BSUFA Faculty Senate
December 6, 2010
Minutes

Senators Present: Jennifer Atteberry, Virgil Bakken, Jim Brouwer, Cheryl Byers, Mark Christensen, Phil Dahl, Laurie Desiderato, Tom Fauchald, Mark Fulton, Jeanine Gangeness, Troy Gilbertson, Colleen Greer, Heidi Hansen, Mike Herbert, Bonnie Higgins, 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, Jennifer Swanson, John Truedson, Jeffrey Ueland, Rose Weaver, Derek Webb, Pat Welle, Jim White

Senators Absent: Dave Benson, Craig Hougen, Kathryn Smith

Minutes
Motion (Welle/Desiderato) to accept the minutes from November 1. Approved.

Student Senate Report
Motion (Fauchald/Herbert) to recognize the President of the Student Senate. Approved.
Student Senate President Michael Meehlhause reported on the following activities of the Student Senate during Fall 2010:
1. During the “Get out the vote” campaign, approximately 200 students registered to vote and 400 pledged to vote. The Student Senate hosted debates for candidates for the city council and city mayor.
2. Student Senate co-president Kyle Moellering and V.P. Lisa Irwin co-chaired a No Smoking task force.
3. The BREC/Sanford Center opening has been well received by students. May keep a committee to deal coordinate issues that arise with students and the Sanford Center. Graduation might be held there.
4. Informing students of uloop.com a type of craigslist for students.
5. Informing students about class cancellations – looking into a text message alert system.
6. Budget – Recently held a student-only forum with President Hanson. Planning to lobby and have a statewide student rally day at the legislature.
7. Working with the city on street safety. Some drivers do not give due consideration to crosswalks on Birchmont Dr. and the bike trail back of Bangsberg is not lit at night.
8. Co-chair Kyle Moellering has accepted an internship and Ashley Tenney has been elected as the new co-chair to serve along with Michael Meehlhause.

Meet and Confer Report
1. Administration will relax the requirement that faculty who receive PIGs continue at BSU in the event that such a faculty member is retrenched.
2. President Hanson had previously indicated that sabbaticals, promotions and tenure may be threatened by the budget situation. The President was reminded of contractual language regarding the requirements for sabbaticals, promotion and tenure. He will take this under advisement.

3. Computer services refuses to process course evaluation scantrons. The Administration will look into this.

4. Campus Childcare is closing and they are looking for private contractors to take over this role.

5. Course outlines for liberal education courses in MnTC must be entered into ISRS. Dave Carlson suggests that department complete the checklists and send them to him to have his process enter the information. Departments could also enter the data themselves.

6. The administration maintains that they have been consistent in their policies toward the use of IFO funds and will be writing down that policy.

7. A draft of a payment policy for internships was distributed last week. This is to be discussed within departments. Currently there are inconsistencies.

8. President Hanson took the BSUFA Senate resolution on the Ad Hoc and Budget committees under advisement. He sees the BSUFA response as reflecting an unwillingness to communicate.

9. President Hanson requested that a faculty member participate with him in educating members of the Minnesota legislature about issues in higher education. Motion (Fauchald/Truedson) to empower Troy Gilbertson to go with President Hanson to meet with legislators.

10. If you are aware of allergy issues as a result of the construction work in Hagg-Sauer, send an email with specifics to Ellen Jones and Troy Gilbertson.

Curriculum Report (Truedson)
Curriculum III, requesting a course title change in Business Administration and a course description change for IT2100 were approved.

Liberal Education (interim Chairman Nestel)
The minutes of the meeting of the Liberal Education committee and a chart indicated deadlines for Student Learning Outcomes for Liberal Education courses was distributed. The report was accepted by the Senate.

Motion 1 (Liberal Education Committee)
All departments/programs at Bemidji State University may offer courses satisfying liberal education requirements as long as those courses address the course goal competencies for the respective course in the university liberal education guidelines. Courses that are currently designated as excluded courses by MnSCU for the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum will continue to be accepted for Liberal Education requirements for students who complete their degree at Bemidji State University. Approved.

Motion 2 (Liberal Education Committee)
Charge the Bemidji State University Liberal Education Committee to collaborate with other MnSCU schools to advocate for revision of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum including:

a. Reassessment of excluding departments/programs by prefixes
b. Decisions of inclusion or exclusion in the MnTC by made on the basis of course content and alignment with MnTC course goal competencies.
c. Solicit and involve faculty from amongst MnSCU institutions in the revision process.

Approved.

Budget Committee (Fauchald)

Chairs just received the preliminary cost study information. Chairs should carefully review this information for accuracy this week. The process used does not do a good job dealing with reassigned time. Chairs should talk with Doug Olney. If that is not sufficient, talk with Bill Maki.

Motion (Ueland/Welle)

Whereas BSU is extremely fiscally efficient in Instructional expenditures as compared to thousands of schools nationally (see MnSCU dashboard data); and

Whereas BSU Student Services Support expenditures are greater than the 90th percentile as compared to thousands of schools nationally (see MnSCU dashboard data) and therefore inefficient by the same standard; and

Whereas Instructional costs at BSU are less than 50% of the total budget;

The BSUFA requests that budget reductions and efficiencies be implemented on the area of Student Services Support first and in greater proportion than on Instructional expenditures.

Long discussion. Motion to table (Nestel/Byers). Concern about the timing. Motion to table withdrawn. Motion (Jones/Fulton) to extend meeting 5 minutes. Approved.

Friendly amendment to alter the phrase “Whereas Instructional costs at BSU are less than 50% of the total budget” to “Whereas Instructional costs at BSU are less than 40% of the total budget.” Approved by Ueland/Welle. Original motion with the wording change to “40%” was approved by Senate.

IFO Board (Gangeness)  It will get uglier before it gets better.

Reports from Academic Computing and Salscheider resolution will wait.

Adjourned at 5:20 p.m. Submitted by Co Livingston