Faculty Association Meet and Confer  
Thursday, November 03, 2005  
3:00 – 5:00 p.m., CSU 204  
(Administration Chair/ Faculty Association Agenda)

Notes

Present:
Faculty: Stephen Bohnenblust, Roger Severns, Paul J. Hustoles, Stewart Ross, Wayne Allen, Don Descy, Jim Grabowska, Gwen Griffin, Jean Haar, Georgia Holmes, Avra Johnson, Sonja Meiers, Anne O’Meara, Marie Pomije, Evan Rusch, Theresa Salerno, Daardi Sizemore, Dick Swanson

Administration: Richard Davenport, chair, Mark Johnson, Scott Olson, Patricia Swatfager-Haney, Dean Trauger, John Winkworth, recorder

Guest: Kathy Trauger, Marilyn Fox representing Dean Scott Johnson

1. Information Items
   a. Reorder/Additions: President Davenport requested adding an agenda item on free speech as contained in the Campus Demonstration Policy.

2. FA President’s Report
   a. IFO/MnSCU Contract: Informational meetings will occur on all campuses during the week of November 7th with the ratification vote scheduled for Wednesday, November 16th.  
   b. Changes in the IFO: Frank Conroy and Wil Harri are no longer working for the IFO.  Patrice Arseneault is serving as the Acting Director of Labor Relations.  
   c. Meeting with Non-Tenured Faculty: This has become an annual meeting. The faculty mentor program came out of suggestions made at one of these meetings.

3. MSU President’s Report
   a. Administrative Changes: Vice President of Finance and Administration Dean Trauger will be staying until July 1, 2006. This means we can have a full search for his replacement thus avoiding the appointment of an interim.
   b. Public Relations: I want to share with you an ad page from the MPR Minnesota Monthly magazine (distributed) working with some alumni in the Twin Cities to develop some ads on buses. Name recognition is a real problem for us. We plan to market and recruit heavily in the Twin Cities because of demographics of the college age population that show declines in our immediate area and increases in the Twin Cities and their suburbs. We are making headway in promoting our University.
   c. Distinguished Visitors: Lech Walesa will be visiting campus December 1st. He will be speaking at a Political Science class and be the guest of honor at a luncheon before leaving the campus at 1:00 p.m. There is a Center of Excellence ceremony coming up to recognize our success in being selected to receive one of the Center of Excellence designations from MnSCU. A number of us attended a meeting this week with a representative of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in Chicago. Vice President Olson will give you more of the details. My China visit is coming up (November 11-19) with the Governor’s group. Vice President Olson will be in charge during my absence.
4. VPAA’s Report
   a. HLC: We went to Chicago to meet with HLC staff liaison, Dr. Robert R. Appleton on our self-study report and to discuss additional issues pertaining to our HLC review. Dr. Appleton was helpful in providing suggestions for adjustments on the current draft. He was quite positive. Two weeks remain for comments on the draft. Co-Chair Don Larsson has been wonderful about incorporating comments into the document. The second topic for discussion was the doctoral degree. There was mostly good news. The role of the campus as primary in this matter was reaffirmed by Dr. Appleton. We may wish to indicate in the self-study document, the fields that are being considered for doctoral degrees. President Davenport: MnSCU is ready to review doctoral program proposals. We do not need to submit proposals in a linear fashion. We’re ready to go.

5. Discussion Items
   a. Professional Development Day (K. Trauger): The date is January 11, 2006. The day will begin at 8:00 a.m. with a social gathering with the first programs starting at 9:00 a.m. There are currently 35-40 proposals and we are looking for more proposals to be submitted in the next five days or so. We have a nice variety of programs including some on health and wellness, diversity, on-line teaching, etc. We plan to get the program schedule printed and out to the campus before Thanksgiving break. President Davenport: It is the most successful event of its kind on any campus. The secret is getting information on what people want. E-mail questions and concerns to Kathy Trauger.

   b. MnSCU/Legislative Relations: We still are actively seeking support for the Trafton project which is now at $60 million including an add-on to fix the plaza containing the concrete blocks that wobble.

   c. Budget: Vice President Trauger has been working with student government (MSSA) talking about tuition for FY07. They are discussing the same information as has been discussed with the Budget Sub Meet and Confer. We need to submit our tuition recommendation to MnSCU no later than November 15. There is the requirement that MSSA submit a letter on consultation with student government. Vice President Olson will be joining Vice President Trauger and will talk with them about program review. The state student organization is recommending that the tuition increases be kept to a minimum. We anticipate around a 9% increase in tuition. We have answered most of their questions. President Davenport: Vice President Trauger and I met with the audit commission at MnSCU. The commission is urging us to increase our reserve from its current 5% level. The primary concern driving this request is financial obligation associated with the compensated absence issue. MnSCU is planning to submit a supplemental budget request to the Legislature for technology, utilities, and centers of excellence enhancements. Vice President Mark Johnson: MnSCU is looking at the whole technology structure. They recognize the need to shore up the infra-structure. President Davenport: Vice President Johnson has taken the leadership role in the system on these technology issues. FA?: Are they starting to listen to our concerns to the problems with D2L? Vice President Johnson: Yes, there are signs that improvements will be made. We need to submit letters detailing our concerns.
d. List of Existing Contracts and New Contract Routing Sheet (FA):  FA President Bohnenblust: This is a continuation of the discussion from our last Meet & Confer when we were taken aback by the sheer volume of contracts. We prefer something simpler and propose to have a departmental signature line on the approval form. Vice President Trauger: We could give you a quarterly summary of the contracts that have been processed. If there is a dollar level above which we wish to see, we could do this. FA President Bohnenblust: We are not sure we really want to see that amount of detail. Vice President Trauger: We will give you what we need.

e. Health and Wellness Strategic Priority (FA):  FA President Bohnenblust: Vice President Swatfager-Haney and I met on Tuesday. (He distributed copies of the summary that came from the FA Executive Committee.) We talked about specific items. We request sending copies to Mary Visser and Chris Connelly, who have agreed to be co-chairs. Vice President Swatfager-Haney: It was a good meeting and it will help for the two co-chairs to look at the specific ideas. We need to identify the ending time of this task force. There will be another representative from the FA. President Davenport: In getting ready for my trip to China, I experienced a “travel clinic” at the Mankato Clinic. You have a phone interview and from that they determine the immunizations you need. FA?: Are we still going to be giving the flu shots at the end of November? From what we read in the paper, there is a shortage of the vaccine. Vice President Swatfager-Haney: It is still scheduled. I will check to see if there is any change and will notify the campus. FA: Kudos to getting the research grant to study alcohol and students.

f. FIG Proposal Additional Funds (FA):  FA President Bohnenblust: We have run out of Faculty Improvement Grant (FIG) money. How are we going to deal with this? FIG Faculty Chair Rusch: We are proposing to change the criteria to something similar to what is used with research grants. But, in the meantime, we have a December award period. Will there be money? FA: We are asking for supplemental funding. Vice President Olson: Will we be getting a written request? President Davenport: Is the total dollar amount of grants predetermined? FA responded: We estimate that we are approximately $13,000 in the hole. President Davenport: As we move forward with doctoral work, we need to have resources available. Vice President Olson: We appreciate willingness to establish guidelines. Rusch: We would recommend a percent of the requests because we cannot change the guidelines in the middle of the year. We need something in place for the March application procedure. President Davenport: We are looking at budget now. It would be useful to know the amount. I would be open to it.

g. Overload “Policy” (NEW 11/03/05 FA):  Contractually the Agreement limits the number of overloads during the academic year to five (5). FA President Bohnenblust: We were wondering how this works? A graph containing the distribution of overloads to faculty for the 2004-05 academic year was distributed. Of the 170 faculty with overloads, sixteen (16) individuals received more than five credits of overload. One of the points of concern was the number of individuals regularly receiving overloads.

h. College of Business Academic Qualifications Draft (FA):  (Dean Scott Johnson was unable to attend the meeting. Professor Marilyn Fox was at the meeting representing Dean Johnson and the College of Business on this matter.) FA President Bohnenblust: The question we have is how this College of Business set of academic qualifications relates to any contractual issues? Professor Fox: The Academic Qualifications data is
required by our accrediting agency (AACSB) and does not relate to any contractual issues. FA President Bohnenblust: Will this affect tenure? Professor Fox: Departments will not use these data is this form. Vice President Olson: This could suggest other related things not going on. FA comment: A number of faculty came to us with this concern. What if they don’t quite meet the AACSB standard but they do meet the tenure requirement? Professor Fox: Departments differ on what is required for tenure. The bar is fairly low for most departments. Vice President Olson: The premise is that departments are not going to use this. It is an interesting question but not relative to this agenda item. FA?: Should all departments have the same standards? FA?: Are there concerns in the accreditation process with teaching? Professor Fox: Absolutely. This is only a small part of the process. FA: One contract for all state universities does create some problems on occasion. We are rubbing up against an international set of standards which may be quite different. It may be difficult to separate the two but there is a clear difference. Vice President Olson: Either we do this or AACSB will do it for us. It is good for the College of Business to assume responsibility for developing this academic qualification system. AACSB is moving to a more flexible set of standards and their willingness to support our doing this is a good indication of this change. Models from other institutions were used in developing this format.

i. Winter Heating Costs (FA): Is there any heads up that we need to be aware of? Vice President Trauger: Right now we do not have any specific plan to lower temperatures. If the supply of natural gas gets tight, we may need to consider lowering thermostats. We hope this winter’s temperatures will be similar to last year. Depending on how things are, we may have to implement some conservation measures. Temperatures on campus are controlled by a computer system with variations by room use. President Davenport: We will work with you on this.

6. Action Items
   a. Policy for Formal Review: Smoking Policy Vice President Olson: This policy is out for formal review and you have forty five (45) days to respond. FA: There is concern with enforcement. President Davenport: All groups we have met with have a similar concern with enforcement. http://www.mnsu.edu/acadaf/pdfs/SmokingPolicy.pdf

   b. Charge for Campus Demonstration Policy: President Davenport: Copies of the charge are distributed. I envision a small work group to identify spaces for free speech, both interior and exterior. This group needs representatives from the FA and other interested parties. This charge has been met with positive response by all the groups with whom we have met.

7. Veteran’s Day Celebration: A Veteran’s Day celebration is scheduled for Friday, November 11, in the South Ballroom from 1:00-3:00 p.m. There will be refreshments and fellowship.

8. FA Member Question: “Why are they taking out the crosswalks on Stadium Road?” Vice President Trauger: The county is taking out the crosswalks so that it is
clear that vehicles have the right-of-way. For events that require crossing the road, we will have traffic monitors to assist with pedestrians.

Meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

**Remaining Fall Semester Meet and Confer:** Thursday, December 1, 2005, 3:30 p.m., CSU Heritage Room (FA Chair/Admin. Agenda)

**First Spring Semester Meet & Confer:** Thursday, February 02, 2006, 3:00 p.m., TO BE SCHEDULED (Admin Chair/FA Agenda)

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John M. Winkworth                Paul J. Hustoles
Reviewer for Management          Reviewer for Faculty
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