To: Bemidji State/Minnesota State Administration:
From: Michael J. Murray on behalf of the BSUFA.
Date: 9-23-20

The Bemidji State University Faculty Association (BSUFA) expresses strong concern with the collection, storage, and maintenance of faculty screening tool data.

The faculty’s primary concern is the collection and maintenance of identifying information, specifically at the System Office.

The faculty at Bemidji State have been told by our local administrators the need for collecting and maintaining screening tool data at the campus level, coupled with the identifying information. We have been told the rationale for collecting non-anonymous health data, we have been told which persons in management have access to this data and what the data is used for. We have also been told how this data will be maintained and stored locally. Further the faculty were told that firewalls have been instituted so that only appropriate persons in management may access, view, utilize, and store the screening tool data. Following this information, the faculty are comfortable with the way the screening tool health data is accessed, utilized, and stored by Bemidji State management.

The faculty have not been given a rationale for the necessity of collecting identifying information by the system office of Minnesota State. The faculty have been told that identifying information has not been accessed or utilized by any individual at the system office to date; however, the potential is still there. It remains unclear what the purpose/rationale is for collecting identifying information with screening tool health data by the System Office. Further, there are ambiguities as to who has access to this data at the System Office and who could potentially access this data in the future. Thus, the BSUFA requests responses to these questions:

1. The BSUFA requests the Minnesota State System Office provide a rationale for collecting identifying information with the screening tool.

2. The way the policy is currently written, screening tool data can be stored in perpetuity. What is the rationale for maintaining the screening tool data for “at least a year”?

3. Who are the system office administrators that currently have access to faculty’s identifying information alongside the screening tool responses? Who could potentially gain access?