in the air.

Brown thanked the Student Senate Co-Presidents.

President’s Report
IFO Seeking Nominations
Downstate is looking for nominations for officers. Consult the IFO website. Posts are open or are opening. IFO will make available $2k of funding for state presidential position.

Last meeting date
The final BSUFA meeting of the year is scheduled on May 3, which is finals week Monday, and creates a conflict. Should we time things to meet on May 3, or end with April's meeting?
Leif moved that our last meeting should take place in April. Seconded by Kroeger.
Gartrell: Would we roll over into May if we need to?
Brown: Yes
Faucauld: There will be new information on the budget late in the semester, and we have a new president coming on board. It might be good to meet late.
Leif: Would we continue further into May if we don't finish business on the 3rd?
Brown: Practice is that unfinished business carries over to the Exec in summer, or is postponed to the fall.
Knoshaug: What final conflicts?
Gangeness: Clas at 11 M W F.
Welle: Let's set our work to end with the April meeting, just plan not to proceed unless necessary.
Faucauld: The 26th would be the last meeting?
Leif: Yes, but if we have to we can go on.
No further discussion. Motion carried.

AVP Erickson's Assessment Plan
Brown: This was sent electronically. She is expecting some response from us. Any questions or concerns you want to relay to the administration?
A general sense that this was not received. It had been sent before Christmas break
Brown will re-send the document.

Brown: Delegate Assembly is coming Apr 9 - 10. We have 20 delegates that will be involved. Prior to that, we'll be requesting resolutions. We'll send the members the continuing resolutions and you can send us your resolutions. The Assembly and resolutions are the basis for how our contract gets negotiated. The IFO has upped the milage to 30c/mile for Delegate Assembly.

Budget Forum
Brown: Weds, Feb 3, Maki will hold a budget forum at 12:00. Place is not set yet. The news is scary. The State borrowed $220m from MnSCU, with the clause that State can extract 15% from the payback. Scarier still is that the State may not have to pay it back at all. $220m is your paycheck. Members should be angry. The State is taking money that has been earmarked for education and using it to keep the system running.
Gangeness: If you want to get frustrated, go to caucuses next Tuesday night.
Brown: Mankato is talking retrenchment. Moorhead just had a major admin restructuring. On of their AVPs is going back into the faculty next year. Southwest is doing a major reorganization. By comparison, things are good at BSU. But the shoe will drop next year or the year after. The stimulus money goes away, and somebody has to pay the bills. We're pushing for support of instructional costs over non-instructional costs, and we want the budget committee to do something to keep things afloat.
Faucauld: I asked Maki about the stimulus money. It's $2m that will go away in 2012, on top of other state funding that might go away. Two states have already requested that limitations be set aside. Mankato is preparing for 2012 with a massive change in seniority and programs right now.
Brown: Southwest is now flipping from consolidating departments to isolating programs to make it possible to cut programs.
Brown: Rodd Henry has told me "Spend anything you have." If you have funds accumulating, spend them down - even professional development. If MnSCU needs money, they have to get it
from somewhere, the might grab anything and let the lawsuits sort it out. Direct your concerns to the administration and the legislature, and go to caucuses next Tuesday.

Forsyth. But if we don't spend the accounts, won't that help relieve the shortfall problem?

Brown: Don't expect to get that money back.

Fauchald: Outside of travel, there is money in equipment and summer school money floating around. Administration will look at your accounts.

Committee Reports

Rules Committee -

Webb: Rules was charged to review the committee charges and bylaws and bring recommendations to Senate. Rules reviewed the charges and has new charges to bring forward. The Professional Improvement Committee requested

The IFO Rules Committee is reviewing committee charges and has asked the committee to review its charge. After discussion (PIC meeting on Jan 19, 2010) the committee agreed it would like to rewrite its charge to better reflect what we actually do. The following three items should be included in the committees charge:

- Upon request meet with the university Vice President for Academic Affairs, or a representative thereof, to review current policies for facilitating faculty improvement, including those on sabbatical leaves, faulty improvement grants, professional improvement leaves, and faculty travel.

- Periodically survey faculty to establish funding categories and priorities for the allotment of professional improvement funds.

- Make recommendations to the Vice President for Academic Affairs on the allocation of professional improvement funds.

Kippenhan moved to table until next meeting; seconded by Murphy. Senators did not receive the resolution by email. Motion carried.

Webb presented a second resolution that the Senators did receive.

Rules Committee recommendation regarding BSUFA committee membership:

The following committee membership remains as is:

* Action Committee  
* Graduate Studies Committee

The following committee membership be changed to 1 member from College of Arts and Sciences, 1 member from College of Business, Technology, and Communications, 1 member from College of Health Sciences and Human Ecology, and 1 member from Student and Academic Support Unit unless Senate recommends, committee by committee, a
different membership makeup:

* Academic Affairs Committee
* Academic Computing Committee
* Budget, Finance, and Allocation Committee
* Curriculum Committee
* Government Relations Committee
* Liberal Education Committee
* Professional Improvement and Development Committee
* Rules Committee
* Teacher Education Committee

It will still remain possible to form an ad hoc committee that does not follow any above membership recommendations.

Webb: This resolution would change the number of representatives of all committees except the Action and Grad Studies committees.

Murphy: There's a question of which committees would suit different structures. I oppose the resolution. Four people is bad dynamics.

Byers: I have the same concern: Basic groups structure says you don't use even numbers.

Gartrell: It would help if the chair or a representative of the dedicated department sat on the Education Committee.

Livingston: People in my department say there are state laws that have to be met so having expertise in Education would be good. My own concern is with Lib Ed and Curriculum. Having a broad range of voices helps. Is this a bylaws issue? What kinds of votes are necessary for it?

Witt: Yes it's a bylaws issue, and we need a bylaws votes to accept it.

Brown: Some backstory: The idea is that after the Rules Committee resolution was brought forward, we could decide how the representation would work - as 1-1-1-1 or 2-2-2-2. The problem is that large committees are hard to fill. We need to fill.

Webb: From a procedural standpoint, Rules thought we should start with a default structure. Senate decided on a small senatorial model to start with.

Leif: Teacher ed would have to be modified, so could Lib ed and Curriculum. If you add bodies to committees, you don't get quorums. But all committees do is report so even numbers aren't a problem. There's no binding on a committee. As a Senate we want to hear all sides.

Kroeger: Each committee can have an at-large member if we're concerned about odd/even.

Higgins: Speaking as one who introduced the original resolution: We were concerned about equal representation across the university. I do like the at-large idea. I speak for the motion.

Jones: Was Rules supposed to examine the committee structure, or make a senatorial proposal? Why did you reject the other model?

Webb: I don't recall the discussion exactly. We were leaning toward small committee structure. We didn't go with the representative model because the senatorial model was mentioned in the resolution.

Jones: We didn't expect to see it implemented.
Brown: It's not being implemented. The Rules committee is asking for guidance.
Murphy: I still oppose it. Does the senate really want to micro manage every committee decision. A 2-2 vote means a committee decision goes to senate. As for uneven representation: one college is bigger that the others, so we have more responsibly to fill the committee.
Nestel: It's hard to get people to fill these committees.
Kippenhan moves to refer the resolution back to Rules, to include at-large member, and to consider all the recommendations made today, and to consider other input. Seconded by Knoshaug.
Friendly amendment from Desiderato to look at the implications of the changes, and include input from existing committees.
Motion carried.

Curriculum Report V (distributed)
Kippenhan: Curriculum recommends approval of the grad studies proposal.
Leif: Where does this go next? Guilfoile? Last time a proposal went up the hill, it was sent back because it had an additional class. Doesn't this proposal have that?
Kippenhan: This brings us in line with MnSCU that students graduate with 6000 level courses making up 50% of their coursework.
Fulton: The difficulty is that we have few grad students, but the this fits with the model of apprenticeship we use. This proposal is the result of a year or more work to fit that 6000-level rule. If it gets kicked out upstairs, so be it.
Leif: Just to be clear, we support this, but there has been movement.
Motion carried.

Officers’ Report
Morgan: Update on HLC Self-Study Questions
Morgan: The self-study questions that the Senate proposed were heard by the HLC Steering Committee. The committee decided to reduce the number of questions they would use to 2 from 3. One question was proposed by Guilfoile, the other is being written by Christensen, Brauer, and Wolf. It was not available at the time of the last Steering Committee meeting.

Unfinished Business
Lib Ed forms
Murphy: Lib Ed showed some forms. It was tabled to look at them. Is there any feedback? If not let's take off the table.
Livingston: The question in my department is that MnSCU requests that a majority of the competencies be met, but Lib Ed is requesting all of them in some areas.
Murphy: BSU has always required more competencies than MnSCU.
Livingston: It's a matter of more assessment paperwork.
Murphy: You can accept the report or not.
Marek: What does it mean if we accept this?
Murphy: I guess if there's a hue and cry against what the Lib Ed committee is doing, then bring to Lib Ed.
Fulton: We were puzzled by lab-like experience. That's a concern. What is lab-like?
Murphy: Ok.
Kroeger: The lab is part of the transfer curriculum.
Marek: Most of the stuff on the MnSCU web site uses the terms we use. There was a memo that used lab-like. It means two courses, one lab.
Knoshaug: I agree with Livingston. It's not just our department. The way the competencies need to be addressed is uneven. Some require 3 of 4, some require all. Not only is this another round of paper, but then you have to address how the competencies are assessed.
Desiderato: We are also concerned about the lib ed requirements for assessment. That is an important concern.

Nestel recognizes R. Weaver, guest.
Weaver: We're hoping to work with the Assessment committee, so give us your feedback so we can work with them.
Jones: It is assumed that the faculty member can assess the competencies. Category #11 is limited in the way it's worded, but should include other kinds of presentations rather than just performance.
Byers: I would support going initially with the MnSCU requirement for each competency, and then build from there. Let's start from there.
Crystal: Moved to refer it back to lib ed to take into account all that's been mentioned here.
Bud
Carried.

Adjournment (5:15)

Submitted,
   M C Morgan, recorder

Next Senate meeting:
1 Feb, 2010, 4:00 pm, HS 107