

Meet and Confer Notes
July 25, 2002

Present – Jon Quistgaard, Gerry Amble, Joann Fredrickson, Carl Baer, Chris Brown, Tom Fauchald, Rich Gendreau, Rod Witt, Tom Beech

Item 1- 2004 Budget

JQ – A recent meeting of agency heads in St. Paul, discussed the possibility of a disallocation of up to 10% for the various state agencies. At this time, MNSCU has not been ordered to comply, but this must be considered as a possibility. *This would leave BSU facing a budget shortfall of 1.9 million over the next biennium.* The University is presently in the process of constructing various budget models for 2004.

We expect next year's (2003) budget to be balanced. While enrollment is down among incoming freshman, it seems to be up in transfers and in returning students. Expecting a level enrollment.

For 2004, we expect the following increases in costs – health insurance up 16%, contracts up 5%, inflation up 4.4%, and 250,000 must be allocated to the BSU designated reserve fund. Also factoring in a 5% rise in tuition.

TF – Asked about HESO financial aid.

JQ – The state eliminated money for work-study and student childcare. The University will be able to spend 90% of last year's Minnesota Work Study. The University is looking at a \$2.7 million deficit in 2004. How can we make up this difference? First of all, we must increase enrollment. While tuition increases are currently taking place across the state, BSU has the highest tuition in the MNSCU system. All options for meeting this budget shortfall are being considered, everything is on the table.

CBR and RW – Is the administration anticipating retrenchment or restructuring?

JQ – Are considering restructuring, but not retrenchment. Everything short of retrenchment is on the table. We all must work together to develop solutions.

CBR- Asked a question about a breakdown of instructional vs. non-instructional costs?

GA – Loading new numbers for 2003, will be available in 2 months.

RW – Has the administration developed a framework for criteria for cost reduction?

JQ – A series of scenarios will be developed.

TF – The Faculty Senate will need prioritized criteria.

JQ – There must be maximum co-operation to deal with problems, requires trust on both sides.

CBR- Sacrifices may come, but must exercise care.

TF- Dean's should encourage departments to increase enrollment and areas of growth.

BSU is becoming smallest state university, must focus on growth.

JQ – Must look toward new sources of revenue.

CBA- We must develop a new vision for the University rather than simply looking to cut costs.

2 – Graduation Rates

JQ – BSU currently has the highest rate of graduation (over 6 year periods) of any four year MNSCU institution – 44.4% vs. 41.25%. The University as a whole deserves credit, though there are still barriers to overcome.

3 – Presidential Inauguration

JQ – To coincide with homecoming, the Presidential inauguration will be held on Friday, October 4. There will be no day classes (prior to 4pm) on that day.

CBr- How much of JQ's salary is paid by NorthWest Tech?

JQ – One day per week, they also pay NW tech related travel expenses.

4 – User Ids

CBr – Question concerning the new naming conventions for faculty e-mails. Many faculty have pre-existing e-mail names on business cards, etc.

RG – There was no faculty input into this decision and who will pay the attendant costs?

JQ – Why did this happen?

GA – Rationale is that there must be some structure to e-mail addresses.

JQ – Will look into this matter further.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Tom Beech