

IFO Meet and Confer Minutes
Wednesday, September 26, 2001
4:00 p.m.

IFO members present: Chris Brown, President, Karenlee Alexander, Jo Jordan, Barbara Schultz, Richard Gendreau, Rod Witt, and Carol Porterfield Milowski, Interim Secretary.

Administration members present: Jon Quistgaard, BSU President, Gerry Amble, David Larkin, and Carl Baer.

Announcements: President Quistgaard announced that Chancellor James McCormick plans a campus visit in December, 2001, and that he has specifically requested to meet with faculty.

Agenda Items

Enrollment Report: First year enrollment is up 21% over last year, for a total of 707 students. Eighty percent of the first year students are living in the residence halls. There is a steady but slow increase in transfer students; international students are also up in number. The total overall enrollment is up 2 %.

Budget Allocation Update: The budget as distributed on August 15, 2001 remains unchanged. The allocation model for the system in which lower division courses are funded at a lower level than upper division courses is still under discussion. This model will create more funding problems for BSU as it funds our lower division at the same level as the community and technical colleges without taking into account the differences in the training of our faculty, the sizes of the various universities, and other factors. The peer group analysis model for funding which a number of schools are advocating as a fairer method of funding shows that Bemidji State University is underfunded by at least \$300,000.00 on the administrative side.

Co-Location and Hockey Arena: Co-location bonding is presently being proposed for the 2004 and 2006 bonding bills. There is nothing proposed for Bemidji State University in the 2002 bonding bill.

IFO members indicated that they were upset to read in the Bemidji Pioneer that the university was seeking bonding for a new hockey arena without first discussing it with the university community. Carl Baer indicated that this was a project of Representative Fuller and not necessarily a priority of the university; they too were surprised to read about it in the paper. However, since there is presently no bonding money being proposed for Bemidji State University in 2002, Carl Baer stated that "if he gets it we'll take it." However, President Quistgaard cautioned that such funding would require more debt reduction on our part and that money would have to come out of already pressed current funds.

If granted, the bonding would most likely be for an extensive "remodel" of the present facility.

Searches Update: Vice-President of Academic Affairs: The IFO and Administration exchanged proposals for the composition of the search committee. The Administration will be advertising the position in October and would like to be able to start the interview process by "early winter." Vice-President of Administrative Affairs: This position cannot be advertised until it is determined that the office holder currently on leave is not returning. The person has until the end of October to ask to return; President

Quistgaard then acts on the request. Faculty Searches: The Deans are beginning to compile a list; nothing more will be done until after the October retirement deadline.

Used Lab Computers and Student Fees: Several faculty members have asked if the used lab computers purchased with student fees can be made available for college or program labs. It is not clear how the used equipment (like that from the Super Lab) is disposed of or what the policies are governing this. Gerry Amble will investigate this.

Parking: IFO members reported that parking continues to be a problem for faculty members as more and more of the existing parking is given over to long term parking for students in the dorms, i.e. Decker Hall lot, Recreation Center lot, and extended EA lot. This matter was referred to the Parking Committee.

The Administration indicated that parking will become even more problematic when the Indian Center is built which will reduce the parking in that lot by half. Additionally, when the building is under construction, the lot may have to be closed altogether.

The IFO also asked for the total number of parking spaces available on campus and the total number of permits sold.

The Balanced Plate Metaphor: The IFO and the Administration agreed that the “balanced plate metaphor” was not an adequate metaphor for the distribution of faculty time and effort in the five areas of the PDP. The metaphor suggests that a faculty member must place 20% of their effort in each area. Rather, by IFO contract, there must be a “greater emphasis” on the teaching area of the PDP. Beyond this, faculty must “address” each of the other areas, but may weigh one area over another. The various weights may be a point of discussion in the acceptance of the PDP plan by the departments and Deans.

E-Mail and Campus Community: The IFO stated that since e-mail has become the primary means of communication on campus it must reach all faculty and staff. Several faculty members have recently been cut-off from e-mail after exceeding their memory allotment; the IFO feels we need to find a better way to work with faculty in such situations.

Assessment Coordinators: David Larkin indicated that the charge for the coordinators had been drafted and a term limit of one year established. He said the intent of the term limit is to “create a large number of people with expertise in this area.” The position will have three hours of reassigned time. The Department Chairs have been asked to bring the position description to the Departments to find candidates in each college.

Planning Committees, subcommittees, Guests and Experts: Jo Jordan shared with the Administration the IFO’s understanding that the Planning Committees can form subcommittees but membership on those committees is limited to members of the committee. Any committee can have “guest” visitors, but the guest cannot sit at the committee table or engage in the discussion. Committees may invite “experts” to give their expertise, but the experts do not engage in the discussion or vote.

Strike Information: The Administration indicated that student workers are obligated to work as are faculty members. Students who choose not to work, will not be paid. President Quistgaard indicated that Bemidji Police had been hired to provide regular campus security during the strike.

PDP, Promotion and Tenure Deadlines: David Larkin distributed a revised list of timetables; these will be brought to Faculty Senate on Monday.

“Money Walk” (Physical Plant Items): Several IFO members reported that their areas of the campus had been experiencing frequent power spikes and that there was trash in some of the tunnels that wasn’t getting cleaned up. Other members reported a student complaint that the bathrooms on Decker 2nd floor and EA, 3rd floor were not handicapped accessible.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.