

“Special Two Item” BSUFA Meet and Confer
27 September 2006

Administration Members Present: Jon Quistgaard, President, Joanne Fredrickson, Provost for Academic Affairs, Bill Maki, Vice-President for Administrative Affairs, David Carlson, Interim Vice-President for Student Affairs.

IFO Executive Members Present: Elizabeth Dunn, President, Chris Brown, Kathy Meyer, Deb Peterson, Derek Webb, Rod Witt, and Carol Milowski, Recorder.

The Meet and Confer discussion was organized around concerns IFO President Elizabeth Dunn expressed about the Article 16-D, Early Retirement and the Budget on behalf of the Executive (See Addendum I to the print edition).

IFO President Elizabeth Dunn requested **projected savings from 16-D**, Concern I, and **clarification as to how departments were identified**, Concern II. Vice President Bill Maki said he could send the projected savings to Dunn. Provost Joanne Fredrickson said the Deans identified the named departments. They were looking for “top heavy” departments with members at the “high end of their career and no adjuncts at the bottom.” Rod Witt asked if the Fact Book had been used; Fredrickson said “no.” Chris Brown pointed out that Computer Science is a program not a department. Fredrickson went on to say that phased retirement is already in use while 16-D is an extra strategy for staffing flexibility that can be used, even though it won’t produce any savings in the first year. Rod Witt asked if the Administration anticipated “more bad times?” Fredrickson said enrollment is “flat” and the University “needs to make investments in areas that will grow enrollments.”

Dunn asked if there are **other steps the Administration is considering for this year or next**, Concern III. Fredrickson said there are no other plans for this year, but BSU needs three million in savings for next year. She is hopeful the budget forums, curricular reform, and other initiatives will indicate future strategies. Dunn asked if 16-D didn’t provide as much in savings as the Administration hoped, and Fredrickson responded, “this is part of the budget discussion we need to have.” Dunn then asked if the Administration was considering retrenchment? President Quistgaard responded, “no retrenchment plan at this time.”

Dunn said that 16-D is a strategy under scenario planning and asked why the Administration felt it had to get out in front of its own **Scenario Planning Process**, Concern IV. Fredrickson said planning is a long process, and the university needed to start now by using the Strategic Plan already in place. Maki said the budget cutbacks are “simply timing” as the carry forwards would usually be given to Departments in October, and they are needed now.

Dunn asked how the **“potentially harmful” reduction of Computer Science fit with the new emphasis on technology and engineering**, Concern V. No one spoke to this concern. Rod Witt asked about the impact of the Liberal Education Task Force on the

budget. Fredrickson said it was “unfortunate” that new Liberal Education models were being considered during a budget crisis, but “at least we know up front about the budget” and know we need a “financially viable liberal education.”

Dunn asked for the numbers on **instructional versus non-instructional coast**, Concern VI. Fredrickson said there is an MnSCU website where the information is available; she will provide the link.

Dunn asked about the **long term plans for athletics and their impact on the budget**, Concern VII. Maki said athletics will “be looked at” to “reduce costs in the “M & E Budget.” Rod Witt asked about the Events Center and its potential to take money away from the campus-based programs. Maki said the planning in this area will address this concern and that there is a “ceiling on what we can afford with the Events Center.”

Dunn asked if there would be any future **cuts on the administrative side**, Concern VIII. Fredrickson said she is looking at staffing in other institutions “our size” to identify any “overstaffing.”

Dunn asked about **enrollment projections, particularly those that project increases**, Concern IX. Fredrickson said enrollment would be “flat until 2008 when a bump is projected.” Witt said it is dangerous to buy into a projection, as there are no real facts. Maki said we could cap the band as a way to capture tuition during times of flat enrollment and grow on-line courses that are now all outside the band.

Dunn asked to see the **induced course load matrices for all Departments**, Concern X. That occasioned a free ranging discussion about October 13 and the curriculum. Fredrickson sees it as essential that all departments review their curriculum and “narrow current offerings.” She sees curriculum as a “driver of costs and staffing.” She says that semester conversion “didn’t force a good look at the curriculum” and has “heard anecdotally that the need for adjunct and fixed term has expanded since that time.” Rod Witt pushed for a clarification about curricular options, such as reducing the curriculum overall, reducing minors and specialties, or sharing curriculum with others, but Fredrickson maintained, “this is why we need a general conversation.”

This was followed by some general conversation about how October 13th might be organized. Fredrickson said that all the information the Administration has about the curriculum ending with the number of credits a particular faculty member generates is available to the faculty. She says the average credit generation per faculty member at Moorhead is 600 credits per year. Maki reminded the group that the Budget Forum is Wednesday, October 4.

The meeting adjourned at 5: 30.