

**Faculty Association Meet and Confer**  
**February 28, 2008**  
**3:00 p.m., CSU 204**  
**(Administration Chair)**

**NOTES**

**Attendance:**

**Faculty:** Don Larsson, Jim Grabowska, Paul Hustoles, recorder, Mary Visser, Georgia Holmes, Patricia Young, Roger Severns. Dick Swanson, Debra Anderson, Paul Mackie, Anne O'Meara, Glen Peterson, Theresa Salerno, Jean Haar, Jackie Lewis, Greg Marg, Dan Cronn-Mills

**Management:** Scott Olson, Lori Lamb, Marilyn Delmont, Rick Straka, Patricia Swartfager-Haney, John Winkworth

**Guests:** Gerald Schneck, Linda Hanson, Pat Lipetzky

Provost Olson called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

**1. Information Items**

**a. Reorder/Additions**—none

**b. FA President's Report**—FA President Larsson: We just got back from St. Paul for the IFO Lobby Days. This was a new experience for me. Very interesting. We met with leaders of key committees and the House leadership. We had some very good exchanges. There was strong support for the bonding bill. They will be trimming back from MnSCU but less than the Governor's version. The override of the Transportation Bill veto freed up some other monies. The HEPR requests were getting good attention. The two year faculty has settled. The MSUAASF are going into mediation. The IFO has settled and the faculty have ratified it. By the March Board meeting, they should have all three settlements. These will be packaged so the Governor will not be able to do a line item veto. The state deficit is close to a billion dollars. This will require some adjustments. We reminded the legislators that if they need money from MnSCU they should look at the central office, not the campuses. The alcohol summit was yesterday. It went very well. We extend our best wishes to President Davenport for a speedy recovery.

**c. MSU President's Report**—Provost Olson: President Davenport had his knee surgery replacement and he is now back home. We are not sure exactly when he will come back to work. Linda Hansen is our new Affirmative Action officer. The alcohol summit was incredibly well attended. We had to pull in more chairs. I will quibble with the Free Press headline. There were almost too many answers. Nobody left that room thinking that this is only the University's problem to fix. We all have to work on this together. There was legislation passed that says we need to move to 120 credits in our baccalaureate programs. There are three exceptions: accreditations, industry standards and something about innovative, new programs. We all need to be in a conversation about this. Next Wednesday, UCAP will be coming to the Chair's breakfast to lead a large conversation. Some may want to take this out of gen ed, or the major, or the minor. We do have some time. The policy has to be in place in January 2009 and then would be

ALewis: We did recommend adopting the VSA approach. Provost Olson: Between now and our next meeting, please talk about this at your Exec Meeting.

**d. Human Resources Topics**—HR Director Lori Lamb (passed around the lists): Would you prefer for us to send this electronically? I would be happy to do that. FA President Larsson: We have already endorsed our own documents going out electronically so we will let you know. HR Director Lamb: MnSCU is exempt from the Governor's memo regarding filling positions. But we still need to be prudent. Our Cabinet thought that a good way to document this would be to fill in the Vacant Position Review form. This will delay things a bit but it is believed that this will be worth it. The Cabinet will give a lot of deference to the divisional levels. We will all move with as much haste as possible. This will not apply to adjuncts. FA: Where is the Assessment position? HR Director Lamb: It has been approved by MnSCU and now the committee needs to be formed. FA President Larsson: Some faculty members are concerned about making sure we get the biggest bang for the buck on our administrative positions. HR Director Lamb: Linda Duckett brought some proposals regarding language on the vacancy notices. They are waiting for feedback. They wanted to add a requirement that people submit a statement regarding their commitment to diversity.

## 2. Action Items

**a. Policy Update**—Provost Olson: We are using a new way to report this to you. FA President Larsson: We had an error in the Make Up Work and Missed Classes. This one is the old policy. We want a useful guideline for faculty without a specific mandate. Exec did approve this substitution. FA: Labs are not listed on the policy. FA: I have a class where at least half are involved in extra-curricular activities. This can be a real challenge. FA President Larsson: Priority registration can assist in avoiding some of these.

### **b. Directors and Other Coordinating Assignments**

### **c. 2008-2009 Personnel Calendars**

**d. Student teacher Supervision**—AVP Winkworth: All of these went out by email. This will be on the agenda next time and we look forward to your comments. We also have copies of the workload for student teaching supervisors. FA President Larsson: Our deadlines are before those mandated in the contract by our choice. AVP Winkworth: Some of these date from the old quarter system but are still in the contract. FA: Our new contract is not official yet but there are some dates in there that could have an effect on the calendar. And there's the 9-month contract option. We might want to get a small workgroup together to talk about how we are going to deal with some of those dates. Provost Olson: There is language that calls for the creation of campus task forces to deal with this exact thing. We could certainly anticipate this. FA President Larsson: There is new flexibility in working with the summer term. Provost Olson: Do you have a proposed structure? FA: We haven't had an Exec meeting yet. Provost Olson: We would be amenable to working on this.

## 3. Discussion Items

**a. MnSCU/Legislative Relations**—Provost Olson: What happened with the Transportation bill is good for the Bonding bill. VP Straka: And we think the HEAPR allocation will be helped by this too. We are partners with the City of Mankato for

development money to expand the Civic Center, including a hockey rink. They are looking at planning money for an auditorium. Provost Olson: The auditorium is a bit of a controversial item for us. VP Straka: They are not looking at us as the main tenant. They are looking at the symphony and smaller artist groups for the 1,000 to 1,500 crowd. It is going to be designed as a great break out space. Provost Olson: The MSU ballroom is often not good for many events. There would be very few performing aspects for us, no theatre, the rare music event. VP Straka: They see it more like a Northrop Auditorium. Provost Olson: We have tried to make the city understand that our interest is much stronger in the ice sheet aspect.

**b. Budget**—VP Straka: There will be a \$935 million deficit by June 30, 2009. This is much lower than I expected. We had anticipated as high as \$2.5 billion. This is 2.7% of the state budget. The state has its full reserve level. All the accounting gimmicks are available for the state to use. What is the forecast down the line? They will be looking at those things. Next week we will be seeing the initial bills coming out. We will have a better idea as to how it will impact us. FA: Do we need to be worried about fall or the following fall? VP Straka: We knew we had a budget problem. We have a \$1.5 million deficit at MSU. We do have more money than last year, but also more expenses. All divisions are looking at short term solutions. We need to look at the long term as well. We need to have an overall process where budget items and planning are looked at institutionally, not just within divisions. Provost Olson: Planning, Budget and Assessment Sub Meets are looking at longer term models. We have a budget reserve. We are in good shape. VP Straka: Do be aware that we will have a chunk of change at the end of this year, but we will need to use this for next year, due to the timing of the FA agreement and how we anticipated this. FA: There has been discussion about buying a building in the Hwy 169 corridor. Can we consider that? VP Straka: There are some non-allocated reserves. That could help us with coming up with this. There are leasing options. FA: It is good that you are looking at this planning. VP Straka: We are looking for different ways to deal with Extended Learning and how they can become entrepreneurial. Provost Olson: And the President has ambitious enrollment goals and this is one way to do that. FA President Larsson: This is an area when we go to state meetings where we are far ahead of other campuses. The same thing goes with online education. We have to make sure that complaints about the system don't come back to our campus.

**c. Master Plan Forum**—VP Straka: We have scheduled two sessions for the Master Plan Forum: March 31 from 9:00 a.m. to noon and April 2 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. These are drop in times. We will have an opportunity to collect feedback. FA President Larsson: Will we have an opportunity to have more direct input in master planning? We need to have an opportunity for people who actually use the space to have input. Provost Olson: Could we put up a website? VP Straka: We can look at that. And we could also look at what level of detail a master plan is at. I know that all the colleges were represented last fall. Provost Olson: We really want your input. Bear in mind that this is more like zoning. VP Straka: And there is also the infrastructure meat and potatoes necessities. We are open in this process.

**d. College of Extended Learning Proposal**—Dean Lipetzky walked through the distributed document to move Extended Learning from a service unit to a college. FA Schneck: There are concerns regarding operations and exactly how things would work.

But we will operate within the confines of the university's procedures. Lipetzky: We are all about the off campus, online student. Faculty understand that they are connected to a department. The work assignment would be through this college but the faculty would be housed in the departments. Any faculty lines from this would be fixed term. FA: Would you develop new classes? Lipetzky: We envision creating new courses but we would still very much be a service unit. Provost Olson: What would be an example? Lipetzky: Like a special topics in a business area. Maybe they need a business writing module. Provost Olson: Credit or non-credit? Lipetzky: For credit. FA: This would be done through existing curriculum like social topics? Lipetzky: Yes. But some industries have asked for certain kinds of certificates. FA Schneck: And there's workshops, individual studies. FA: The problem with some classes is in the sequencing of courses. We can really get into a bind. Lipetzky: I don't think a traditional business degree is appropriate for mid-level managers. I think that 80 % of this would be what we are currently doing. 20% would be new. Provost Olson: There is a huge investment going into our Mankato campus. But we are also looking forward to changes in high school graduation rates. How can we help the bottom line in new ways? Us going online is very different than a MN Online degree. The good news in our marketing campaign. We are way ahead of any other MnSCU institution. People know who we are and they like who we are. FA: How many credits? Lipetzky: It will be consumer driven. Provost Olson: Or it could be non-credit. FA: What would a college be able to do that we can't do now? Provost Olson: This is part of the problem. We don't know what to call this. We used to have a College of Graduate Studies and Extended Learning. When we pulled it apart, the college name stuck with Graduate Studies, but not with Extended Learning. Lipetzky: What comes with a college is more visibility and accountability. Provost Olson: A college has the ability to offer you a full range of services that a department can't. From a student's standpoint, they want some confidence that if they start something, it can be seen through. FA: But that would come from a department. FA President Larsson: Some of us remember discussions about this long ago. We decided to retain the Graduate College designation because of the higher profile. Provost Olson: In the last four years we have gone from \$1 million to \$5 million in Grants Research. A college has more status than an office or a school. FA: Are there any accreditation issues? FA President Larsson: I don't think so. FA: I can offer online courses completely independent of you. Will I still be able to do this in the future? I don't see language about this. Lipetzky: We are not a gatekeeper for off campus or online courses. Lipetzky: If we wanted to do this, wouldn't we have to go through the governance process? Provost Olson: Maybe the Extended Learning Sub Meet can look at this. FA: This potentially puts an increased burden on department chairs. Provost Olson: When resources are increasing, it puts a burden on chairs. Lipetzky: But that is an operational issue. We would hope to make it even easier. Perhaps we could do the paperwork and send it to the chair for approval? FA President Larsson: There are some wrinkles in the new contract that will make this interesting. The absence of language in the contract could provide opportunities. There is hardly anything that addresses online education.

**1. Metro Site**—Lipetzky: We were very close to signing a lease. We are looking for about 7 classrooms and some faculty offices. Provost Olson: The College of Education has a presence at Nomandale right now. The problem is that they have a space crunch there. We need another space near there. Lipetzky: We want to expand. That

area has the largest growth rate in the Twin Cities. Provost Olson: There is also a psychological barrier. It is easy for us to drive up to Belle Plaine. But from the Cities down, it seems like a long way. FA President Larsson: You had sent a message to the HLC. Did you get a reply? Lipetzky: Perhaps you could call. Provost Olson: Actually our list already includes Bloomington and Eden Prairie. Provost Olson: There will also be low cost or no cost sites that might be available to us. But we can't count on that for all of our students. Also, if we don't do it, the St. Thomases of the world could move in. We don't want to yield this whole market. FA: Are we looking at doing this with overloads, or are we looking at hiring new faculty. Provost Olson: This could be both. This will be discipline specific. Lipetzky: I would love to be able to give you a faculty line if you can provide us with a certain number of courses up there. We have to make sure we have the student base. FA: In the MnSCU bonding proposal there is a purchase of a building in Owatonna. Provost Olson: That is item 27 and the Governor has drawn the line after 8. This is a non-starter. The rents are very high there. If someone buys it and gives it to us, perhaps. Riverland is the current tenant. Keep in mind that folks want an MSU degree. That has to be under all of this. FA: If you give out faculty lines, do the credits go to your college? Lipetzky: You should get the credit hours. My accountability is how much money we are making, and how many students. It is not based on credit hours. Provost Olson: Extended Learning would not be competing with you. Think of partnering. VP Swartfager-Haney: If we are looking at the kinds of courses that only distance learners would take, we would like to find new students, not cannibalize our current students. FA: One of the best models is the hybrid model. You could get a lot more than 7 classes out of 7 classrooms. Perhaps the class only meets a couple of times during the term.

**e. Calendar Committee**—AVP Winkworth: We invite all the bargaining units to come and discuss the academic calendars for 2009-10 and 2010-11. We will be sending a request for your participation. FA President Larsson: What about common start dates? AVP Winkworth: We are in compliance. This hasn't been an issue. Provost Olson: We have a conflict between the Classified contracts and our instructional needs. The Classified contracts require Veterans Day and Presidents Day off. If you take those out of the academic calendar, it massively affects the lab days. Classes might be in session on days when the classified are not there. We do not control the AFSCME contract, that is statewide.

**f. FA: Spring picnic**—FA: We will host the picnic again this year. We will be getting details to you soon.

The meeting ended at 4:48 p.m.

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John M. Winkworth  
Reviewer for Management

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Paul J. Hustoles  
Reviewer for Faculty