

Faculty Association Meet and Confer
Thursday, September 2, 2010
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Deputy Hall 306

NOTES

Attendance

Faculty: Jeanine Gangeness, Troy Gilbertson, Keith Marek, Kathryn Smith, Jeff Ueland

Administration: Richard Hanson, Nancy Erickson, Lisa Erwin, Bill Maki

Vice President Erickson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed Troy Gilbertson as the new BSUFA president, and then turned the meeting over to President Hanson.

President Hanson distributed a 2-page handout giving an outline of the issues we are dealing with, and stating that he wanted to meet with faculty first. There was discussion about revenue buckets – 1) revenue from State of Minnesota at 32% with the number getting smaller; 2) tuition revenue at 60% with a healthy number; and 3) philanthropy, contracts and soft money at 8% of total revenue – revenue hard to get. There is a problem because revenues from State will decrease by approximately \$5 million assuming stable enrollments (number from Bill Maki). The upcoming elections/state legislature could make a difference.

The President stated that the meeting today begins the conversations for recalibration; there will not be cuts across the board, but we will sculpt a new academic vision and profile for BSU. There was discussion about the communication model. President Hanson stated he believes in two things: accountability and transparency, he will insist on accountability.

The first level of conversation is with the bargaining units and student senate. The President stated that today with this meeting we are beginning that level of conversation and beginning with IFO because they represent the biggest slice of the pie; he will meet with NTC faculty on September 9. Curriculum is in the hands of faculty. We also need to keep student senate up to date and meet with that body frequently.

There will be a web link off the President's website. The President will use that vehicle to communicate; will also use campus wide open forums; student newspaper; a University-wide governing body – issues dominated by faculty; an ad hoc campus budget committee – form of input; newsletter alumni; e-newsletter, local media (word will spread).

President Hanson asked if anyone had questions about the decision making process.

Jeff Ueland inquired how this fits with the IFO contract.

Kathryn Smith raised a concern about decisions being made on the input from open forums. President Hanson noted that many people on campus do not have groups they sit on. Kathryn Smith noted that in previous years the President had lunches at the David Park House with groups open to campus. President Hanson thought that was a good idea, may take idea and run with it (lunches added to lists of ways communication will take place).

Vice President Maki noted that target might change by the end of 2013. VP Maki met with the budget committee the first week of school.

Vice President Erwin noted that with a smaller increase in tuition, we may be more competitive with other institutions. This gives us a bit of an edge with our students.

President Hanson talked about dates and timing and being consistent with rules. The October 13 date was discussed and the use of word retrenchment. If \$5 million number, then we will need to reshape University. He discussed the word “recalibration” – not a language trick, rather an attitude. We need to take this opportunity to get stronger, not weaker; to focus on student learning outcomes, curriculum intentionally shaped. Ancillary services means athletics, other things. The first analysis is to promulgate academic, curricular vision. The President would like Model in place by the middle of January. This budget year we are fine, but there will be a problem in next biennium 2012/2013. On March 1 timeline, faculty must be notified should that be necessary (some of this may not have to happen; but need to pass this on to you because of planning issues).

Vice President Erickson reinforced timing issue – exercise our responsibility with respect to student learning outcomes.

Jeff Ueland – prioritizing as you see important ---- will plans still go forward?

President Hanson answered with a preliminary “yes”; this is a tremendous opportunity; reducing programs is not fun; but inertia is insidious – gave example of over 100 baccalaureates at North Dakota institution. We need to articulate recalibration; integrity; regional and perhaps even national relevance. We need to discuss our affiliation with the Tech College, their relevance.

President Hanson has approached the Bush Foundation and its president, Peter Hutchinson from that foundation -- noted support is outcome oriented; programs responsible and offered with integrity. The Gates Foundation (contact Linda Baer) is another possibility for infusing outside money. We could use outside money to help us through transition. Let’s not abandon good thinking; let’s take the University to the next level.

Kathryn Smith asked about the October 13th date and what kinds of documents, materials are expected from various departments. President Hanson stated that he didn't know yet, not data driven; he will take Troy's lead, there will be recursive communication loops (not the rollout of the model). I create the vision but with your input, your feedback. October 13 will be the official notification if retrenchments are being considered.

Jeanine Gangeness brought up discussion about ad hoc campus wide budget committee and their connection to bargaining units. President Hanson noted it wouldn't interfere with the BSUFA budget committee. President wants to pick from campus community the best people he can for advice.

Jeanine Gangeness asked about the web link and whether this would be a one-way posting. President Hanson: No blogs, only accessible by BSU – Rose Jones helping – will be linked off the President's website.

Jeff Ueland asked if he could receive the handout electronically. The President will send Troy Gilbertson the handout electronically tonight.

Kathryn Smith asked if meet and confer would meet on alternate date 9/22/10 and if so, would there be discussion of retrenchment. The group will meet on 9/22/10. The specific legal event regarding discussion about possible retrenchment will occur 10/13/10 (official date). Jeff Ueland asked if having this on today's document didn't make it official. The President stated it did not.

1/12/11 will roll out details on programs. President Hanson noted that this is our chance to do good things; programmatic things that make us stronger. If done wrong, we will have problems for a long time. The ultimate beneficiaries will be our students. (Intentional curriculum; learning outcomes oriented; education with integrity; student needs, accountability and quality)

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by Sue Rankin