Faculty Association Meet and Confer  
Thursday, February 02, 2006  
3:08 – 5:00 p.m.  
CSU 204  
(Administration Chair/Faculty Association Agenda)

NOTES

Present:
Faculty Association: Stephen Bohnenblust, Roger Severns, Paul Hustoles, Stewart Ross, Don Descy, Jim Grabowska, Georgia Holmes, Sonja Meiers, Anne O’Meara, Jim Petersen, Marie Pomije, Theresa Salerno, Dick Swanson  
Administration: Richard Davenport, chair, Mark Johnson, Lori Lamb, Scott Olson, Patricia Swatfager-Haney, Dean Trauger, John Winkworth, recorder  
Guests: Don Larsson, Henry Morris

1. Information Items—
   a. Reorder/Additions: President Davenport requested the addition of a discussion on the progress of the Lighting Committee, chaired by Mike Miller, Dean of the College of Education.
   
   b. Report of the Lighting Committee: Vice President Olson introduced the topic, describing how the group was formed to study current and future lighting and its effects on the Standeford Observatory. Dean Miller: Our job is to gather all relevant data and make recommendations. At our first meeting we reviewed photographs of the current site, and talked with eleven or so individuals who represented various opinions on the location of the Standeford Observatory and the potential adverse effects of campus lighting. The individuals included Sean McGoldrick, the Mankato City Planner, and Tom Cooper from Military Science. The committee has been gathering various kinds of information. The next meeting is on 7 February. A proposal did come from the faculty to move Standeford south and a little east of the ropes course behind a stand of trees and next to a ravine. This is a fairly protected spot with sufficient space to create a larger platform. We would recommend this as a change that would seem to help regardless of future field development. We have also considered a related proposal to make a safe access route for students by creating a straight route from campus. This path would use minimal lights that could be accessed by the faculty. More details are available upon request. President Davenport: Long-term, do you think this will solve the problem? These recreation fields will be used more heavily than current levels. Dean Miller: One of the interesting developments with lighting is a decrease in the amount of light from developments. The committee has more concern with lights in the football stadium. Sky glow is the concern - spill light, glare light. This is not a problem with the heavily-used Standeford Observatory but with the Andreas Observatory that is used by majors and graduate students. Currently we are looking at lighting options in the football stadium. FA Vice President Severns: Is the idea of moving Andreas out in the country an option? President Davenport: Some issues are outside our control. Dean Miller: The lighting in the Mayan Way development is not a problem. The observatory at the U of M is on top
of a building in a metropolitan area. FA President Bohnenblust: We look forward to the final report.

c. **FA President’s Report:** Two weeks ago I was at the Board of Trustees meeting when our University presentation was made. This was a “knock-your-socks-off” presentation. A number of individuals including Nancy Black, IFO President, and individual Trustees commented on the extraordinary vitality of our campus as demonstrated in this presentation. We’re rapidly getting into another world. But there is a storm cloud on the horizon. Faced with a decline of some 25% of graduating high school seniors in our area, we need to realize that these may be the good times. Being able to survive in times of declining state support is a challenge. We are concerned about what is going to happen in the future. We need to get a handle on these issues. An extraordinary job was done. FA: What about including this at the Fall Convocation? President Davenport: This is a good idea and something to consider.

d. **MSU President’s Report:**
   1. **Board of Trustees:** The Chancellor came up to me afterwards and told me we had just raised the bar with our presentation. Why did we do it? We wanted to demonstrate to the Trustees that we were unique. We will use this information for HLC and other related events including the Fall Convocation.
   2. **Enrollment:** In the enrollment decline, we expect the drop in southern Minnesota but we do expect growth from the Twin Cities graduates. We need to go after a larger market share. We’re not going to wait until we have an enrollment problem. Maybe you have seen our billboards in critical locations in the Twin Cities. The message is simply “Minnesota State University, Mankato.” Our next big advertising initiative is bus wraps in the Twin Cities. This is all about planning for the future. U of M Twin Cities, and UMD - they are our primary competitors. Two-thirds of our students come here having us as their first choice.
   3. **MnSCU:** Once again we received recognition at the MnSCU Chief Financial Officers Meeting with awards to the University for Operation and Facilities, and to Vice President Trauger for individual service. In March we will be receiving an award for our Centennial Student Union.
   4. **HLC:** On Sunday the HLC visit begins with a dinner in the Student Union. Chancellor McCormack, Trustee Robert Hoffman, and our MnSCU liaison, Manuel Lopez, will be attending. Senior Academic Vice Chancellor Linda Baer is scheduled to join us on Monday afternoon. The table tents are going out tomorrow. I look forward to a good visit. I urge you all to be honest. I am very encouraged by the work of the committee. HLC Faculty Coordinator Larsson: I wish to express our appreciation to Henry Morris, Carol Stallkamp, Warren Sandmann, Daardi Sizemore, and others for all their hard work. Please try to attend one of the open meetings. Urge the students to attend their meeting.

e. **VPAA Report:**
   1. **HLC:** I encourage everyone to read the self-study report.
   2. **Administrative Positions:** The list of administrative positions is being distributed.
   3. **MSU, Mankato:** For 2/3rds of our students, we were their first choice. The remainder chose between us and the U of M, or UMD.
2. Action Items—
   a. Policies for Review: Human Resources Director Lori Lamb awaits any final comments. FA President Bohnenblust: We have no additional comments on these policies.

1. Graduate Enrollment:
   http://www.mnsu.edu/acadaf/pdfs/GraduateEnrollmentpolicy.pdf

2. Post Secondary Enrollment Options:
   http://www.mnsu.edu/acadaf/pdfs/PSEOmsupolicyrevised2005_06.pdf

3. Fire Safety and Protection:
   http://www.mnsu.edu/acadaf/pdfs/FireSafetyandProtection.pdf

3. Discussion Items—
   a. MnSCU/Legislative Relations: President Davenport: We look to have a real good shot at getting the remaining of the required Trafton addition funds. MnSCU has made a request for supplemental funds: Bio-Science: We are well positioned. International Enhancement at the College Level: There is a good chance of funding. IT Upgrades: $13 million is requested for the upgrade. If these dollars do not come from the State, we will have to pay our share out of current funds. Vice President Trauger: I met with the MSSA President. We are interested in continuing consultation with students. Students have an interest in learning about budget issues. For example when they ask “Why is the budget increase 9% and not 4-5%?”, we talk about the adverse effects of the drop in State funding, and that we have to cover the difference with tuition. It takes time to help students understand. MSSA has a lot of freshman unlike past years. This should set things up for future years. President Davenport: I congratulate the Budget and Planning Sub Meets for their work in linking our process. At the state level, students were critical of the Chancellor not giving students enough time for consultation.

   b. Budget: Vice President Trauger: Approved tuition increase of 9%. We should have a pretty good idea of where we are with our FY2006 budget liabilities. Vice President Johnson: On the subject of planning we have had a number of joint meetings with the Budget Sub meet. We are working out the details including establishing an office to drive planning.

   c. MnSCU Validation: FA Pomije: Registrar Dave Gjerde shared with UCAP information from the Office of the Chancellor concerning the names of program options, concentrations and emphases. The proposal is for campuses to begin labeling programs in a way consistent with the MnSCU-approved program inventory. The Registrar is quite concerned as are the FA. We support a campus-defined set of programs. This proposal is coming out of BPAC (Business Practices Advisory Committee). Assistant Vice President Sandmann will be our representative on a system-wide group looking at the appropriate CIP codes. President Davenport: We are trying to make it easier to gather data. FA President Bohnenblust: Wasn’t BPAC designed to see if the campuses have an interest in their initiatives? President Davenport: I do believe that the new Board members support the unique character of the campuses. There was support for an innovative initiative which is consistent with this new strategic priority.
As for the common start date, it is doable. This is not a problem for the next two years. We need the greater lead time on determining our calendar. If we’re going to put everyone on the system on the same day, we need to make sure this will work, and the Chancellor understands this. I am the only President on BPAC and we are outnumbered by staff from the Office of the Chancellor. FA Vice President Severns: One of the concerns I have is “Do we have to change our curriculum?” FA Pomije: We wouldn’t be able to list our concentrations and options. FA Jim Petersen: Certification in one of our programs requires we have a specific emphasis in therapeutic recreation.

d. Academic Programs Housed in Academic Affairs (1/12/06 Executive Minutes) FA President Bohnenblust: We don’t have a position on this at this time. The issue is that there are programs in Academic Affairs and not in a college. We’re asking how you deal with these anomalies. Vice President Olson: There are a number of programs: CETL, Honors, FYE Seminar. If it’s an area we need to explore we could look at how other universities do this. FA Vice President Severns: What about a working group? FA Pomije: UCAP needs help in how to do this. A community-based learning proposal was looked at by all colleges. Questions were raised during the process of this review. Two weeks ago the Honors Program Director talked to me about making changes in the program. It is something we need to look at. Vice President Olson: UCAP is a place to start. FA Pomije: The group needs to be broader, including people like the Director of the Center for Academic Success. FA President Bohnenblust: There may be some programs within colleges, like Gerontology, that should be outside a college. Non-Profit Leadership is another program. FA Pomije: Assistant Vice President Sandmann and I will make a proposal for a work group.

e. Doctoral Programs (1/19/06 Executive Minutes – McMillan) Professor McMillan was not in attendance.) FA President Bohnenblust: There are a number of concerns we have in areas like budget and planning. We are looking to find out where we’re at. Are we looking at six-figure funding? Vice President Olson: There are a number of possible programs under consideration in nursing, education and psychology. Our lists of strengths and weaknesses are expected to go forward to the Meet & Confer. FA Meiers: We don’t know what criteria are going to be used to make decisions. Now that the letters of intent have gone forward, what is next? Vice President Olson: The purpose of the letters was to establish the waterfront of any possible doctoral programs. They haven’t asked for formal proposals. We could check with Manuel Lopez who will be here on campus next week. This will be important for us. We need to remind them of the importance of going back to the Legislature. FA Swanson: One of the concerns is if we don’t get additional funding, and we do have a number of these doctoral programs, the money will come from the undergraduate program. Vice President Olson: The departments that are looking at possible doctorates are either strong in graduate education or dominantly graduate in their course offerings. FA President Bohnenblust: We have talked with Manuel Lopez asking him if decisions would be made on a first-come, first-serve basis. I’m not if the Office of the Chancellor has all these details worked out. Vice President Olson: I suggest we be open and honest in our conversations on this subject.

f. Parking (1/19/06 Executive Minutes – Bohnenblust): We have heard there is a proposal to tie parking rates to inflation, making automatic increases. We suggest there not be increases and that M&E be used to cover increased needs. Vice
President Trauger: I have heard the proposal. This needs to be discussed with the Parking Advisory Committee. There has not been a fee increase in four years. There are a number of staff who are paid all or in part from this source. With no increase there could be a situation down the road where a larger increase is required. We need to look at other funding sources, as well as increasing parking opportunities to the northeast of the campus. He will look into these issues. FA President Bohnenblust: Maybe we should consider charging for parking for community-related activities like the Vikings. FA Jim Petersen: We are concerned about automatic increases and are not opposed to justified and reasonable proposals.

g. **Planning/Mission (1/19/06 Executive Minutes – Grabowska):** We discovered questions about opinions about the University community’s reactions. We took a Zoomerang survey approach and are collecting the responses. We will be able to share these results with HLC next week. FA President Bohnenblust: Are inner city kids going to want to stay in our dorms? FA Holmes: We used to have an informal group that coordinated our work with the Legislature. If needed, you might want to think about this kind of approach. It would be helpful to designate who to talk with in the Legislature about specific issues.

h. **South Campus Recreation and Fitness Facilities Proposal (Pat Swatfager-Haney):** We are gathering comment and reactions on a proposal. If the FA wishes a specific session, this could be arranged. Open sessions are planned. Where are we going as a campus? President Davenport: Three academic buildings are in the queue: Trafton, College of Business, Clinical Lab Sciences. This proposal is important to our total fitness/wellness/recreation emphasis. Feedback is important. Nothing is set in stone. Vice President Olson: What does the FA want? FA Swanson: Does there need to be a vote? Is the vote binding? President Davenport: There will be a referendum. Vice President Swatfager-Haney: This is not required but the MSSA wants to do it. The MSSA would prefer to have the referendum at the same time as their student elections.

5. **Other Items**—President Davenport: I suggest a future retreat on doctoral programs.

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Next meeting: **Thursday, March 9, 2006, 3:00 p.m., CSU 204 (FA Chair/Administrative Agenda)**