

BSUFA
Meet and Confer
April 9, 2008

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

1. The BSUFA responded to Dr. Fredrickson's college reorganization proposal by requesting that she and V.P. Maki attend the Senate meeting on April 21st. V.P. Maki will not be available for that meeting. Dr. Fredrickson will be there.
2. Dr. Fredrickson is moving forward with departmental redefinitions. These recommendations include suggested combinations for Physics, Chemistry, Visual Arts, and Social Work with other departments to reach the minimal size of 5 FTE. The departments may not feel that the recommendations by the administration are the ones that the departments want. There will be 3 steps. They are to respond to the Provost and BSUFA by the 21st April. The Provost will finalize her decision to be announced at Meet and Confer on April 23rd. She has already talked with Physics and Chemistry, though has not been invited to Technological Studies. There are on-going discussions with Visual Arts and TS. Social Work has already had some discussions with other departments, but nothing specific has been decided. This is consistent with Meet & Confer timelines previously discussed. After the final decision, departmental reconstitution would not be fully implemented until March 1, 2009, as per Article 20 of the Master Agreement.
3. An on-line graduate courses ruling from the Chancellor's office, which began looking at the issue in 2006 with the auditor reviewing IFO compensation across the system, asserts that Bemidji State is violating the contract by using the graduate multiplier for compensation of on-line graduate courses. We have been told that we need to realign our practice to agree with the contract. The result will mean that the graduate course multiplier does not apply to courses in the \$65/credit category. Our interpretation must now be that all on-line courses are \$65.00/credit. The net result is a decrease in the credit calculation for the graduate on-line course. (i.e. on-load graduate courses are calculated as 1.25 credits/ student credit earned, but these on-line graduate courses are now calculated as 1.0 credits/ student credit earned.) This will take effect during summer semester. The BSUFA will vigorously pursue this issue.
4. PDP timelines under Article 22 of IFO Agreement will be updated to fit the new calendar. There was some discussion regarding the potential gap between giving the progress report and preparing the next PDP. There might be some review to tie the new plan more closely to the most recently completed report.
5. Confidentiality forms are now being circulated among faculty search committee members. BSUFA questions include: "What is the background on these new forms?" Why do some searches require them and some not? Are they consistent among bargaining units? This practice does not conform to national standards in faculty search,

are these a result of the Minnesota Data Practices Act? What are the legal implications for signing or for not signing it? Why didn't it come to Meet and Confer? What does it imply for those people who do not get the form, but who have access to the data? (eg. student workers, administrative assistants), What if the files are open to departmental members not on the search committee? Preventing departments from discussing the search with committee members outside of the meeting is a serious and new limitation on practice. Linda Gilsrud will attend the next Meet and Confer to discuss this.

6. We are waiting for the final college reorganization to have Senate determine membership on the Futures Council. The administration plans to have a meeting this spring.

7. The BSUFA requests that BSU should more seriously consider closing when weather conditions are serious enough to close public schools and businesses. The president said that he will not be bound by the public schools but will take it under advisement.

Recess while President Quistgaard had a meeting with Governor Pawlenty for the signing of the bonding bill.

8. Positions update by Dr. Fredrickson. There are a few new positions now posted: IFO positions include only one in professional education to fill Catherine McCartney's line.

9. Budget update by Bill Maki reviewed what he explained during the campus budget forums. The data show changes in MN state economy during the last few months. There has been approximately a \$3 billion negative shift in the state economy. The expected increases in revenues are now expected to be lower. The MnSCU BOT has lowered the tuition cap from 4% to 3%.

Budget planning assumptions have included slight increases in enrollment which have held. That helps offset some of our decreased appropriations. 2008 has remained balanced. 2009 shows a relatively small deficit. Looking out to 2010, we are more in deficit, but these are still much better than the \$5,000,000 that we had projected last year prior to the changes being made. We must remain cautious because some variables have become worse, but some are quite unclear (especially enrollment). Conservative estimates assume that our appropriations are not going to grow much. The need to adjust as predicted last year is on course, but we must recognize the changes in the environment.

BSUFA: Given the regional demographics, we need to consider changes. How are we doing that?

Maki: Admissions is focusing on the Twin Cities, not just the region. Also, our applications are higher than previously, including residence hall applications. Pre-registration programs are higher than usual.

Fredrickson: Retention efforts are also showing some impact and the consultant has come up with concrete suggestions. New programs, like nursing, raise enrollment, and other programs are available to capture those students who don't make it in nursing.

9. B. Events Center and athletic area restructuring: The governor supported the regional event center. There is still a distance to travel, to have a lease signed. The next step is negotiation with the city to get the best lease possible.

A May 5th meeting with administration and the Chancellor's office will be followed by a visit from the Title IX consultant. As far as the \$750,000 cut from the budget agreement, we have \$500,000 coming in from Foundation. We also have fully funded NCAA strategic enhancement grant to relieve reassigned time in athletics.

10. President Quistgaard is intending to apply an exception to a DeLITE position that is fixed term. He will extend one position longer than 4 years (one additional year) and prepare to change it to a probationary position. This is based on Bob Griggs' recommendation. The idea is to keep this fixed-term one year longer until the enrollment is certain enough to make it into a probationary position. This position generates enough revenue to be self-supporting, but greater certainty is desired. Griggs reports that enrollment has been fluctuating, but the data are not clear enough to show that there is a clear trend. The more conservative move is to extend the fixed-term. What if this remains uncertain? Request that Bob Griggs be here at the next meeting for answering questions. This is a notification, not a consultation. The executive committee will take this under advisement.

11. May 14th meeting will be held separately on campus, followed by dinner off campus.

Meeting adjourned.