

BSUFA Meet and Confer Notes
14 April 2010
4:00 pm

Attending: Erickson, Quistgaard, Maki, Erwin, Brown, Marek, Webb, Leif, Cutler, Smith, Morgan

Opening queries

Brown: Are you considering retrenchment?

Erickson: Not at this time

Brown: Are any faculty currently under investigation?

Erickson: No.

Waiting for reports requested

We requested a list of faculty on nine-month contract, with beginning and end dates 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

We requested list of adjuncts hired for fall, 2009; whether regular faculty were offered the courses first on an overload basis; and whether the reasons for the hiring fit one or more of the three permissible reasons for hiring adjuncts spelled out in Art. 21, Sec. E, Subd. 3(a).

Erickson: We dont have historical data at this point.

We requested class-by-class breakdown / department-level cost study and allocation data that Guilfoile compiled in pdf and live spreadsheet.

Erickson: Let me talk with Patrick.

Double-numbering of 4000/5000 classes: How are these counted in the cost study? We didn't get this clarified a the last meeting.

Erickson: Patrick's data will answer.

Maki: NCHIMS have been requested, but not arrived yet.

Updates

Budget update

Brown: What cost studies are coming forward concerning other areas?

M: See #5 below

Facilities update

Maki: Bangsburg window replacement is happening. We had a \$130k delay for brickwork.

Brown: Is it true that the new the fountain is shaped as a Q?

Maki: No.

Positions update

Erickson distributed list of positions. Education Ass Prof is not yet in system. Hist is a

fixed term backfill. Spanish is fixed term for 2 sabbaticals. No positions are on hold.
Brown: If we can offer some help to other campuses undergoing retrenchment, let us know.

Brown: The question came up about how long the dean's release can be maintained with FT.

Brown: We're concerned about the lack of lead time for presidential candidates. Faculty are teaching and cannot be in place for an interview on a dime. We need an advocate for someone to give us lead time. At the latest meeting, only 2 faculty showed, giving the sense of, "What's the point? MnSCU is just going to appoint a president." But we look forward to the interview tomorrow.

Q: There's always a scramble to get candidates in here.

Brown: Is there some way we can remedy this? Something we can convey to downstate?

Maki: Why would it work at other institutions and not here?

Brown: Relay our concerns because we want to make sure everyone gets a fair shake.

Q: There is an opportunity to give feedback at the end of the process.

Legislative update

Q: Looks like the legislature is going to adjourn early, keep moving along.

Maki: Higher Ed Finance bill has been signed so we have more clarity for 2011.

Recommendations from Senate on Directorships

Brown: The Senate and Exec applaud AVP on these. Senate requests guaranteed backfill to cover candidates from small departments, and Senate would like the posts filled by Feb 1 to accommodate hires. Morgan will email the exact wording of the Senate recommendations.

Recommendations on 2010 dates for PDP, tenure, promotion.

Brown: We agree with the dates.

Recommendations on process for budget

Brown: Senate is in progress discussing this. We look forward to a substantial response at the next Senate meeting this coming Monday. Recommendations are coming out of the budget committee that aren't quite ready, and you may have some information for us to bring back. We're looking for some guidance from the Senate on how to use the M&C process. We'd like to see what the senate has to say.

Erickson: Would you have something for me by Wednesday?

Brown: Possibly. We could use that alternative M&C, April 26.

Q: We would like to get something.

Erickson: That might be good.

Request update on hires, retirements, adjuncts, promotions, tenure, sabbats.

Q: I'll get that to you on Thursday. Always have.

#5: Budget

Maki: distributed sheets on budget.

Maki: These deal with tuition raises and other means of revenue. Proposals are going

forward. We assessed the rate at 232.15/credit but chargeed 230. In 2011 we will start with a rate of 232.15. Fees are up 4.1%, Res Life rates up 4%. Students would like to see the residential rates go up only 3%. Parking permits up 3%. We need to increase rates for lot maintenance.

Q: On tuition, we want to move the rate down, but they set caps on tuition. We have to be careful.

Webb: Next fall, the extra federal money stops. How does that change the ceiling?

Maki: We start at a different ceiling. Losing the supplement won't show a huge change because it's only 2.15 a credit.

Maki: The allocation model run has the same story we've seen for 5 or 6 years.

Allocation for system dropped 1.5%, but some colleges go up with that drop and some go down. We estimate between 2.1 - 4.3%.

Brown: Where's it going?

Maki: We don't know. We need to know how to influence the model so we can stay even and not loose ground. Some of the institutions are growing faster and they get the greater share. It's partly 2yr vs 4yr, and it's partly metro-outstate, but the techs are loosing ground.

Leif: Does this correlate with our cost study?

Maki: Yes. Overall, we came out great in the cost study, but we can't seem to make any ground.

Webb: If we weren't tied with NTC, would we look better?

Maki: NTC is treated like another campus. We get a base amount, then so much per student. As a joint campus, they get a lower base.

Brown: How do we play the system smarter? Any proactive ideas?

Maki: That's driven by admissions and efficiencies.

Q: We're making progress on enrollment, and efficiencies.

Maki: Enrollment is significant for this.

Brown: Are there other revenue streams?

Q: We can go out and get some, if we can find them.

Admissions director search

Q: It's a challenge to get admissions leadership nationwide.

Leif: What kind of money are we offering?

Q: Six figures

Leif: Is Guilfoile making six figures? We just popped him in.

Q: We're working with a firm. Salary is a classification issue. We're being aggressive. The good thing is Russ built systems, so the next person has something to build on.

Admissions director search revisited

Erwin: Were trying to improve the pool. There's not enough money and it's hard to sell homes. The firm has a good track record.

Morgan: Do we have a time line?

Erwin: Summer, and the firm knows that. We may have to go to interim but want to get in place by 1 Sept.

Budget, revisited

Maki : Referring to the white sheet: We're looking at changes since February. We don't

have any plans to change banding and online. A change could be forced on us to include online in the band. We're an outlier on that. Online growth has funded a lot on campus.

Leif: I've heard that students can get an online course in the band.

Maki: They do when that's the only way to get the course in order to graduate. It's an equity issue: if a student doesn't know to complain, they could be spending more.

Q: Eventually they will be in the band.

Erickson: Academic Affairs wasn't aware.

Webb: Is there a formal process, or is it a squeaky wheel process?

Maki: In most cases it's a straightforward decision. It's narrowly defined to upper division courses.

Leif: In Business, we have an online clientele so we don't let students take the online courses unless scheduling conflicts. So are we shielded against the non-banded rate?

Maki: The mix is 40/60 online / off

Smith: Students are being charged extra for D2L services.

Brown: Looks like MnSCU is deciding to cut anything they were providing to campuses as services. They are letting the campuses cover services. Any truth to that?

Q: Don't know. Haven't heard.

Maki: I only know the what's being discussed in our area.

Q: There's a provision in the bill not to pass the cuts on as fees to the campuses.

Cutler: Since online DOES cost more to run, is that why they are adding students to online courses and pushing them?

Erickson: That's not a conscious decision.

Maki: Tuition and personnel costs are estimates. 4% increase in tuition each year, 2.5% cost increase personnel. I'm using the DOER numbers. Appropriation amounts we have for 2011 - 12. For 2013, it's higher so we're running a new scenario. King put up a slide like this for BSU's share of 3.8m - 11.3m. We're not running estimates like that. We're sticking with 4.2 - 8.5 scenarios.

Maki: King's was a sobering message. She came up on the 8th and 9th and while she was here I asked her to present. She gave the same presentation as she gave to the board. There will be a PPT posted. It's a revenue problem so we have to plan for reductions. I asked about campus closure, but she didn't get to an answer. Maybe it's time to start looking at metro merges.

Maki: Green sheet. Fiscal 2011 we're showing a balanced budget. We covered a 400k shortfall, and we spent 550k on 14 people. We're using that to balance 2011. There's a permanent salary of 110K. Not all the positions are settled so we expect it to be more.

Brown: We're curious as to how this going to look to maintain IFO ratio. We have less than 50% of staff in IFO. The BESI makes that ratio look better.

Maki: We need to focus on 2012 and 13. We're looking at 8.5 - 17. Shortfall for 2012 is \$2m, for 2013 it's 2.9m. We're monitoring. There won't be much new info for 6 months.

Webb: Is there a laptop replacement bubble?

Maki: In the carry forward, we're going to put forth \$200k. We're due next summer or following.

Webb: Department carry-forwards are decreasing. Where's it going?

Maki: There are no more summer school profits going back to departments, things like that. There's no big sweep.

Leif: Is there policy on canceling summer school classes that aren't profitable?

Erickson: We usually look at them in in early may. We looked at a macro level last year. We're going to balance courses we know students absolutely have to have vs those we can offer on campus.

Smith: We had a concern with the ripple effect: cut one summer course and the students don't take anything.

Leif: I think departments are gong to be looking for direction from the hill on what to do. Up until last year, we subsidized courses with larger ones. But we're looking for guidance.

Smith: If students can't count on classes, they won't be signing up at all. Our numbers for summer are absurdly low.

Erickson: We have looked a national data. There are more online courses being offered. Some campuses are closing down campuses.

Brown: Summer is our advantage. The numbers might be going down, but if we motivate faculty for summer, we can recruit.

Q: There have been lots of community conversation about this.

Brown: There was entrepreneurial spirit that we won't want to quash.

Leif: We're talking 25/75 tuition with an 11m cut in 2013.

Maki: There will be a forum Tuesday afternoon. 3:30.

Report from Senate on MnTC progress

Brown: We are discussing this. Several changes came through Curriculum,

Academic Integrity procedures were passed. Morgan to email the resolution to Erickson.

Textbook rental

Maki: distributed an overview of the the B&N rental program. I would like to see us try this for fall. B&N take all the risk. They don't ask faculty to use a book for a commitment of time. They think it might work for up to 200 courses. I'm bringing this to see what you're thoughts are.

Smith: I don't believe B&N will let faculty choose any title.

Maki: B&N are going to pick which courses to cover.

Brown: We'll take this under advisement. If we have questions, we'll get a hold of you.

Tuition differential review

Maki: FYI. There's a new board guideline to evaluate tuition differential every 2 years, and we have to document how we evaluate it. We want to bring this to the chairs. We're open to other options.

Brown: Send it to Exec electronically and we'll get back to you

Q: Concerning charitable fundraising. I'll be sending out an email on the statutes. We're not to be using assets for this. This will be a reminder. We can use campus resources for Foundation. Exercise some judgement when we're on duty.

Submitted.

M C Morgan