

## BSUFA Meet & Confer Notes

December 8, 2010

Deputy 306

4:00 p.m.

**Attendees:** Nancy Erickson (NE); Richard Hanson (RH); William Maki (WM); Troy Gilbertson (TG); Tom Fauchald (TF); Jeff Ueland (JU); Keith Marek (KM); Jeanine Gangeness (JG); Derek Webb (DW); Kathryn Smith (KS)

**Absent:** Lisa Erwin (LE)

### BSUFA Items

#### 1. Open Inquiries

- Any faculty under investigation?

NE No

- Are you considering re-rostering?

NE Yes

- Are you considering retrenchment?

NE/RH Yes

- Are you planning to eliminate courses offered at \$65/credit/person

NE No

#### **What is the schedule for laptops?**

NE I think there is one more year

KM Mitch said it was summer of 2012

NE Bill can you help us out with insurance for laptops

WM I am not involved

NE I will check on that...

*[A line will be placed between topics – please do not misread – spaces are an indication of change of discussion topic – not in a pause in the discussion]*

*Areas in italics are general discussions on specified topics.*

#### 2. Updates

##### **Enrollment update**

WM Same as last week

##### **Budget update**

WM Economic situation of the state is not getting better. 2012-13 is moving toward a worst case scenario. Expenditure reductions -

TG Are you looking at 6 mil

WM we are going to present 11% and 15% is the worst case scenario

TF It is rumored that Moorhead is projecting a larger reduction

RH we are much better off than Moorhead

TG Moorhead was asking to run a scenario expecting 0% from state

JU You weren't asked to do that?

RH No

JU Last week you talked about not raising tuition at all – what are you hearing from the chancellor's office?

WM We discussed 4% but were asked to look at about 3% or below for a tuition increase

JU Where are you at with the tuition increase?

RH I hate to balance the budget on the back of the students or the faculty

The board has rejected a 0% tuition increase request from the students – however our tuition is higher than anyone else in the state. We do need the revenue. I am willing to look at 0% tuition increase – but I don't know if we can

TG Thank you Bill for setting up the forum

WM The budget forum is tomorrow at 10 and 2 p.m. in EA 115

### **Facilities update**

WM Nothing new

### **Positions update**

WM Nothing new

### **Legislative update**

TG senate approved me to meet with legislators with you President Hanson

RH met with legislators, Dayton rep was not informed about Higher Ed issues. This will be the toughest session ever. There are a lot of brand new legislators who do not have a lot of sophistication

We expect no revenue enhancements

Budget will be balanced on cuts – expecting around 100 million

There are some days at the capitol – trying to do some regional days to get to know our issues

### **3. Scantron course evaluations**

NE handout (#1) – we are working on a plan

Course evaluation information	Draft
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We understand, based on feedback from faculty, that institutional support to facilitate a process for scanning course evaluations is important.

As an institution, we will provide support for scanning course evaluations this next semester, whether we do that process on campus or contract with an off-campus service has yet to be decided. We understand that many faculty value the flexibility in adding their own questions and being able to get written comments, and those needs will be factored into the decision-making process.

We also recognize that many faculty are interested in using on-line course evaluations. For many faculty, D2L works well to accomplish that and we will work to facilitate this option for more faculty.

JU Guilfoil mentioned looking at outsourcing the evaluations

NE yes

JU we do need them to have some flexibility – so we can add or change questions, not just use “canned surveys”

NE I will write that down

TG I hope there won't be a charge back to the department if the evaluations are outsourced

NE no. Faculty will be involved the entire time if we go down that road.

### **4. BESI report & retirement count**

TG Linda Gilsrud's e-mail referred us to the Deans versus letting us know who actually took the BESI's. Is the holding back of information required or just a past practice?

NE I will check with the MnSCU lawyers. I understand that you need to know however we cannot answer that question at this point.

RH I was told that it was privileged data – but it is part of recalibration.

NE Department chairs should know who took the BESI's from their departments so they can plan.

#### 5. Use of IFO funds policy – draft

NE handout provided (#2 *Evaluation of IFO Article 19 fund requests*) – these are the steps

TG We want to know how the decisions are made and make sure that the criteria are applied the same to all proposals.

JU Can you let us know what percentage of these are rejected

NE Yes we will

TF If we have a problem we may need to grieve it

#### 6. Senate resolution

Resolution presented

Whereas BSU is extremely fiscally efficient in Instructional expenditures as compared to thousands of schools nationally; and

Whereas BSU Student Services Support expenditures are greater than the 90th percentile as compared to thousands of schools nationally and therefore inefficient by the same standard; and

Whereas Instructional costs at BSU are less than 40% of the total budget; and

The BSUFA requests that budget reductions and efficiencies be implemented on the area of Student Services Support first and in greater proportion than on Instructional expenditures.

JU There is a huge discrepancy between instructional and other expenses at BSU.

TF I have handouts that I will present later.

RH I will check into the chancellor's approach to proportional cuts

#### 7. BSUFA Budget Information

TF We had a productive Budget Committee meeting with Bill (Maki) and Doug (Olney) on Monday. Hopefully we are getting closer to all of us getting us on the same page.

I brought handouts with Dashboard information (#3) and IPEDS data (#4). We have been discussing about a 40% cut in appropriation from the state.

RH I hope the % cut stays at 10% cut – it will be about 5 million cut for us.

TF Updated IPEDS data should be coming out soon

WM yes

TF Instruction has stayed pretty much stable for the last few years.

*Questions from NE about adjustments over the years in faculty positions and the IPEDS Data*

WM we can pull that

TF anything else Bill

WM no

KM What is the spike in 2005 in instruction due to? Was it a different coding

WM no not the coding

JU library and sabbaticals are all academic support?

WM yes

*Further comments and questions from TF .....*

WM 2005 was our lowest enrollment

KM Are there other categories that are not on these graphs

WM no – except research

*TF discussion of changes in dashboard data*

*~ more discussion on the dashboard data and how items are coded*

### **Cost study**

TF The math department is going through the cost study information with a fine tooth comb. I would like to thank you, Bill and Doug, too, for providing this information early so we can respond to it. We are finding some coding errors. Strange numbers around cost per class – differences between upper and lower division courses.

DW Is this data important

WM Yes

DW The quality is strikingly poor – 1 credit at \$108,000

Can we have others review this – in addition to Chairs – perhaps people who know how to analyze this information?

JU/TF discussion on how costing measures was assigned

NE People who are looking at these data may not be able to evaluate – non-statisticians

*~ Fair amount of discussion about data analysis and plans for continued processes*

TF Really appreciate that we have this information to look at – good to have the transparency

### **Administrative Items**

#### **1. Recalibration**

RH “ah ....” we meet on Monday to start discussing recalibration versus slash and burn. When you take about reducing programs and the potential elimination of that revenue – that’s true for majors, sports, anything. We need to set aside some money to address the possible drop in enrollment.

What do we call this process? A proposal, a plan, we need to have discussions but not necessarily a free for all. We do need to move forward. We need to have an opportunity to meet to talk. Here’s the set of ideas – what do you think about them. If the problem is as big as we think it is... then we will be needing to make big changes. I will be talking to programs prior to talking to you about a program/faculty being removed.

Today has been a productive day. We need to keep asking the questions and meeting.

The legislative session will be a real “hum-dinger” I will be gone during most of January.

TG when in January will you be announcing the plan for recalibration?

RH 15<sup>th</sup> we need to talk about 6 weeks then March 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline. We will probably need to roll out to you on the 12<sup>th</sup> with the M & C meeting. It is my responsibility to meet with those who are directly impacted by the reductions prior to any public notice. I really want to keep communication lines open – but you have obstructed some of the communication lines (referring to the Ad Hoc Budget Committee and University Senate proposal)

JG I know you identified two forums for communication – the Ad Hoc Budget Committee and the University Senate. We are not obstructing communication – the senate agreed to an expanded

definition of the Budget Committee and rejected the University Senate. You still have a forum for communication – and I don't think it has been accessed yet...

RH You haven't heard from me because we haven't decided yet when we will meet. I am still trying to figure out what we can do – if we can cut tuition and still make it. I don't know if you remember when tuition cuts were in vogue – however it was hard to maintain. Bill said we just cannot cut tuition – we need the revenue, and “Bill's always right”.

We are planning, to the extent to which I can, to close down the campus between Christmas and New Years. January is going to be a tough month and we all need to rest up for it.

I do need feedback on these two questions:

1. We don't do honorary degrees here – why don't we? Different than the Distinguished Minnesotan
2. At commencement I would like distinguished faculty (you choose) on stage with us... five or six each year - to honor each year.

JU I would like to segue from the distinguished faculty to some areas where you can impact excellence – You could actually grant sabbaticals at 7 years to ensure excellence. We should also have time and support for grant work

RH Two responses – sabbaticals is a board issue. The board is driven by the community and technical colleges. I hope to have a sponsored program response for reassign time. We are not a research institution.

~ *bucket discussion....*

Grants do help. Hopefully, we will have a sponsored program in the future.

JU It would be nice to have an electronic “green sheet”

*Change back to recalibration discussion*

KM What do you foresee happening after the 12<sup>th</sup> when you announce the recalibration

RH We are looking at bringing in a company to re-group around a new mission. There will be people who will feel unconnected – and we will need to be sharper around our programs. We need to be competitive. Think about “BSU 2020” we will be – Leaner – Focused - Aggressive around recruitment.

There will be some real angst during this process

JU will you be naming names or just so many positions from programs on the 12<sup>th</sup>?

RH Yes, it will be obvious what programs and positions will be eliminated.

*Discussion about providing transparency for re-rostering*

KM What do you plan to do with the feedback from the programs that are being cut?

RH Not much. We need strategic discussions about where we will go and move forward. We need to arrive at the best solution for the outcomes. The programs that are being cut will not be a part of the discussions.

*Discussion about feedback and future planning.*