BSUFA Senate Minutes
Sept. 13, 2010
4:00 pm HS 107

Senators Present: Jennifer Atteberry, Virgil Bakken, Dave Benson, Jim Brouwer, Cheryl Byers, Mark Christensen, Phil Dahl, Laurie Desiderato, Tom Fauchald, Mark Fulton, Jeanine Gangeness, Troy Gilbertson, Heidi Hansen, Mike Herbert, Butch Holden, Ellen Jones, Christel Kippenhan, Mark Lawrence, Doug Leif, Co Livingston, Brian Ludlow, Keith Marek, Tom Murphy, Dianne Narum, Bud Nestel, Miriam Rivera-Hokanson, Karl Salscheider, Mehdi Sheikholeslami, Kathryn Smith, Jennifer Swanson, John Truedson, Jeffrey Ueland, Rose Weaver, Derek Webb, Pat Welle, Jim White,

Senators Absent:, Matthew Bowen, Bonnie Higgins, Craig Hougen, Tim Kroeger,

The meeting was called to order by President Troy Gilbertson.

Minute Approval

It was moved by Senator Desiderato and seconded by Senator Smith that the minutes for April 5th and April 26th be approved as distributed. Motion passed.

It was moved by Senator Fulton and seconded by Senator Ulland that the minutes of August 23rd be approved as distributed. The motion passed.

President Gilbertson requested that President Hanson be allowed to address the Senate on his Budget plans for FY 2012 and FY 2013

President Hanson Presentation

President Hanson pointed out that currently there are three “buckets” of money funding BSU: appropriations amounting to 32%, tuition amounting to 60% and outside funding such as grants amounting to 8%. President Hanson stated that the appropriation source of funding will be declining and that there will be pressure to keep tuition increases at a reasonable level in the future. President Hanson would like to greatly increase the amount of grant money to the University and in the future will head up a capital campaign for the University. Unfortunately, the capital fund raising is still in the future and the University is facing a budget crisis over the next biennium of an estimated 5 million dollars (he later clarified that the 5 million dollars represents both BSU’s and North West Tech’s share of the appropriation decrease, with BSU’s cut being 4.5 million dollars). President Hanson has not yet decided how he will “recalibrate” the programs at the University. He did state that the cuts will be in all areas of the University, not just academic affairs, including intercollegiate athletics and student services. He stressed that he wanted to have transparency and accountability in the recalibration process, he also said
he would be looking at qualitative and quantitative factors in deciding which programs to reduce and/or eliminate. Over the next week President Hansen will be meeting with all the bargaining units and is planning on a University wide forum the week of Sept. 20th.

President Hanson also discussed the possibility of starting a university senate, which would represent all the University’s constituencies including: faculty, students, staff and administrators. In addition President Hanson announced that he would like to have an Ad Hoc University Budget Committee started, this group would give him advise on budgetary issues. He informed the Senate that he would begin to have office hours with the University community, where people will be able to come and talk with him on matters that concern them.

President Hanson took several questions from the Senators. There was discussion about what type of qualitative and quantitative measures President Hansen would use to examine programs, especially non-credit generating programs. President Hanson responded that he would make the decision on what measures to use, after receiving input from the University and the community. There was also a discussion on the University’s themes. President Hanson stated that they were a useful marketing tool and an excellent tool to unify the campus. President Hanson felt that there was not a need to redo what has already been done and that he wished to build on what is already in place.

**President’s Report**

The meet and confer team gave a report on the meet and confer that took place on Sept. 3rd. At the meeting a time line was proposed by President Hanson. The group felt that President Hanson is serious about retrenchment, including the laying off of tenured faculty. The group feels that re-rostering will be taking place and that departments with multiple degree programs will be divided into different seniority rosters, making retrenchment easier. The group pointed out that retrenchment, per the President’s handout, will be based on quantitative and qualitative factors and also the President’s vision of what the University’s programs should be for the future. Members of the Executive Committee felt that the President was looking strongly at keeping programs that get students jobs when they graduate and majors that were large. The group felt that the President strongly believes that the University has too many academic programs. The group stated the President said he will go forward with his plan, even if there is a budget turn around for the state and if the 4.5 million doesn’t all need to be cut from the FY 2012-2-13 budget.

President Gilbertson pointed out that there will be more discussions at future meet and confers, especially the Oct. 13th meet and confer. He also said that he will e-mail out the online location of the current seniority rosters. President Gilbertson reported that there will be a call for an HLC workshop in Oct. There will be a large group going to the work shop, a total of six. President Gilbertson announced that there is a call out for people wishing to attend the IFO campus assistance work shop which will be held in Oct.. He asked for a motion that the local association pay for single rooms. The motion was made by Senator Fauchald and seconded by Senator Ulland. The motion passed.
**Budget Committee**

Tom Fauchald gave a budget report. Tom shared with the Senate the report he prepared for the Executive Committee on President Hanson’s assumption of a 5 million dollar cut over the biennium and if it is unreasonable, unfortunately, it is not. Tom and the rest of the Budget Committee discussed the issue of the IPEDs study that was commissioned by President Quistgaard. The Committee feels that the Association needs to press the issue of the cost of student services in (keeping in mind that student services as defined by IPEDs contains many different functions, including athletics) when compared with the other costs of the University. The IPEDs study found that when compared with other comparable institutions BSU has a very low cost in instruction but very high cost in student services. The Committee also brought up the issue of President Hanson appointing an Ad Hoc Budget Committee. Currently the Senate is on record that it does not support a cut committee. With President Hanson’s proposal the Ad Hoc Budget Committee would be people he personally asks to serve on the committee and would not be a bargaining unit based committee. In addition it looks as if the Ad Hoc Committee would not be making programmatic recommendations. The question was asked should faculty asked to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee serve? No decision was made on this matter by the Senate.

**Liberal Education Committee**

Tom Murphy presented the liberal education report. The moratorium on liberal education changes is now officially off. The Committee is not really sure what next will happen next given that there doesn’t seem to be a budgetary commitment for implementation of a change in liberal education. Vice President Erickson will be submitting a transfer curriculum report to MnSCU in November. The Liberal Education Committee does not have a draft of the report, but will soon be receiving one from President Gilbertson. Senator Fauchald moved acceptance of the report with Senator Desiderato seconding the motion. The motion passed.

**Committee on Committees**

Sharon Gritzmacher present the Committee on Committee report. She pointed out that voting is taking place for Committees. She asked that a motion be made to appoint people who are running for uncontested vacancies rather than having an election for those positions. Senator Fauchald made the motion and it was seconded by senator Desiderato. The motion passed.

The motion was made for adjournment by Senator Jones. The motion passed. The next Senate meeting will be Monday Oct. 4th.

Respectfully Submitted

Tom Fauchald