Senate meeting March 5, 2018

Attendees: Kerry Openshaw, Mike Hamann, Brian Donovan, Gary Rees, Paul Kivi, Pat Donnay, Dennis Lunt, Heidi Hansen, Francois Neville, Janice Haworth, Ryan Sayer, Katie Peterson, Rucha Ambkar, Sam Jones, Tiffany Hommes, Bill Joyce, Debra Sea, Tim Brockman, Sachel Jofeson, Jan Heuer, Christel Kippenhan, Miriam White, Travis Ricks, Tammy Bobrowsky, Keith Marek, Steve Carlson, Sarah Tarutis, Elizabeth Rave, Derek Webb, Nicky Michael

Meeting called to order 404

Brent Jeffers, lead negotiator, only candidate for IFO pres

Members ratified by 98%, gives leverage that we need at the bargaining table. I appreciate the opportunity to talk about the IFO, no organisation has more effectively argued for the quality of our higher education system, no one advocated more for the shared governance, and as we go through hard financial times, we better have a voice at the table. No-one has advocated more effectively for the educational experience of the students than the IFO. We need the resources to effectively teach our students, we’ve been fighting for those values since the inception.

When I started to think about running for IFO pres, I made two lists- why I would and would not enjoy being IFO pres. At top of list I didn’t want to run- #1 I would much rather be in classroom and working with students. #2 I would much prefer the role on the negotiating team. I’ve been on there since fall 2000- been involved in every contract this century.

These are the very reasons I’m compelled to run for president- faculty controlled curriculum, right to bargain for contract. I want us to be on the frontlines for quality education, experience I believe that what’s good for faculty is good for students. I’m willing to be in the frontline fighting for those issues that matter to faculty.

Moving forward, I think membership is going to be pressed upon us as one of the most important things of our organisation.

I’m a proud graduate of BSU.

DW- can you speak briefly of this budgets of campus vs system office?

The two public higher education systems cost about 2.4 billion over a biennium. The system office allocates those funds. The largest allocation goes to Mankato. Second largest goes to the system office. Any money saved at the campus level or bargaining table, doesn’t go back to that campus, it stays in the system office.

--

Approve minutes

Keith Marek- I move to approve the minutes

Liz Rave- second
Error in Jan’s name- she is “JAN” not “JANE”.

Motion carried.

President report.

DA. We have a number of seats. We currently have least number of faculty who have signed up

++ Presidential election- it’s coming up.

++ Salary equity study. Did you receive an email? Part of this is data integrity. Most of you will have received this. Check all of the numbers and all of the data, and if there is any discrepancy, contact Dick Kaspari (pronounced “Kaspar”) ASAP.

d. attachments for timelines for next year. We have 10 days. There’s nothing substantive different, but is good to have extra eyes to look at that; please let me know if there are any errors.

e.. MOA. Executed and presented at M&C. what it does is changes the date to declare retirement. That’s all it does. No extra incentives, just moving the date. In case someone has changed their mind. Please alert faculty. It will be sent to all faculty. They’re not targeting, just offering.

f. Emeriti policy. We haven’t had a policy, but the BOT requires it. Before, it was automatic, now the pres has the authority to decline or approve.

Tammy- there is a library benefit not listed- lifelong borrowing and interlibrary loans

Jan- our dept. isn’t in favour. The language is the dept. chair or the dean, not the dept. this wasn’t favoured in the dept. the language also about the pres gets to approve or decline, with no appeal, didn’t sit well with us.

Dw- once in a while we get faculty who don’t deserve emeriti status, and I’m saying that as your president.

Jh- can you negotiate the appeals process.

Dw- yes. Did you also have any other suggestions?

Jh- guessing we would like ability to self-nominate

Ck- why do we even need a nomination? It worked just fine before. Why?

ST- has it been a problem historically where people have asked for it and not received it?

Dw- I don’t know

Ck- in the past when they changed the prerequisite time, there were some problems.

Tim brockman- I heard in the past that you get to have an office if the dept. has the space. Is that supposed to be listed? I was wondering if that was left off intentionally or not.

+= guiding principles for decision making
Dw- I think it’s good that they’re making this and documenting it. You probably haven’t had a chance to look at this much, but please have a look and provide some feedback. Please take a look and get back to me.

++

Dw- two other things. Office 365 email migration. It’ going to happen.

++Directors. Came up in M&C. one thing they are doing now, is three-year terms for directors and then conduct a new call, no more directors for life. Historically, applications for directors went both to BSUFA and administration.

Ck- most of the time we didn’t do anything. We didn’t rank order them.

Dw- continue that we would like to keep doing that?

Ck- yes, we would like to do that. We should at least see the names

-

Negotiator. Mike isn’t on campus

Treasurer-heard last time

Grievance- same

-

PD- new dean search name?

Dw- not the new name of the college. “Dean of wellness, social sciences, and advocacy”

Pd- we didn’t know about this on the search committee. We found out about it because one of the candidates called us to ask about it before the skype interview.

-

Old business

Student senate bill.

Bill Joyce- accounting faculty had concern- what if there is a religious holiday that goes for two weeks? Thought it best handled on a case by case situation

hh- did we receive a list of holidays?

Dw- no. I spoke to president about this. We feel philosophically there’s some merit, but from an implementation standpoint we don’t see how it could happen.

JH- CJ isn’t opposed, but we would like to see a list. And a little bit more direction because our students are curious and exploring alternative politics, so might be exploring religions, and could be fluid with their religions of choice. We would also like to see the authorised excused absences that the provost has authorised we would like to see a list we are seeing some scoped creep, or suspect some scope creep. There’s one club on campus, the members of once club will be missing 20% of classes. We
received an email from that club’s adult leader- not a faculty member- saying that the president had approved.

DL- we were concerned about the potential for abuse, but appreciate the way it was written and that it puts the ball in our court. I would like to see this body take it seriously, there’s the potential for international students to be disadvantaged.

ER- biology felt the same way.

HH- one thing in there, I don’t like the wording that they’re dictating to us what we SHOULD do. They can ask, but shouldn’t tell us.

PD- in my experience the students who are going to skip class aren’t going to want to document it- they’re just going to skip.

JF- is there any other authorized absence form that we think is a good one that could be modelled after?

DL- perhaps more important than a form, is training? For incoming students to know what they’re supposed to do. And for faculty to have examples of what we might face.

SJ- I’m curious if it’s necessary to have an excused absence form specific for religion. What if we have just one form for standardised absence, not just religion? Or weren’t seeing an assortment of forms and trying to figure if it’s a contrived version?

RA- the intention of the bill was to suggest that there are specific minorities that aren’t being addressed, and that we convey support in spirit and that the details be worked out later?

Mhamman- if students are nervous about talking to faculty, perhaps they can talk to an intermediary that could speak for them?

PD- the diversity office, Brian, could play a role in there?

KM- the Jesse Grant position?

CK- I would like to make a motion that we support the sentiment of the bill SB1802 but that he procedural details need to be worked out before we fully support its implementation.

Second Rucha

Brian Donovan- nope.

Motion carried.

++ Curriculum

Motion on the floor that doesn’t require a second, to approve. Lib Ed recommends the entire report.

Grad committee?

HH- we approved English and Biology

Ck- grad component was pulled. For mass comm.

DW- any discussion?
Hearing none, all in favour.
Motion carried.

Geography and CEESE? Merged, that went through, and they would now like to be called the School of Sustainability. The administration is fine either way, Erika Bailey Johnson is fine with it.

Jaworth- do they get their own dean?
Dw- no.

Ah- the concern at M&C was that the school is elevated in some way. They were clear that there isn’t administrator attached.

Dw- we can send to the academic

Km- I move to refer B & C to academic affairs
Jan he- I second

Kp- I think it makes sense for some programs that have a wider range of discipline to be named a school.

Dw- motion to extend?

Bd- motion to extend for 15
SJ- second

Motion carries. 15 minutes

Bd- I would like to return to the sustainability part of the name. We exclude those other departments, the name implicitly negates for other units that aren’t included.

Ra- I would beg to differ.

Km- the only thing is that department is defined within the contract, but others are not.

DI – I think we should send back to academic affairs and get a list of criteria

Dw- km has a good point, to preserve the contractual rights

Sj- how are we dealing with the one school on campus now?

Dw- interchangeable with “department”

Dw- further discussion? Hearing none

Motion carries.

Dw- if you have specific concerns for academic affairs to discuss, email them or me.

--
DW – draft documents on constitution or by laws. We have very little time left. I at least wanted to get them to senate to get them thought about, as it takes a very long process. Has to go through senate, and then a special meeting of the BSUFA

hh- reading through that, it looks like the things that changed in the constitution was the name change of schools etc.

Dw- yes, not much in the constitution for substantive changes, but more so in the by-law.

hh- page 2- why is that highlighted?

DW- the two documents currently contradict each other.

hh- is this where the voting date is listed, or is that in the operating procedures?

Dw- OP has language that curtails the election to April, so there is now language that gives us flexibility to change the elections

Hh- section D- said regular elections would be held in April

Km- it would be good for us to get this done this year. It is terribly out of date.

Dw- we will see the constitution and the operating procedures in April. But please look at this again because you are going to see some changes with the new colleges. This will impact committee structure.

Km- motion to adjourn

Tb- second

Adjourn 535