

BSUFA Meet and Confer Minutes
Dec 10 2008
4:00 pm

Attending: Brown, Leif, Cutler, Smith, Peterson, Wolf, Morgan; Erickson, Quistgaard, Maki, Erwin,

Opening queries

Are you considering retrenchment?

Quistgaard: Not at this time

Are any faculty currently under investigation?

Quistgaard: Not that I am aware of

Updates

Enrollment update

Erwin: We're 7% up on applications, even on admissions from last year. For spring: The headcount is up slightly, FTE slightly down. Cutler requested grad numbers. Last time we looked, we were down. Quistgaard asked if the schools are not encouraging graduate attendance.

Cutler: Our Special Ed and Ed enrollment could be twice what it is now.

Smith: It's a matter of cost. Students can't afford it.

Budget update

We're looking for a better understanding of the breakout between BSU and NTC. Are there benefits for BSU? Are staff getting thinned out so we can't take care of our people?

Maki distributed sheets and reviewed financials. We get one appropriation through the funding formula and we split it between us. We prepare separate balance sheets for audits. About 85% goes to BSU and 15% to NTC. New positions are split, but seniority means that each position needs to be in one or the other place. The CIO's position is with BSU, but he's doing work for NTC. Once a year we do an adjustment.

Leif noted that NTC has almost twice the funding per student over BSU. We're underfunded in comparison. Quistgaard reminded us that we are aligned, not merged. NTC had a \$470k deficit 4 years ago. 40% of faculty and staff had to be laid off. We're working out of this.

Peterson: Are we working toward merger?

Quistgaard: No. NTC has a separate budget. There is some sharing.

Wolf: Do you have a way of tracking time of those who split their time between places?

Quistgaard: They have a pretty good idea. At the end of the year we sit down to reconcile. We watch to make sure we have is covered.

What is your intentions regarding summer school earnings?

Quistgaard: We can't know given the MN budget.

Leif: Can I have the number for summer school earnings?

Maki: Yes

Peterson: Is there a date on BSU cutbacks given the state budget?

Quistgaard: The current deficit is growing. There is speculation of a 5% unallotment. State agencies have been told to reduce by 10%. It's really hard to know. The governor is proposing a freeze on salaries. But we probably won't know until State of the State speech. We haven't been directed by the state, but we have been directed by the Chancellor to watch things. We're building scenarios but they are changing day by day. What concerns me is that the playing field keeps going down.

Brown: Should something come up, let us know.

Quistgaard: We always have and will continue to.

Wolf: Is it likely that departments won't see their summer money?

Quistgaard Sit tight. We're doing what we can

Peterson: Any news funneled through Chris wold help.

Quistgaard: Encourage faculty to keep up. I try to avoid having you read anything in the paper.

Smith: We know what our budgets are. You are holding onto that until you know what the budget looks like.

Quistgaard: We need to sit tight. To spend money right now might leave us in a situation that is ugly.

Brown: Given there are a number of layoffs in the public and private sector, are we set for retraining workers?

Quistgaard Yes. I'm trying to encourage the state to put money into retraining. The 2 year school will get the benefit from retraining; the 4 years after that.

Brown: We should have a budget forum in January or February.

Quistgaard We will. When we know.

Facilities update

Maki: M 009: Clinical Resources is completed. The have a Simulation Lab. Nursing is moving in. Sattgast Renovation: The site is challenging. We're having weekly meetings with the Associate Dean. We'll be ready next fall. Sattgast 245: We're redoing it with new furniture over break.

Peterson: What about site is challenging?

Maki: Where tunnels are placed.

Positions update

Erickson distributed a list of unclassified searches. We're waiting for list of classifieds.

Wolf: Can you report on who's retiring?

Quistgaard We have a least one considering early incentive.

Erickson: A second possible

Quistgaard We aren't sure if we can share this information. If we can provide it, we will

share that.

Wolf: When the positions went out, our material went through a template with a gross misspelling. The URL doesn't point to a clear web page. These things are not good.

Quistgaard: We'll look into that.

Peterson: We have had relatively few candidates, and I'm not sure if it's the template.

Brown: This is indicative of changes in policies and procedures without the necessary buy in from all the players. We're wondering what's going on.

Quistgaard: We'll look into it.

Brown: This is just one episode. The 9 month contract language and fleet safety policies are being changed without faculty input.

Internal candidates resolution

Brown presented the Senate resolution re: backfilling internal administrative hires with permanent faculty.

Quistgaard: We will take that under advisement.

Emeriti resolution

Brown presented the Senate emeriti resolution.

Quistgaard: Will take this under advisement and will get back to you at next M&C.

Legislative update

Q has been in contact with our representative. He is working on issues with Psychology to get their MA licensed. He has a meeting with our representative on 22 Dec. concerning the matter. The Student Association took the position to hold where they've been with tuition. They are trying to get full funding for inflation.

Athletic Restructuring

Brown: We would like your response to our response. We're concerned about our colleagues in men's track.

Quistgaard: We're still exploring some scenarios. It comes down to how do we support 17 sports. This will be a strategic decision, not just about track. I will make our recommendation by the end of semester. I continue to see proposals. We're trying to sort it out for the best of the university. The students need to know. If we trim men's track, then students need time to transfer

Brown: Are we in WCHA or not?

Quistgaard: We're not in it right now. They are looking at lifting the moratorium. If it is lifted, we can go to the April meeting to appeal. We'll know something in January, and then in April.

FYE Expenses and Course Fees

We are still waiting for a response.

Erickson distributed a report.

Brown: Why is FYE charging a student fee this spring?

Erickson: We have not heard from the faculty. I have a proposal for next fall to not

charge the fee. It was used for cameras purchased to take photos of events.

Quistgaard: I will be asking the VP to review all course fees.

Peterson: Some faculty have already received the request to review.

Brown: Can we get policy to faculty on what's allowable for course fees?

Maki: MnSCU changed policy in spring. Fees may not be charged for consumable supplies. We're not allowed to charge for handouts, for instance. We need to figure out a way to hold faculty harmless. If there is a justifiable reason, we need to look at differential tuition. We don't have any discretion. If we charge it, we have to refund. These changes came in August 2008.

Smith: Could you distribute a list of what's allowable?

Peterson: We use student fees to offset the use of labs. Who will departments charge for use of a lab if we can't use fees?

Maki: There are going to be a lot of situations. We're going to have to meet department by department.

Peterson: Program by program instead of department?

Maki: Ok.

Cutler: Is there a list of what we can use it for?

Maki: We have to work with Academic Affairs and the deans.

Brown: If the faculty know in advance what's yes and no, that will guide them in their request.

Cutler: Students have to purchase through us.

Leif: Is it legal to charge differential tuition?

Brown: Can we get the policy changes through M&C to keep us in the loop and get information out early?

Quistgaard: Yes.

Peterson: We appreciate that you're working with faculty ahead of time. The implementation of some policies aren't taking faculty needs into account. The purchasing cards, for instance. Faculty want to work with staff to make sure that they are aware of our needs.

Faculty roster

Erickson gave finalized copy to Brown. Quistgaard requested feedback from Brown before distributing the copy.

Other

Confidentiality in delivering personal correspondence from deans to faculty.

Wolf: Comments from deans on PDPs are coming open, not in an envelope. These comments are confidential.

Quistgaard: That will be attended to. That should not happen.

Student Meetings with Deans: Student Advisory Council

Erickson: The deans have asked for names from faculty. But the meetings are not happening.

Quistgaard: Is there anything in the contract that prohibits these?

Brown: We're trying to get in front of an inadvertent problem if we go into a formalized process such as evaluation with information collected at these meetings. It's an awkward position for students to be in.

Erickson: We want to emphasize that the deans do generally know there's another side to the story. There is nothing behind this. We are doing it in an honest way.

Faculty Sabbatical Reports

Erickson requested meeting with BSUFA Academic Affairs to have a conversation about regularizing sabbatical reports. The report is part of the contract, and we're required to pass it along downstate.

Brown: In the spirit of understanding, can you give us what you are required to send?

Erickson: Yes, but it's broader than that. I need to understand what the faculty member is doing. This is not from a MnSCU directive. It came from Academic Affairs.

Quistgaard: We need some evenness in reporting.

Leif: On the front end, could we get a summary or checklist on how sabbaticals are approved and evaluated. Faculty at Mankato are getting them every 7 years.

Quistgaard: We traditionally have not funded 7 year sabbaticals for financial reasons.

Peterson: Last year we asked for a faculty/admin committee looking at how we fund them to see if we can build 7 years sabbaticals into financing.

Erickson: There was some discussion Deans Council.

Wolf: I recall Dr Fredrickson sketching out 7 year sabbaticals for some faculty. There are issues in small departments of covering backfill.

Quistgaard: Let's see if we can track that down.

Last Day of Attendance

Maki: Financial Aids needs to know. We're required to determine if an F is an earned F or student didn't appear in class. We're using last day of attendance as a guide.

Peterson: Is there a cut off date? Students sometimes disappear after the drop date when they determine they can't pass. That's the kind of student this policy hurts.

Maki: Might be the 60% point.

Peterson: It's knowing how to comply when we don't take daily attendance. We can only use the last day of grading. How do we handle this?

Wolf: Have BSUFA Academic Affairs to see if they can figure out a solution.

Quistgaard: Have Financial Aid there.

Dining Services in Summer Sessions

Maki: ARAMARK is giving us a proposal. They are running a deficit. There's a possibility we might have just catering in the summer. The school year is generating money for summer services.

Brown: But they would have issues with bringing in outside food.

Maki: They are coming back to us in January with scenarios.

Wolf: You're talking about the entire session being handled the same way.

Maki: There will be more discussion and we'll brig it back.

Quistgaard: The number of online students in summer is impacting the numbers dining in summer.

Nine-Month Contract Committee

Erickson: I'll get the meeting going. Conferred with Brown.

Tuition Waivers

Brown: We need to have the process change brought before us.

Maki: It's a new system process.

Brown: Then it should come through M&C.

Wolf: We got an email, giving us the URL. That's it.

Brown: Other campuses are having training sessions.

Quistgaard: If there's going to be input, you have to do it downstate.

Brown: Part of our point is that we need to see policies comes through M&C.