

Meet and Confer

Administration – Faculty Association

November 1, 2007

CMU 203 3:00pm

Present:

Administration: President Barden, Ed Choate, Ron Jeppson, Bette Midgarden, Jean Sando

Faculty: Wayne Alexander, Ellen Brisch, Ted Gracyk, Dawn Hammerschmidt, Paul Harris, Margaret Klindworth, Michelle Malott, Mike McCord, Cindy Phillips, Mike Ruth

1. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

Advising issues in teacher education.

(Midgarden: The new dean will take this issue up next week.)

VSA – Voluntary System of Accountability

2. Agreement on Minutes –

A. May 3, 2007

Follow-up items:

1. Distance Education Committee and Intellectual Property Agreement-Have committees met since last M & C?
2. 19 A Peer Review – have we agreed to modification in language to add “19 A Committees shall also make recommendations regarding reassignment time and other competitive awards to faculty for research or development”?
REG: Yes.
3. Have discipline reps met to discuss potential strategies for assessment in Dragon Core areas 4-7?
(Midgarden: They are meeting.)
4. Graduate Council Membership – (see later discussion)
5. Status of Doctorate of Nursing Practice-has there been HLC approval yet? (see later discussion)
6. Proposal for Task Force on Indian Resource Center-status?

B. August 30, 2007 minutes: no concerns, ready for signatures

CP: As a follow-up item from the August 30th meeting, there was a concern that students’ registrations would be cancelled if they hadn’t paid, by day X, but they were cancelled the day before.

Midgarden: Mark Rice responded by email to this concern shortly after that incident. I’m certain he will resend it to you if you ask him to do that.

3. Information Sharing Updates

A. Faculty Association

CP: Congratulations are extended to President Barden on his retirement announcement. We express appreciation for all the work he has done for the University. We also express condolences to the university community over the loss of Judy Peterson and acknowledge the good impact she has had in her short time with us.

B. Administration

VP Kirk – Item D on the agenda regarding the Email Task force.

Generally, we're continuing to experience instability with the email system. IT staff have been working with external support to update various components in the system. One thing that became clear is the strain of not deleting trash, not cleaning out unwanted email. We're planning on Sunday to delete all of the trash in everyone's email. This is a standard procedure in MN universities.

We're currently looking at three alternative email systems: Novell Groupwise, Zimbra, and Microsoft Exchange. Yesterday we had the final vendor in for a presentation. Tomorrow the task force meets to have policy discussions. Next week, members of the task force will try out the 3 programs. By the 14th or 15th of Nov. we will have a recommendation. I have asked for independent recommendations from Les Bakke, an independent consultant, and from IT at the Office of the Chancellor. It's a challenging situation but hopefully we will work through it and get a user friendly system that we can rely on.

Alexander: If you choose Microsoft, I think it's very expensive so, how could that happen?

Kirk: We'll gather info on cost but we need to get the best system, whether it's the cheapest or not. Regarding Microsoft, there's the market rate and then there is a foundation that Bill & Melody Gates operate. They can sell at a great reduction to non-profits.

Ruth: For those who use Macs, I want to make sure the program is compatible with Macs and Pine for secure storage of data. We would really appreciate being updated when things move, or if Pine goes away.

VP Wiese: Absent

VP Midgarden: 1.) The Foundations of Excellence faculty survey response rate is at 60.5%. 2.) I want to welcome Dr. Teri Walseth to the Dean's position, which begins officially Monday, Nov 5th. Dr. Adler will work with her informally until January 2nd, when he will become the Graduate Dean and the Associate Dean of Education and Human Services. Both of these positions will be nationally searched within 2 years. Dr Adler will also serve as summer session director.

CP: When you say both positions will be nationally searched, I know you mean the Dean of Education and Human Services, but do you mean the Associate Dean or Graduate Studies Dean?

Midgarden: In 2 years, graduate studies and the summer session might have grown enough to need a full-time dean. At this time, it's too early to tell.

Pres. Barden: 1.) Higher Learning Commission has approved the institutional status for the DNP offered under the consortium with 3 other schools. We are official. 2.) Annual financial report for 2007 is fully audited and accepted by the Board of Trustees. We will bring copies for you. VP Kirk & his people in business operations got raves from Vice Chancellor Laura King.

Kirk: I'm really proud, as "the new kid," to be a part of this.

CP: At some of our state wide IFO meetings, concern has been expressed that one or more campuses are looking at serious shortfalls. The President should be commended for our finances being in good shape because of his decision making.

REB: Finance at the Office of the Chancellor was comforted when Dan Kirk was identified as the VP for administration here, which indicates his reputation within MnSCU. He has brought great credibility 3.) Access and Opportunity funding. Lots of discussions going on, on how to recruit the underrepresented and underserved students. We have every intention at being ready to recruit.

4. Continuing Topics

A. College Committee proposal from President Barden-still ongoing, or update on Indian Resource Center Task Force? CP: Pres and I have had continued discussions about legal concerns about how college committees are established. It is our understanding that college committees will be brought forward the same as other committees. We need to look in our bylaws.

REB: That's Dr. Jeppson's recommendation, until some of the differences get settled by e.g. negotiation or arbitration.

B. Summer Session – status/update - Gracyck: Planning has begun in departments. One item for clarification: One of the incentives was that a decision could be made prior to student registration of which courses would definitely be offered in the summer. Therefore, contracts to the faculty would be offered prior to student registration? Midgarden: My target is by mid or late January. With so much change in academic affairs, all I can say is that we will do our best to get the contracts out then.

C. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum – any updates on Dragon Core's involvement?

Midgarden: I am seeking written clarification from the Office of the Chancellor.

D. E-mail update—any promising vendor presentations? (see VP Kirk above)

5. New Topics

A. New Board of Trustees Teaching award: CP: As you will recall we declined to participate last year. We objected to the process. 5 campuses have declined to participate largely because of perceptions that this has become MnSCU's effort to start Merit Pay. Metro State University has made it available if faculty want to apply. We have decided that we will grudgingly participate. We have serious concerns about this as merit pay because we think all of our faculty merit more pay than they are getting. We have fallen substantially in our pay compared to other similar institutions. The Board of Directors of the IFO approved participation in the teacher award when there was no financial part. That is problematic. They were researching alternatives to the \$5,000 award. For example, it could be a scholarship and "the winner" could decide who gets it. MnSCU has not gotten back to us about the direct compensation. At MSUM, we have finally come to the conclusion to participate. We are not encouraging faculty to apply. We will visit about the deadline for nomination process.

B. Meet and Discuss

C. APAC

1. September 11, 2007 - waived
2. September 25, 2007 - waived

6. Topics for next Meet and Confer----December 13, 2007

Grad Studies representation – CP: Dr. Adler said they had reached an informal agreement about the membership to the Graduate Studies committee, but that the language had not changed. I suggested that maybe they would like to revisit that and agree on the language.

REB: It's a formal expectation that each program be represented, though not all need to be voting members of the committee.

Consultant: Midgarden: I have read the report from the consultant on health professions. I then gave it to Dr. Teri Walseth. It is appropriate for her to release the report.

CP: Some folks from HPE expressed some concerns, but we'll wait until they see the report.

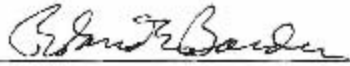
Voluntary System of Accountability – REB: This has been put together by the public universities as a "right to know" document about a campus. Rather than having US News and Report giving info about colleges the USA was invented to provide comparative accountability data for parents or students. We have the draft to analyze. We will decide whether to prepare a USA document for MSUM. The document contains primarily info already provided to IPBDS or the Higher Learning Commission.

Midgarden: This is the 4 year institutions' document. President Cheryl Frank is on the national committee developing an analogous document for 2-year campuses.

REB: The Student Senate President has communicated a desire to me for honorary groups in the disciplines to wear a medallion at commencement. Our university wants honor graduates to be clearly noted. We will be talking back and forth.

Meeting adjourned 4:15
Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Sheldon



Roland E. Barden

Minnesota State University Moorhead President



Cynthia Phillips

MSUM Faculty Association President (IFO)