

BSUFA Meet and Confer Notes
Jan 28 2009
4:30 pm

Attending: Smith, Cutler, Leif, Erickson, Maki, Quistgaard, Brown, Wolf, Peterson, Erwin, Ueland, Morgan (recorder).

Updates

Brown: Are you considering retrenchment?

Erickson: Not at this time

Brown: Are any faculty currently under investigation

Erickson: No. The Faculty Association would know

Brown: What is the state of current positions?

Erickson distributed a list of current and requested hired. Blank dates means not released.

Erickson: We're trying to make choices on the state of programs, which is hard given the new economic climate.

Quistgaard: We will give you a copy of what's been released. We're going to have to stay flexible in hiring.

Maki: There are searches going on in Res Life, but it has a different source of funds.

Enrollment update

Erwin: We're up in headcount and FTE by 2%. Applications are up 7%.

Wolf: Has there been any change in schedule so you're comparing apples to apples?

Erwin: There is always tweaking but nothing substantive. Consultants advised a number of tweaks we've been taking on. And we're moving towards electronic communications which is more effective. But we're still making valid comparisons.

Cutler: How about grad enrollment?

Erwin: Same trends as from fall. No new students.

Cutler: The grad program is down?

Erwin: Yes.

Budget update

Unallotment. \$20m cut from MnSCU. Chancellor cut \$3.7m at his office. We owe back \$588k. We're unallotting from new investments, primarily in Academic Affairs. We found that we didn't have to fund the nursing program as heavily as we thought.

Administration is holding back on 2.5 positions that were budgeted for

- Assoc. AVP
- Affirmative action-
- .5 clerical post

There are two other positions we generally don't fill until spring/

Wolf: Have you identified the projects you're going to look at?

Maki: No. There will just be less projects funded when we ask for proposals.

Quistgaard: There is still potential for further unallotments. We'll know more in February.

Brown: The proposal for unallotments was sent out in such a way that we could not bring it to our constituents.

Quistgaard: MnSCU has already taken the money.

Maki: Summer session money has not been distributed. We usually do that in November/ But we're holding it in case of further unallotments

Erickson: We haven't distributed equipment money because we anticipated cuts.

Smith: Might we expect equipment money in spring?

Erickson: We just don't know yet. More patience will be asked.

Quistgaard: We certainly won't know until the February announcement.

Leif: Does this include CEL?

Erickson: Yes.

Maki distributed slides from Pawlenty's press conference listing numbers. By the end of the day, MN has to have a balanced budget. MnSCU's cut is in excess of 10%. To our best knowledge, tuition is not likely to be the our way out of the problem. We will have to seek other means. We have a few scenarios to share at the Budget Forum. But we expect at \$2-3m shortfall, given minimal tuition increases.

Maki distributed a draft timeline for planning and discussing cuts this M&C dates. We are asked to respond to the timeline if we have any concerns on these dates.

Erickson: What was the concern about the budget coming out late?

Brown: We were concerned about process. Budget Forums are not the way to gather response. We now have enough to respond to you.

Erickson: The idea is to communicate in many ways, M&C is an official way, but the Forums are good.

Brown: Will there be a second forum?

Maki: Yes.

Brown: Are you designating departments for early retirement?

Quistgaard: It's too early to say.

Ueland: You estimated that enrollment is stable and we're expecting a 3-4% tuition increase What if we don't get that?

Maki: It looks like they're going to give us the tuition increase.

Quistgaard: The word from Pawlenty is don't solve your problems by a tuition increase.

Erickson: Students are going to call for tuition freeze.

Quistgaard: The Chancellor is telling us that they [Office of the Chancellor] are going take the same pain as we are.

Brown: Local visits from representatives need to see us out there, and see the students.

Erwin: There is no need to drag the students to show face politically. They are out there.

Brown: We're think of a way of getting behind them to get out there.

Quistgaard: I share budget info with Student Senate Presidents.

Peterson: There is some concern about sabbaticals, travel, and promotions.

Quistgaard: I have not put on a travel freeze but have asked faculty to pool and use discretion. Freezes are counterproductive. We will follow contract language on sabbaticals. The freeze doesn't enter into our concerns for promotions. If faculty are eligible for promotion, we're going to promote. We won't hold off because of a freeze.

Brown: Holding off on sabbaticals means a sabbatical backup.

Erickson: Deans are working on mapping out where sabbaticals are going to be for the next several years to prevent a problem.

Erickson: There were some discussions about going to 7 years, but there isn't the money.

Leif: Do we have 20% of base for backfill?

Quistgaard: That's budgeted.

Facilities

Maki: We're anticipating 1.5% in bonding for this year. We need an ADA lift, pumbing, and pointing.

Quistgaard: The Nursing area is nice addition. You're invited to visit it.

Hockey

Brown: What's the situation with hockey?

Quistgaard: WCHA voted to lift the moritorium so we we'll be applying. We entered into a lease with the city, vetted and cleared through all the offices, including MnSCU.

Brown: What's the timeline from WCHA?

Quistgaard. We apply. They'll let us know in spring.

Wolf: Any other options if we aren't accepted?

Quistgaard: We will play in WCHA next year.

Brown: There is a statute that you can walk away from a lease.

Maki: There is statute that the state can walk away with 30 days notice. That was a sticking point, but we laid out a path before we get to wakling away.

Brown: Where's the breaking point - the point where we walk away?

Maki: It isn't defined.

Erickson: Is there some criteria we use to measure whether we walk away?

Maki: It has to be catetrophic. No school has walked away from a lease.

Ueland: What's the state of it?

Quistgaard: We are taking it one year at a time.

Brown: We would like a list of retirees.

Erickon: We've been advised not to say.

Brown: Can we get the statutory language prohibiting your saying?

Erickson: We have an aggregate of 7 retirees,

Brown: Who is the current Affirmative Action Officer?

Quistgaard: It took a while to get classified.

Brown: We are concerned that if there is a harrasment case, it would create a conflict of interest.

Quistgaard: If we get a case like that, we'll bring in an outside person.

Morgan: Is there a safe path in such a case?

Quistgaard: Yes. Faculty can go to any VP or dean, depending on who's involved.

Student Meetings with Deans: Student Advisory Council

Brown: Have there been any formal meetings with deans? Are there any planned or scheduled?

Erickson: No to all.

GLBT and Diversity Climate

Peterson: We would like to request what campuses have collected on campus climate issues: GLBT, women, and people of color. There might be differences between campuses. This is an official request for climate information. We don't want to replicate but we are interested in focus groups and surveys.

Quistgaard: We just did a climate survey, but I dont know how it has broken out.

Erwin: This is an important topic. We might want to partner with this.

Peterson: It's a big project. We want to look at each campus. We don't know how multi-year this is. Some have written this into their sabbaticals.

Erwin: Are you looking for a shared instrument?

Peterson: Yes. We're still doing a lit review.

Erickson: Is there some way we can meet with the Collective?

Peterson: There was some desire to let this be a faculty intiated project.

Erickson: The administration supports this.

Deans meeting with new hires

Brown: A dean reported to a chair not to schedule new hires on 10 am Wednesdays for "meetings with the dean.

Erickson: This was not required, but chairs should consider this. It's is not for the deans to meet with new faculty. The idea came out of Deans' council and the CPD to mantor new hires more carefully by meeting with deans.

Brown: A concept like this should come to M&C and then to the chairs.

Erickson: Except this is about scheduling.

Leif: Departments do the schedle with consultation with the dean.

Erickson: But the final line is with the dean.

Brown: As we see it, this plan gets into policy.

Ueland: We have seen an 11-point plan. There's something in motion.

Erickson: That started with CPD.

Ueland: No. It started with deans. That's where the plan comes from.

Quistgaard: This needs better communication. Let's look into this.

Morgan: In a related matter, Dean Dunn isn't distributing chair's meeting minutes. As a matter of transparency, we would like the dean to distribute minutes.

NTC Alignment

Brown: Alignment is blurring beyond alignment. Where is it in our interest to share administrators with NTC?

Quistgaard: You have an administration who works 125% of the time. I've been assigned this. The advantage will be in increased income. We have students in halls that are not enrolled here. We have the Bridge program. We have articulation agreements.

Brown: Respectfully, how does the pot get divvied up? Our concern is that you're diffused to work with multiple missions.

Quistgaard: I've been given this assignment. It takes up some of Maki's time, some of Erwin's time, but none of Erickson's time,

Brown: We want to be part of what's going on as we move into this.

Ueland: Are programs that are similar between the two schools likely to be eliminated?

Quistgaard: We're not duplicating payroll or classes. We're out in front of the curve and will be looked on well.

Brown: These are two different cultures. They see you a lot more at NTC.

Quistgaard: That's a gain. We have students in our residence halls that we wouldn't have. We have noticed it most in Nursing. NTC doesn't offer the AA degree, but they would like to. We're in good stead in not having a duplication of services.

Brown: We're seeing NTC students using BSU computers without paying the BSU tech fee.

Quistgaard: We're using that as incentive. The more students we have in residence halls the better. These are things we have to resolve.

Erwin: We're seeing some benefit from working together.

Quistgaard: It's not a case where NTC students are taking up space and resources.

Concurrent enrollment

Brown: Is NTC offering concurrent enrollment supervision to schools?

Quistgaard: Not us.

Brown: We're hearing about groups undercutting us.

Quistgaard: Yes. They are out there. We're trying to focus NTC on technical education, not concurrent enrollment. I'm interested in keeping a focus on BSU: If we offer it at BSU, they don't offer it at NTC.

Departmental consolidation

Brown: The reorganization laid down rules about having no departments with less than 5 faculty, but they're still there.

Erickson: We have a March 1 deadline to meet reorganization.

Renaming Departments

Brown: The renaming of departments usually goes through M&C so the name can go to the Senate.

Quistgaard: You want to be notified.

Brown: It's about communications.

Letters of Expectation

Brown: We have a better solution to a faculty agreement. Fit it into the faculty member's

PDP.

Erickson: The expectations in a LOE, don't fit into the PDP categories.

Brown: Like Fundraising?

Erickson: That could go in Area 5, 4, or 1.

Brown: The agreement falls into the PDP. We want to see contact language that justifies the LOE.

Changes to Student Appropriate Computer Use

Erwin: The Higher Education Act is now writing expectations of computer of comture use. We've stricken prohibition to use email for political purposes from the student use policy.

Changes in course fee policies

Erickson: We are following MnSCU policies. It was discoverd that we were in violation so we pulled the fees. It wasn't a change in policy.

Peterson: We would appreciate Bill meeing with with faculty. Info is coming through garbled.

Erickson: There is a fee that will be added to courses.

Brown: We have a repeated concern that faculty are not being brought into policy changes at draft stage. We would like to see the draft changes in policies so we might have some input.

Concerns about communication with IT

We have a list of concerns about IT

- IT support driving is faculty decisions
- Decisions are being made without faculty input
- Communications with IT staff is suffering
- Communication with CIO is suffering
- What will be the process for changes in IT policies and labs?

Brown: We brought you this matter at the beginnig of the year and it seems to be getting worse.

Wolf: IT folks are getting paranoid.

Ueland: We can't talk to IT folks without them looking over their shoulder.

Morgan: We are concerned about the strategic plan being drafted without faculty input - those areas that affect academic computer use

Quistgaard: The plan isn't final until I sign it.

Morgan: Some of the plan is being acted on right now.

Ueland: IT here went from best I've seen to the worst in one year.

Morgan: They've stopped the computer lab manager meetings. That was a good forum for getting cooperation. That was one of the most successful coopertaive projects we've seen on this campus. Faculty need input on academic computing matters from the very start.

Quistgaard: We'll look in to this.

Erickson requested a faculty input on the academic calendar.
Brown: Senate will send someone your way.

Adjourned at 5:40.

Submitted, M C Morgan