

Bemidji State University Faculty Association
Meet and Confer

Date: February 13, 2008

Present: Derek Webb, Louise Mengelkoch, Debra Peterson, Marty Wolf, Lisa Erwin, Bill Maki, Robert Griggs, Chris Brown, Elizabeth Dunn, Joann Fredrickson, Susan Hauser, Marsha Driscoll

President Quistgaard was absent but gave prior written notice that the Provost was authorized to speak for him.

BSUFA response to the Strategic Plan was agreement to accept it without suggestions for revision.

The BSUFA response to the Futures Council included a request for 4 rather than 3 representatives because that is the way our committee representative systems work. What does Futures mean? There is only one or there may be more than one? The name could be clearer.

Implementation of MnSCU password security guidelines. Bob Griggs handed out the MnSCU guidelines. Use strong passwords. Groupwise email password and the Novel login will be the same. So if someone doesn't use Groupwise then this won't work. Some systems can be secured, but not all, and some people may lose mail. So they may require all faculty and staff to use Groupwise. That would solve the security problem, but it might cause some problems for those people who do not use Groupwise. They are attempting to minimize the inconvenience. There is some question about maintaining organization of archived emails. When the new laptops come out this might be the right time to start this. There are other security issues that are not being included, especially those that involve student access to secure information.

Thursday and Friday this week, VP Griggs will be meeting with the laptop pilot program group to determine what was helpful and what was not on the MAC dual platforms. There is some confusion about when, where, who, etc. There is a need for a follow-up email to make sure that people actually show up.

The campus-wide test of the Connect-Ed communication system. The summary results showed 75% successful deliveries which include both live and answering machines. 25% were unsuccessful deliveries. These included bad telephone numbers, busy signals, fax rather than phone, and not answered. These numbers were pulled from ISRS. Updating the ISRS data is difficult. Marty Wolf suggested putting a cell phone number for faculty. MnSCU office said that we cannot post personal data unless there is an "opt out" feature, and Connect-Ed doesn't have that feature at this time.

Voluntary System of Accountability discussion included assessment and possibly using the MAPP assessment tool. This is an example of combining with the university to use

the VSA in addition to the dashboard that MnSCU is requiring. Pat Rogers may be willing to give a presentation about the current UM plan. Student Affairs is supporting Academic Affairs in this. If the Senate approves it by March, we can be designated as an early adopter.

The MOA was executed for a two week extension for departmental reorganization.

There is some question about how much detail is wanted in the departmental proposals. There needs to be both “the intent” and “the rationale.” There may be some entanglement with the college reorganization, but that can probably be worked out. The department proposals must be in to Dr. Fredrickson by Feb. 25, and an administrative proposal will be announced at a special Meet and Confer on Feb. 27.

Positions up-date included a new one-year, fixed-term biology position to fill the position vacated by the faculty on administrative leave. There is an upcoming position in the counseling center. There is a fixed-term position in psychology for backfill of about 30 credits of reassigned time in the department.

Budget update by Bill Maki. Enrollment in for spring semester is very close to predictions and up about .7% . Revenue expectations are holding constant. Our drop for non-payment in spring was less than for fall. Tentative settlement with IFO. The only outstanding contract settlement is with MSUAFF. There is a lot of uncertainty regarding next year’s state budget problems and the February economic forecast. The MnSCU board is expected to act on the tuition and fees in March. If there is “de-allocation” there could be serious problems. Admissions is a bit ahead of last year, but we won’t know for sure until later.

Impact of the proposed IFO contract will include new “post-tenure” sabbaticals. This may involve some financial issues. Chris Brown mentioned that the “merit pay” issue, i.e. the new “university scholars,” designation has no money following it. If and when the contract is signed, we would like to discuss the prioritization of how these are allocated. Local options should be discussed.

Athletic reorganization discussion included using the Title IX committee to look at this. There are currently 9 IFO members, 3 administrators, and 1 staff person. This committee needs to be updated and utilized since it is already standing. The timeline currently has the consultant reviewing 15 yrs. of data and preparing a report in March. After the report the committee should meet and begin to make recommendations. Everything is related to Title IX, so it makes sense to expand this committee’s charge to include the reorganization. This is a university-wide committee, not a BSUFA committee. So Dr. Dunn suggested being systematic about restructuring this committee. It has been convened by Affirmative Action Officer. It is not clear how this will work. At next Meet and Confer will be the time to discuss this. The BSUFA will review the charge and structure.

Administration requested for a second student affairs representative on **Gaps and Trends assessment committee**. Exec has no trouble with this.

Equipment request is going out. Refreshment and betterment of classrooms is going to include equipment as well. There is an attempt to combine these requests rather than asking for two separate requests. This is primarily an attempt to organize and prioritize better requests especially for rooms that may be partially refurnished or need complete overhaul—that includes several rooms in Hagg Sauer.

Submitted by
Marsha Driscoll