

BSUFA Meet and Confer Notes

Mar 4 2009

4:00 pm

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

Questions

Brown: Are you considering retrenchment?

No

Brown: Are any faculty currently under investigation?

No

Brown: Have any investigations been completed?

No

Updates

Enrollment update

Erwin: We're slightly up for spring. We're starting to see confirmation on the AAR.

Facilities update

Maki: No updates. Sattgast is planned to move in in the fall. The Event Center move is scheduled for 2010.

Leif: Are we getting any benefits from construction in the down economy?

Maki: We're getting some. Most of the construction packages were set in 2008. But asbestos removals and roofs are coming in less. We gained from fuel futures. We locked in at 33% - 35% less.

Budget updates

Maki: We do have an appropriation reduction in the 10% range for planning and 4.7% for tuition. The stimulus is offsetting the deficit. We don't have full info on what the stimulus is going to do for us, but we'll be looking at it. Quistgaard has been downstate reviewing scenarios. We'll see Pawlenty's budget in 2 weeks. Mar 19 will be our next budget forum. We should have new budget from the governor and a new Board meeting by then.

Brown: If you plan on announcing a plan, bring it to M&C. The Senate has decided to defend the educational side of things when it comes to cuts.

Positions update

Erickson: We have 3 positions in nursing: one from a retirement, one from a grant, one from a new budget. Math-Ed is open and we're negotiating. Other positions are on hold until we have a clearer picture.

Quistgaard: Two positions in nursing are on hard money, one on grant.

Brown: Which position was dragging?

Erickson: The one for 2009 - 10.

“Pauses” and reassigned time questions asked in correspondence: have you firmed up criteria?

Brown: When will we see the criteria guiding pauses?

Erickson: With the budget.

Ueland: The criteria for unpausing will be released with the budget?

Erickson: Yes.

Brown: Can we have another copy of the criteria?

Erickson: Yes.

Quistgaard: We will not see any other positions going out until the budget.

Erickson: All these positions were on the list you were given.

Quistgaard: We will be presenting on the big budget plan

Brown: A lot of these searches will have candidates already.

Wolf: That will be 31 March. There is general concern that waiting for the end of March to move on positions will lose us candidates.

Wolf: One more concern. The end of the semester comes early this year; some searches might drag out. Are there any plans for accommodating that?

Erickson: We will make arrangements

Leif: Is there a backlog of administrators on the search list?

Erickson: There are some issues. What's on the list are the positions that went through HR. I am aware of the business position but it hasn't gone through

Cutler: Are you considering positions for programs that need faculty?

Erickson: We are aware of this. We'll be waiting to see the budget.

Brown: And using retirees to fill positions?

Quistgaard: We have to vet for that. There are criteria.

Interim Deans and searches, Finalists

Erickson: Other candidates are coming in this week, and a fourth coming in April.

Brown: On releasing names of candidates: The *Mankato Press* case has clarified the issue. Once you plan to interview the candidate, you can release names.

Quistgaard: I'll have to check with a lawyer.

Cutler: Have candidates been selected for HSE?

Erickson: Dates have not been set. Lisa is coordinating

Legislative update

Quistgaard: The state continues to decline. What appears positive is that the governor is not in a position to do another unallotment this year. We're looking at a four year budget window.

Quistgaard: There are a number of bills dealing with the 60/120 question, from repealing it to tweaking it. I've heard that they might have the AAS removed from the 60. The other message is that exceptions to the 60/120 really need to be exceptions.

Brown: The U of M advertised it was offering a lot of 120 programs.

Quistgaard: Apparently the U misspoke.

Quistgaard: The PELL grant news is encouraging for our students. We have to work it out so that the PELL grants don't undercut getting additional dollars from federal

programs.

Ueland: Does this mean that summer money will be released?

Quistgaard: Not in the short term until we know more about what's going to happen. The stimulus is one time money so we have to plan. The decisions we make over this budget will be permanent decisions. There may be some other things we can do.

Leif: If unallotments give us a surplus, will that money go on the future?

Quistgaard: That's good news.

Communications: Liberal Education

Brown: I requested distribution and response to the questions about Lib Ed from Manual Lopez. He requested that you answer.

Erickson: I worked with Ivy, Dave Carlson and others to respond to his questions concerning Honors and meeting the MnTC. I don't remember it the question of distributing Lopez's letter widely. I didn't remember; Sue found the letter. It came on the 4th of December and I sent it out to members of the Lib Ed committee on the 6th of December.

Brown: Was there any rationale to withhold Lopez's concerns to sway the Senate vote on Lib Ed?

Erickson: Of course not. I object to my integrity being questioned.

Quistgaard: Why is this an issue?

Brown: Faculty believe this information was kept from them to sway the Lib Ed vote.

Ueland: There is some debate in the faculty about whether MnSCU will allow or supports an alternative lib ed, and this letter speaks to that fact. The letter brings into question assertions that MnSCU should not be a problem.

Brown: The memo was pretty clear that this info was to be distributed. We had a Lib Ed forum at the beginning of the semester. This letter was not distributed.

Quistgaard: If the memo went out to the faculty, then we can talk about it not getting further than the Lib Ed committee. But it went out.

Erickson: I did not see anything new in this.

Brown: You will have something in writing?

Erickson: I handed it over to people who were closer to the lib ed question.

Peterson: Dave Carlson put forward to the lib ed committee the concerns related to lib ed. I spoke with Crystal to see what course would work in area 10. I drafted a memo to address these concerns. That's where it's at.

Brown: If the assumption is that distributing something to lib ed chair is enough, you might want to reconsider wider distribution.

Communications: ITS

Morgan: Seems to be doing well. ACC met with Mitch a week ago. He said he would bring back the lab managers meetings this month. He seemed open to bringing more faculty into planning earlier in the process. As it stands, faculty are only given a chance to respond to plans, not drive the academic planning. This is not a good change from what we've done in the past.

Timeline and Process for 120 Credit waivers

Erickson distributed a memo. Pending no legislative change, we have to be ready by end of Dec 2010.

Peterson: Do we have a sense of programs that will be allowed to write up waivers?

Erickson: All request have to be sent out by June 30, 2009. There are packets at Academic Affairs. Dave Carlson is working with MnSCU as a contact. Waivers some out of Nancy Erickson's office.

Peterson: Will there be screening at the dean or higher level?

Quistgaard: Any proposal that goes to MnSCU requires Erickson approval.

Proposed Miscellaneous Course (\$65 per credit) Policy Language

Bob Griggs was at a conference so this matter will be rescheduled for next regular M&C.

Best Practices for Evaluating Teaching Effectiveness

Erickson distributed a memo.

Brown: We'll take this under advisement to the senate.

MOA on early incentive

Erickson: We expected to have this done, but we're waiting. Next M&C.

Brown: Agreed.

Interim Dean in CAS

Erickson distributed a memo recommending to reappoint Dunn for CAS for 2009 - 2010 for our information.

Peterson: Will History be allowed to fill the position vacated by Dunn or hire for it?

Erickson: My intention is backfill for this.

We had asked for rationale behind the department snapshots

Erickson distributed a memo in response.

Brown: We will review this.

Anti-Spam and Email Scanning Testing

Erickson distributed a FYI from Mitch. ITS is interested in scanning email messages for security purposes. ITS will be testing this using test email accounts.

Morgan: We need to know more about this. What are they scanning for?

Wolf: For the moment, this will apply only to testing accounts?

Erwin: I believe this has to do with Financial Aids and Records.

Brown: Has this been brought to ACC?

Morgan: No.

Morgan: I'd like to ask Mitch here to talk about this, and I'd like to see ITS not move until we talk to him. What are they scanning for? Is it incoming or outgoing mail? Will they scan non-BSU email accounts sent from on campus or to campus? Lots of questions.

Seniority roster

Wolf: We have some issues with how faculty in administrative positions are not separated out. And what Employment Date represents is unclear. Is that the date started with

BSU, or with MnSCU, or with the State of Minnesota?

Brown: We also found differences between start date and years of service.

Wolf: Most of these are right, but not always.

Erickson: Do you have a highlighted version?

Wolf: No.

Reorganization Response: Physics

Brown: Physics had a change of heart and so we concur with putting it in CAS.

Brown requested to set up M&C dates for summer. We will be working with Sharon to do so.

Adjourned at 5:14

M C Morgan, Recorder