FACULTY ASSOCIATION MEET AND CONFER

Thursday, September 08, 2005
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
CSU 204
(Administration Chair/ Faculty Association Agenda)

Notes

Present:
FA: Stephen Bohnenblust, Roger Severns, Paul J. Hustoles, Wayne Allen, Don Descy, Jim Grabowska, Gwen Griffin, Georgia Holmes, Sonja Meiers, Anne O’Meara, Jim Petersen, Marie Pomije, Stewart Ross, Theresa Salerno, Daardi Sizemore, Dick Swanson
Administration: Richard Davenport, chair, Mark Johnson, Lori Lamb, Scott Olson, Pat Swatfager-Haney, Dean Trauger, John Winkworth, recorder
Guests: Fernando Delgado, Dave Gjerde Don Larsson, Rob McGinn, Gwyn Outka, Joan Roca, Warren Sandmann, Walt Wolff

1. Information Items—Welcome from President Davenport. This year we are scheduling all the Meets and Confers on the same day. This will help to ensure consistency in information.

a. Reorder/Additions: President Davenport asked individuals in attendance to introduce themselves.

b. FA President’s Report: FA President Bohnenblust: 1. Changes in FA Meet & Confer Team: Some Sub-Meet chairs (the faculty chairs of Planning, Budget, and UCAP) are now part of the FA Main Meet and Confer team. Other Sub-Meet chairs will attend as needed. 2. Contract - FA President Bohnenblust distributed “Stop the Slide” buttons. He noted that this is a contract year and that our campus FA negotiator is part of our campus team. The FA theme for the year, presented at the retreat, is “Year of Opportunity.”

c. MSU President’s Report: President Davenport agrees with the “Year of Opportunity” theme; we are on the move. 1. Public Relations/Marketing: Our public relations/marketing team is out there working. A study has determined that our major competitors are: #1 the University of Minnesota, #2 the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Our billboards are up in the Twin Cities. Our major problem is name recognition. We are going to make use of our royal colors. 2. Hurricane Katrina Update: President Davenport gave a brief update of campus efforts to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina. 3. Major Gift: Glen Taylor continues his assistance to the University with a significant gift to the Food Science Lab. In addition he will be providing assistance to enrolling students displaced by Hurricane Katrina. 4. Baldridge Award: This is an award for excellence given in three categories, one of which is education. The initial recipient was the University of Wisconsin, Stout. Our transformation including doctoral degrees means we should look at this as a possibility for us. FA? With UW, Stout, a Baldridge Award winner, we could send a team over there to find out how they did it. President Davenport: I know the President at UW, Stout, and I could invite him to visit our campus. 5. Convocation: Many of the points I mentioned are not new, like doctoral programs. We should look at our academic profile. Should we raise our standards? We’re all back. The campus is beautiful. Phase One of the student housing proposal has been approved. Vice Presidents Swatfager-Haney and Trauger are working on Phase Two of the student housing project. 6. Trafton Science Center: We need to keep working. Just because we have planning money doesn’t mean everything else is a sure thing. These are exciting times!

d. VPAA’s Report: 1. Shared Governance: This is a learning community where our primary responsibility is to “Promote Learning.” We work hard listening and to paying attention to what
we need to be doing. Not everything needs to come to the Meet and Confer. When issues do affect our community, we need to work on them together. 2. Suspension of Interior Design & Gerontology: We are working this year to identify what needs to be done with these programs. The reasons for the changes are not the same for the two programs. An idea might be coming forward to rework the ID program. Gerontology’s change is a result of recommendations from the people involved in the program. Leah Rogne has a released appointment to coordinate the program. 3. Fixed-Term Nursing Faculty: We have signed an MOA approving a list of exceptions to the four-year limit rule for some fixed-term Nursing faculty. 4. Positions: Gwyn Outka, as a substitute for HR Director Lamb, distributed the list of administrative position openings as of September 6, 2005. “Under review” means that aspects of the position are being reviewed. 5. Gamma to Delta: Jim Grabowska, faculty chair of planning, and Mark Johnson, administrative chair, are working on developing reactions and recommendations to the Gamma draft.

2. Discussion Items—a. MnSCU/Legislative Relations: President Davenport: Governor Pawlenty has six MnSCU Board of Trustees appointees to name this year. This will quite likely change the nature of the Board. We are also looking at the Federal earmarks.  
b. Budget: Vice President Trauger: September 13 is the first Budget Sub Meet & Confer of this year. The 7% tuition cap will cost us about $600,000. The Cabinet is working on the details of the FY06 budget. As for an update on FY2005, it appears we did quite well. As we begin FY2006, our reserve is at 5% of operating budget, right where it should be according to MnSCU guidelines. More FY06 information is coming, we hope by the end of October or the beginning of November.  
c. Campus Demonstration Policy: President Davenport: We need to be prepared for logistical concerns and come up with an agreement on a campus plan for us to follow. Our only concern is multiple use of the same space.  
d. Smoking Survey Update (R. McGinn): Rob McGinn went over the results of the smoking survey. Fifty-one percent of the respondents agreed to a smoke-free on the campus. McGinn wants to talk about compromise, e.g., one door instead of all doors. He asked for comments from the FA because he needs to go back to the Smoking Committee in the near future. The City of Mankato ordinance may affect our practice. FA President Bohnenblust: The FA did not ask for a survey. FA? What is the time frame? Cold weather is coming. McGinn: By receiving comments in two weeks and one day so we can be ready for the next Meet & Confer meetings.  
e. Professional Development Committee: FA President Bohnenblust: When committees are formed, we would like consultation on the charge to the committee, who is in charge of the committee, etc. We need information about these committees before we identify faculty members. President Davenport: This sounds reasonable.  
f. HLC Update (D. Larsson & J. Roca): Co-chair Larsson repeated the request for comments on draft material. He summarized the progress to date and the need to talk with the FA Executive Committee about governance. The dates for the visit are February 6-8, 2006. FA? Should we schedule meetings with the team? Larsson: This will be determined by the HLC team chairs. We need to minimize other campus meetings during the team’s visit. Most of the members of the HLC team come from peer institutions which is different from previous reviews. Minnesota State, Moorhead is going through a similar review this year. Eighty-five percent of institutions have some form of follow-up request. Our weakest spots most likely are gathering together our data and interpreting what the data mean. We need to close the loop between planning, assessment, and budget. November 1 our representatives will go to an HLC visit in Chicago.  
g. Telephone Update (M. Johnson): Vice President Mark Johnson: The majority of academics have not received new phones. Comments about the new telephones from those who have
received them have been generally positive. The system has a number of excellent features. Installers do need access to offices to make the switch.

h. Center for Excellence RFP Process (S. Olson): Vice President Olson mentioned that FA President Bohnenblust has more information on the process because of his attendance at a recent state-wide meeting. The proposal process should be finalized today or tomorrow. Five million dollars will be available for each of two years, and perhaps a third. MnSCU staff anticipate funding 3-8 proposals, probably at the low end 3-4. Four areas have been identified. Every proposal needs to include two-year college partnerships. Campus groups have gone to all four of the information sessions. Economic (work-force) development is the focus. Getting workers into the industries appears to be the top priority. We believe our strongest proposal is in the manufacturing engineering area. President Davenport: It’s a good thing. Our business partners are a “who’s who.” FA President Bohnenblust: In the state-wide meeting, the details of the process were discussed. RFPs should come out on Friday. Criteria for evaluation are enrollment numbers; research and scholarly stuff is incidental. September 13 is the date by which a statement of intent is required. FA?: Curricular changes? Timeline for review of new courses doesn’t coincide. So if money is received, dollars can be used in the subsequent year.

i. New Procedure for Assessing Transfer Equivalencies (W. Sandmann, D. Gjerde, W. Wolff, M. Pomije): Capsulated approach presented by Walt Wolff that recommends some change in how the transfer evaluations will be done. Are we ready for the change? Assistant Vice President Sandmann distributed copies of the Course Equivalency Proposal and Procedure and gave a brief description of the new policy. The concern is whether the change will create a hardship on students and slow down the admissions process. Faculty wants to make the determination of the course equivalency. Registrar Gjerde: Changes will likely lead to a slowing down of the processing time. Walt Wolff: Number of affected students is 733 this fall from a total of 1,019. This is the right path but we are concerned how we get there. Marie Pomije: In the past equivalencies have been made which are incorrect. For example, in my area it makes a difference what text book is used. We are not serving students well if we are making incorrect evaluations. FA: What about when students come here late, in the summer, when faculty aren’t here? Walt Wolff: We might have 100 or so that come in August when faculty aren’t around. Marie Pomije: We have the capability to handle this. It is possible to implement this tomorrow. FA: The change would be in the 100 and 200 level courses. Marie Pomije: As equivalencies are reviewed, requests will go down. Registrar Gjerde: Normally we would review these every year. FA: What about the difference between equivalencies and prerequisites. Assistant Vice President Sandmann: We are not talking about substitutions. With equivalencies we are talking about classes that meet the prerequisites all the time. Gjerde: We will try to build up a system. FA President Bohnenblust: But if the faculty does not determine the equivalency to begin with, then the student might not be successful. VP Olson: I don’t think you need to convince us that this is a good idea. The question is when? Pomije: says they are ready now. How can we make this happen? Registrar Gjerde: We need training, maybe at the chairs’ workshop or meeting with the chairs in their colleges. We may need another form. The Registrar’s office will help. FA: What is the default position if faculty are not available? Registrar Gjerde: We will tell students that they need to talk to faculty. Assistant Vice President Sandmann: The default position is the Student Relations Coordinator. Vice President Olson: That is the model that Business uses. President Davenport: Let us move on this. Assistant Vice President Sandmann distributed a memo regarding this issue.

j. Final Report on Graduate Task Force (F. Delgado): Dean Delgado presented a summary of the process. (Professor Brock McMillan, the faculty chair, was teaching a class and was not able to attend). The report is the conclusion of a two-year process (copies of the report were distributed). This is primarily a faculty developed document. It is an aggressive vision for the
future. FA? How many faculty will this affect and what will it cost? Dean Delgado: It will cost about one million dollars. Any doctoral programs will come with differential tuition. FA? What about housing for graduate students? Delgado said this is what the faculty thinks we need. President Davenport: Change in the funding formula might need to be considered.

k. Health & Wellness Strategic Priority (P. Swatfager-Haney): Vice President Swatfager-Haney asked for feedback on the proposal to have a holistic health development. FA President Bohnenblust: We will be put this on the FA Executive Committee agenda.

3. Action Items—a. 2006 Summer Assignment Guidelines Draft (J. Winkworth): A draft of summer assignment guidelines was distributed for comment from the FA.

4. Other Items—FA Vice President Severns expressed appreciation to Vice President Trauger for his long years of service.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 6, 2005, 3:00 p.m., CSU 204 (FA Chair/AD Agenda)