BSUFA Senate Minutes
1 Mar 2010
4:00 pm HS 107

Attending: Dave Benson, Matthew Bowen, Chris Brown, Sue Cutler, Phil Dahl, Laurie Desiderato, Brian Donovan, Tom Fauchald, Eric Forsyth, Mark Fulton, Jeanine Gangeness, Dan Gartrell, Janice Haworth, Mike Herbert, Bonnie Higgins, Butch Holden, Craig Hougen, Ellen Jones, Christel Kippenhan, Ivy Knoshaug, Tim Kroeger, Doug Leif, Co Livingston, Keith Marek, Mike Morgan, Tom Murphy, Dianne Narum, Bud Nestel, Miriam Rivera-Hokanson, Mehdi Sheikholeslami, Kathryn Smith, John Truedson, Jeffrey Ueland, Pat Welle

Not Attending: Beech, Byers, Christensen, Smith, Webb

Call to Order at 4:03

Approval of Minutes of 1 Feb 2010
Approved as amended.

Student Senate Report
Andrew Spaeth: update. Students are working with Marty Wolf and Steering Committee to get students engaged in the site visit. On Mar 29 - April 2: Student Senate Elections will be held. Student Senate is doing a smoking survey concerning secondhand smoke and litter. They are looking at a smoking ban. Looks like we need 4% increase in fees to maintain the current level of service with Res Life and Hobson Union. Spaeth noted that BSU is under the 5% tuition cap, and thanked faculty for taking the pay freeze. From the student side, it meant a lot. Dahl announced that Lobby Day was next week. 14 students would be leaving BSU at 3am on Wednesday to meet with their lobbyist and legislators. Dahl complemented the students on their work.

President’s Report
BESI. Brown: We received an email from Stanton recommending to not take it. It is not complimentary. It was not brought to M&C before it went to faculty. Fauchald moved that the recommendation be sent forward to the ran and file; Knoshaug seconded. Motion carried.
Brown will also send it to Quistgaard.

CAS Dean candidates have been narrow to four and the names have been released. Will be distributed to all through email.

AVP Erickson wants to discuss ways of dealing with budget with Senate. She wants us to talk about process starting in the near future. We will put this on the next Senate agenda.

Delegate Assembly and Resolutions
We have filled most of the delegate positions but still have four openings for delegates on
April 8-9, St Paul. We are seeing resolutions. Brown shared a few that will be moving forward: electronic balloting; salary claw back: if salary goes down, workload goes down; better timing for of evaluation for professional development for fixed term and athletic appointments. Kippenhan commented on the value of this change. Resolutions will be distributed to Senate. More are coming.

Announcements
Ellen Jones reported on the Climate Study: Group is holding focus groups on 5 and 6 April, and again in fall. Related to sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religion, and race and/or ethnicity. Contact Vicki Brockman or Ellen Jones for more information.

HLC questions for consultants
Morgan reported that HLC Steering Committee adopted two questions

1. How do we plan for a changing balance in course delivery modes (face-to-face, on-line, blended)?

2. According the results of the 2008 Employee Engagement Survey, BSU is poised to increase employee engagement (see page 13 of http://www.bemidjistate.edu/hlc/process/master_data/administrative/human_resources/employee_engagement_survey.pdf). The survey identified trust in senior leadership as a significant area with the potential for growth (page 14).

What recommendations can you make to help faculty and administration work toward a culture of mutual trust and respect?

Desiderato added that these questions now go to Erickson and Quistgaard, who can change them if they wish.

Committee Reports
Curriculum Report VII
Nestel: Recommends the report for approval.
Kippenhan: The Grad Committee recommends for approval. There has been one change in biology: Principles of Wildlife Management has been modified for differential grading for grad students: added component for grad students to syllabus.
Motion carried.

Rules
Webb was not available to report.

Budget
Fauchald: Reported on a $47m cut, 10m from MnSCU, 36 from U of M. Our share is $470k. This came out in the BESI. There is still consternation about 2012 - 13, and no guidance about the shortfall yet. One group says it might be $5b, but more realistic is
2.5b, assuming no tax increases. At the State and local M&C: We asked for the cost study matrix and got it. Fauchald is writing a narrative for it. The IFO is asking for the entire system's matrix at the state level. A 5% tuition increase in 2012 - 13 will generate $2m. Brown: Mankato is eliminating Computer Science and Aviation for 80+ faculty. SCSU is mentioning eliminating Art History and Humanities.

New Business
MnSCU review of BSU's MnTC.
Ueland: Executive was given a memo on this at M&C. We recommend that each department look over what MnTC is asking, and address it. I'd recommend sending a memo.
Murphy: Some of the things are being taken care of by Lib Ed. But we might not be able to get everything.
Brown: The memo opens the matter to departments.
Murphy: We will listen to departments but maybe we should open this to new options like University Inquiry courses.
Ueland: Don't some of these have to be addressed earlier than next year?
Morgan: Moves to charge the departments to address the particulars in the MnTC memo, make their fixes as directed, and send changes to Curriculum Committee, by 1 April. Seconded by XX.

Desiderato: Why is the Executive Committee involved?
Brown: It came to us through M&C. That's procedure. We bring it to Senate.
Knoshaug: Why not let Lib Ed do it?
Morgan: This is a MnTC matter.
Leif: This is basically MnSCU and MnTC to correct small flaws in our course numbering and descriptions.
Fauchald: Yes, this MnTC.
Donovan: System office raises objections to courses that are in part in lib ed. There are possibly small flaws. Pull those out. Answer their objections. Others, we might want to knuckle down on. If we want to make that argument, then we want that argument coordinated. If the coordination is to be directed elsewhere, it is a blatant attempt to marginalize Lib Ed in violation of bylaws
Morgan: Are any courses under threat? It looks like these are matters of course naming, descriptions, mentions of activities in syllabi, not entire courses.
Nestel: Curriculum would like to support motion to get the information that the departments decide on.
Ueland: We are interested in streamline the process.
Kroeger: There would be an advantage to have Curriculum review the fixes before they went down.
Welle: It is an important issue for People and Environment.
Murphy: Thank you for giving our Monday afternoons back.
Nestel: Everything we do still has to go to Lib Ed.
Motion carried.
Selection of the Honors Director

Knoshaug: Moves

Whereas 1. The Honors Program is an academic program and is not an agent of the BSUFA, and the Honors Council and its director are the de facto faculty and chair of the Honors Program and are not representatives of the BSUFA; 2. there is no past practice of the Honors director or similar directors, such as the director of Liberal Education, being "elected" by the BSUFA membership; 3. ballots for the position of director were issued without the knowledge or consent of the BSUFA senate and the self-nominees had no opportunity to present a letter of application or their credentials for the position.

I move that
1. The ballots be declared by the senate to be null and void;
2. The senate recommend that the vice president for academic affairs issue a proper call for applications to the position of director of Honors and that, as has been past practice, the Honors Council review the applications and make a recommendation to the vice president.

Desiderato seconded.
Faucald; How are people placed on Honors?
Knoshaug: They are appointed.
Leif: After a call?
Knoshaug: No. Faculty are sought out.
Leif: Isn't that self-fulfilling?
Knoshaug: We keep a balance across the university. The Director serves at discretion of the AVP.
Lief: How are candidates for director found?
Knoshaug: They are chosen.
Lief: Would we all be notified when the directorship comes open?
Knoshaug: You could recommend yourself. AVP would appoint.
Brown: Would the director be responsible for reporting to the faculty?
Knoshaug: Yes, on occasion.
Brown: This being a directorship, the AVP requested that the BSUFA come up with a recommendation. The principle we used was inclusion and transparency.
Knoshaug: It's a run off.
Brown: What are the criteria for director?
Knoshaug: I don't speak or the faculty. I advocate for the Honors program.
Kippenhan: I'm for the motion. I have never voted for any director position. It's not appropriate because only a portion of faculty knows what the qualifications are.
Jones: Where do you draw the line? There are a lot of directorships. Are we going to have elections for all of these?
Nestel: Is there a problem if only one person runs for director?

Narum moves to extend the meeting by five minutes; Fulton seconds. Carries.
Knoshaug: The ballot should not exist
Narum: For those of us who don't know these people we can't honor due diligence.
Fauchald: The key issue is the AVP came to the BSUFA and asked for a recommendation. If it's her prerogative, I don't understand why we are going with this. If it were truly an appointment, why didn't she just appoint? Should this go to M&C?
Smith: Greater due diligence presupposes that faculty don't have knowledge of the candidates. If that's true, then provide the information rather than set aside the process.
Leif: The AVP asked for recommendation from the Senate because she wanted to be inclusive.
Jones: Calls the question. Motion carries.

Motion to declare the ballot null and void and ask the AVP to issue a proper call for applications for director of Honors prevails.

Adjournment (5:20)

Submitted,
M C Morgan