

BSUFA Meet and Confer Notes

Date: December 12, 2007

Present: Kathy Meyer, Derek Webb, Louise Mengelkoch, Elizabeth Dunn, Marty Wolf, John Quistgaard, Lisa Erwin, Chris Brown, Bill Maki, Debra Peterson, Joann Fredrickson, Susan Hauser, and Marsha Driscoll

1. New registration system discussion included having Dave Carlson providing a demonstration at an Executive Committee meeting.
2. Questions regarding the current status of hockey, the athletic department Plan B, and a faculty member on the foundation. President Quistgaard says he will make a decision around the first of the year. He doesn't have any firm numbers yet. No plan B in sight. We either raise the money or we don't. He doesn't believe that we will actually be in WCHA within the timeline, but we might belong to a "Hockey Alliance" that includes more games within the WCHA.

The faculty position on the Foundation Board is supposed to be a part of the conversation with Dr. Dunn within a couple of weeks. No communication has yet come to her from the Foundation. There is a lot of credibility at stake with the faculty in terms of doing things along the lines of the terms of budget agreement last year. One decision is the hockey decision, the other is the \$750,000 from the athletic budget. Especially since our student affairs budget is out of line compared to our sister schools. BSUFA is also concerned regarding the faculty positions in athletics.

3. Budget update. Fiscal report sent out early December. BSU expected a 3% increase from the system office, but only got 1%. The increases benefited 2 year schools and somewhat hurt 4 year colleges. Appropriations will be decided. Is there anything IFO can do to support a more appropriate allocation. Is there any talk about take backs? Not yet. The budget may be adjusted downward, but the February forecast is more important for this than the November one.

Special finance, facilities, and budget meeting of the MnSCU board discussed. They are discussing how they will buy down the tuition increases. \$4.5 million from system/ \$1.5 from Chancellor, and \$1 million from a one-time interest source.

BSU's spring enrollment is being predicted conservatively. Students may be registering for fewer credits. We are not teaching as many Liberal Education courses at Northwest Technical College as usual. The Provost is looking at that. Presently we have no information regarding why they are taking fewer courses.

Thanks to Dr. Fredrickson and Mr. Maki for the IPEDS data discussion at the Budget Committee. The more we have the data and discussion, the better. Our upper division courses did better in the cost study than some of the larger MnSCU universities, so the significant shift may help us.

4. BSUFA Budget committee has taken responsibility of looking at overload pay and load sheets as well as sabbaticals at 7 years.

5. Positions update includes only one change: Business administration, probationary position for assistant/associate professor is now open.

6. Advising Success Center: What is the staffing, organization, and mission statement? Lisa Erwin says the new director will deal with the mission statement. Underrepresented students' grant for two years will cover 2 retention counselor positions. The staffing consists of one director, one retention counselor, and returning one retention counselor to the AIRC with a dotted line to the ASC. There is some concern from faculty regarding the intrusion into academic responsibility of faculty. Dr. Erwin said that the three populations primarily served will be undecided majors, at risk students, and underrepresented students. For students who have declared a major, the ASC won't do any academic advising. It will instead help with study skills, life skills, etc. Only undeclared students will be given academic advisors. This is already true, that several groups of students don't have faculty advisors. It will be important to recruit faculty to act as academic advisors. Non-major advisors are "stop gap." They are currently hoping to hire someone with transitioning services experience. Perhaps faculty should have more training in advising undeclared majors. We can be strengthened to do a better job. How does it relate to TRIO mission? We need to offer more of these services to a wider range of students. The connection is through Phil Dahl. There are needs that students other than TRIO students have. The ASC may also help students increase their comfort with faculty. The program will also need to be assessed.

7. Reorganization : The BSUFA asked the provost and all members of the reorganization committee to attend Senate. We are getting some committee reports in by the meeting on Monday. Dr. Fredrickson feels she is getting more understanding of what the faculty is saying. What she has heard most in the last month is "identity" or "focused identity" as the question that should be driving the reorganization discussion. The next steps will be based on the results from Monday's meeting. She may call for a Meet and Confer with a decision after the break. There will be changes, but they may not be as broad as originally planned. She hopes to be ready for Dean searches starting in the spring. There will be a Senate meeting Jan. 28th and the Executive Council is charged to write a unified response for their consideration. We could have a one-item Meet and Confer after 1st Senate meeting. Drs. Dunn and Fredrickson will set a schedule.

8. The Strategic Plan has been sent out to Senate and a response will be sent back after the February Senate meeting. There will be a forum by the President on January 29th.

9. There are some who would like to put forward plans for a new 4 year institution in the northern Metro area. The Chancellor stated that he was opposed to this, but is there a push from the Chancellor's office to establish more 4 year programs on 2 year college campuses. Dr. Quistgaard said that there are more and more other colleges trying to offer these programs. He and V.P. Griggs will be meeting with North Hennepin about what they need this Friday. They have some interests in math education and biology. This may be a way for us to get into North Hennepin, because Metro State can't meet all the needs.

10. Weather alert: The website will be the main way to communicate about canceling classes, though they will use the radio, too. BSU rarely cancels, but we have lots of parents with school children who must make arrangements when the public schools close and we do not.

11. Smarthinking On-line Tutoring program: The BSUFA has some specific questions: Each campus has a designated number of hours, so what does that mean? What happens if we run out of hours? What are the students supposed to do? How is it accessed? What impact does it have on our on-campus peer tutoring programs? If we increase our on-line courses, will we be using it more? Also, is the quality appropriate for college level work?

12. HCL committee member call has gone out, and we should have all elected members by early to mid-February. BSUFA would like to have a plan for reassigned time for committee chairs as soon as possible.

13. How do students know if they are eligible to take on-line courses? Is there a policy or not? There are some departmental policies. The practice is “if you are an on-campus student and there is an on-campus section, then you need special permission and the tuition is not in the banded tuition.” The on-line sections are intended to support students who cannot get to campus. That does not include traditional correspondence courses through CEL. If there is no departmental policy, then students will be put into both online and correspondence courses. There needs to be a clear distinction between correspondence and on-line courses. M&C will come back to this question.

14. Proposal for 2 new committees: Academic Assessment Committee
(see Draft)

University Gaps and Trends Assessment Committee

(see Draft)

BSUFA will take them under advisement.

15. Alternative F for people who have not attended class: Dave Carlson says we can do it, but it may not solve the problem. Dr. Fredrickson will discuss with Dave Carlson and get back to us.

16. MnSCU policy for credit for prior learning: biology came up with a written response. (see attached) The IFO has concern that these credits not count toward residency requirements, they also should not count for upper division credits, and also departments need some responsibility. The policy comes out of veterans requesting credit for their experience. There is a great deal of concern that the 2 year schools will accept portfolios and then we would have to accept them. We may need to review portfolios, but who will do the reviewing? Will we get extra duty days? There may be a contract provision that applies to extra payment for time spent reviewing portfolios. Susan Hauser has a tremendous amount of experience in this. There will be more happening with this with the large number of vets returning. Phil Dahl and the veterans’ counselor may be helpful. The Executive Council recommended that the administration discuss this issue with the Academic Affairs Committee.

17. The curriculum deadline for Theater, German, and Economics has been changed to the later half of March to make decisions regarding these majors.

18. Futures Council Proposal by Dr. Quistgaard: See draft which includes the charge and membership. The point of this council is to give the president advice regarding accomplishing the goals of the university strategic plan and communicate that progress to the campus. The proposed assistant to the president is a new position. He consulted with Dan Rice about this and Rice will be sending written comments. He thinks this will be helpful. The President will share the Rice comments. We will review and bring it back.

19. State Senator Rukavina has visited other campuses. BSUFA will contact Frank Moe, offer an invitation, and will then ask Dr. Quistgaard to issue an official invitation for a visit from the state representatives.

20. Computrack: This is a new system for tracking lost computers, but it is extremely invasive and potentially a violation of privacy. The Executive Council opposes it for faculty computers.

The meeting was adjourned.
Submitted by
Marsha Driscoll