

Meet and Confer notes
October 8, 2008

Present: Leif, Brown, Quistgaard, Peterson, Cutler, Wolf, Erwin (arrived at 4:45 pm), Erickson, Gilbertson, Webb.

Enrollment update:

Quistgaard: MNSCU will be releasing 30-day enrollment numbers shortly. Enrollment numbers are up a bit although the number of credits is down slightly. The good news is that BSU is maintaining well in the residence halls.

Wolf: Does on-line reduce the average number of credits taken by students?

Quistgaard: On-line is the fastest growing piece of the university and it may impact enrollment. Most of these students are probably students who would not otherwise attend BSU. When we look at the on campus portion along, the average number of credits per student is down a little.

Cutler: What is the status of the graduate programs?

Quistgaard: We are offering fewer classes. At a later time more information can be provided.

Budget Update:

Brown: What should be anticipated?

Quistgaard: The State of MN is under financial strain at this time. The MN deficit has climbed to \$3 billion. The governor has a constitutional responsibility to balance the budget. It may be necessary to revisit tuition levels. The current position is no tuition increase. There are several possible scenarios depending on the budget outcome and it is difficult to predict at this point. We need to be very prudent about spending, as the next year may be tight. BSU currently is in good shape through 2010. The budget forum is coming up November 6th.

Brown: What is the situation regarding the Tech fees? There has been talk of a software package (Iornport) purchased with tech fees in the range of \$20,000. Purchases of this size should be passed through the tech fee committee.

Quistgaard: I'll check into that.

Facilities Update:

Quistgaard: I visited the nursing lab earlier today and the sheetrock is up. The goal in Sattgast is to get the new piece added so that interior work can occur in the winter

months. Surprises can occur with projects of this size but that is the nature of remodeling projects.

Brown: What about the event center?

Quistgaard: There are interviews for project managers and conversations on the lease are occurring. It may be necessary to shut down the ice in the John Glass Fieldhouse after a move into the new facility. This would be a cost savings to BSU.

Peterson: The savings on the lease from last year's presentation was built into the athletic restructuring. Will this impact the athletic restructuring?

Quistgaard: The short answer is yes.

Positions update:

Erickson: There is a biology fixed term, two math, geology position, mass communication, and business administration positions. This information can be updated after the October 15th retirement notice deadline.

Brown: Traditionally search committees include a faculty. Faculty perspective in the hiring is important. The understanding is that there may be a negating of this practice.

Quistgaard: I don't think that is accurate and I will check into it.

Brown: We are good with the Dean search committee recommendations.

Erickson: The new technology positions are new positions but the money is not new money. BSU will share resources with Northwest Tech.

Quistgaard: Both institutions will benefit from this arrangement.

Quistgaard: As an informational item, the position description for the Affirmative Action is in St. Paul and the intent is to hire by January 1, 2009.

Athletic Restructuring:

Quistgaard: Nothing new to report because Bill Maki is not available.

HLC Faculty Co-Chair:

Erickson: I would like to ask the BSUFA to put out a call for faculty representation. A description of the duties will be provided shortly.

Brown: Will the co-chair report to the Senate?

Erickson: I will check into this.

Student's Reporting to Dean:

Brown: The Senate was not happy about this issue. There was arbitration at Moorhead about this matter. The concern is that this is similar. Can you explain the process?

Erickson: This has been a practice and it has been called Student Advisory Council. This is an advisory group because the Deans have been out of the classroom for too long and need to remember the perspective of the students. The Dean needs to be in contact with the students. Moorhead used this for tenure and promotion. This is not the situation here.

Peterson: Why not the student Senate?

Erickson: It is not practical.

Webb: Why is this not going through the Student Senate? It seems to circumvent the process.

Quistgaard: I have lunch with students sometimes with no agenda. The purpose is to get a feel for what the students are experiencing. What is the concern here?

Webb: Membership is concerned that students will say negative things and that those things will be remembered more than the positive things.

Erickson: Most of the time Deans interact with students when they complain. This is an attempt to meet students in a more positive manner. This is not about spying.

Peterson: There is a memory of a particular Dean who called students in specifically for the purpose of collecting information about faculty.

Erickson: That isn't the purpose here.

Webb: It may be worth discussing that nothing said could be used in a disciplinary manner.

Brown: The concern is that a Dean would not be able to ignore a negative statement because it is difficult to act objectively. Additionally, the faculty will know who the students are.

Webb: This gets into assessment and in a different manner than that outlined in the PDP.

(Lisa Erwin arrived at 4:45 pm)

Quistgaard: Maybe a memorandum of understanding can be written.

Brown: I would like more information about the process.

Webb: Call for caucus.

Assessment Coordinator:

Erickson: I am going to put out a call for an assessment coordinator.

Futures Council:

Quistgaard: The letter will be out tomorrow.

Summer Calendar:

Webb: At the end of the term there has been a problem with foodservice and dorm cleanliness. The issue is that if we are teaching later then services should be the same throughout.

Brown: The Senate will finish this discussion on Monday and report back on Tuesday October 13th.

Quistgaard: We can check into the cleanliness issue.

Software delays:

Brown: It could be a significant problem if SPSS goes down. If the license is expired, can the site license be used? Are faculty members in violation of the site license?

Erickson: There is information that some have been charged back and some not. We are working on this.

Wolf: The other issue of concern is that software used in teaching expires in mid semester it is damaging to the educational process.

Peterson: It is troubling from a faculty standpoint to keep asking about the licensing fees.

Brown: There is a two-week delay purchasing or upgrading software.

Erickson: Does that impact the licensing?

Quistgaard: We will check on that. Some of this could be purchasing rules.

Fleet Safety Information:

Brown: The folks downstate what to know how ya'll are handling this? A lot of the campuses have made this a monster.

Quistgaard: Bill will let you know.

Erwin: Students are being vetted with license checks.

Nine Month Taskforce:

Brown: I hear we are at a disagreement here.

Erickson: You put forward the option of six and we are sticking with three.

Faculty Under Investigation:

Brown: This is something we just picked up and I doubt you are going to go along with this. Part of the public personnel data on employees can include complaints on an employee regardless of whether discipline is involved. What we want to know is whether there are investigations going on.

Erickson: Deans always remind faculty of their right to for faculty representation.

Quistgaard: Why don't you provide information from the attorney?

Affirmative Action: (see above)

Student Petition Advisory Committee/ Faculty Appointments

Erickson: I am requesting information from the BSUFA on this.

Erwin: I would like the BSUFA to recommend a faculty member for appointment.

Other Items:

Peterson: We would like to delay the implementation of the $\frac{3}{4}$ time reassigned time until next fall 2009 and continue the current .25 reassigned time.

Erickson: An engagement survey being funded by MNSCU will produce information for criterion I in HLC. This is informational.

Brown: All but two committee positions on the faculty positions have been filled.

Meeting Adjourned 5:20 pm

