

Meet and Confer Minutes  
January 30, 2002  
4:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Gerry Amble, Mr. Chris Brown, Mr. Richard Gendreau, Mr. Rod Henry, Dr. David Larkin, Dr. Jon Quistgaard, Dr. Barbara Schuldt, Dr. Rod Witt

Single item agenda Meet and Confer called by the BSUFA to discuss the “Guiding Principles” from the Executive Council.

BSUFA President Brown presented our perception of events leading up to this meeting: Upon receipt of the “Guiding Principles” drafted by the Executive Council, BSUFA Executive Board presented them at the next Faculty Senate meeting, January 14, 2002; Senate received the “Guiding Principles” with less than a warm reception, since it didn’t appear that the BSUFA recommendations were included or even considered; Senate reaffirmed the “BSUFA Guiding Principles” which were then re-presented to the Administration at a special Meet and Confer, January 16, 2002, which was called by the Administration; the Executive Board did not feel that the Administration took the Senate’s recommendations seriously or were even willing to consider them; at the Senate meeting, January 28, 2002 this was discussed.

Faculty Senate, in the spirit of shared governance, wanted to afford the Administration the opportunity to include the “BSUFA Guiding Principles” in the “Guiding Principles” that will be sent forward to the President. The Faculty Senate unanimously voted to direct BSUFA Executive Board to: (1) present the “BSUFA Guiding Principles” at a special Meet and Confer (this meeting) and (2) to have a special Senate meeting on February 18, 2002 to discuss the status of the “Guiding Principles” recommendation to the President and other courses of action. Possible courses of action discussed at the Senate meeting included withdrawing faculty from the planning committees and/or a vote of no confidence.

A discussion about the process and possible courses of action followed. A BSUFA concern is that the planning process is being used to circumvent the contractually, negotiated Meet and Confer process which has legal precedence over the planning process. An Administrative concern is that the “BSUFA Guiding Principles” are trying to box them into a corner where their actions will violate the contract.

Dr. Larkin commented that he thought they had incorporated the “BSUFA Guiding Principles” in their “Guiding Principles”. That the first statement concerning faculty cuts was implicitly stated throughout the principles distributed.

BSUFA asked if the Administration is anticipating any faculty cutbacks. President Quistgaard responded with a definite “No.” That the Administration has not made any budget decisions and will not make any decisions until the “Guiding Principles” have been forwarded to the President and the deadlines are firmed up from MnSCU.

Next steps: Executive Council will reword the “Guiding Principles”. The revised “Guiding Principles” will be presented to the Faculty at the Senate meeting on Monday, February 4, 2002.

In addition, to help meet the request that the revenue and cost data be shared with the University Community (BSUFA Guiding Principles statement 3), the Administration will be providing ongoing communications to the University Community (which already started in the Newsletter and will have a new piece distributed tomorrow), charts on how the funds were spent in 2001, and specific data sheets for athletics, CRI, Safac, grants, revenue funds and some other areas, and information on cost units. A University forum will be held February 12, 2002 to share data and answer questions.