CCF Meetings January 29, 2015

Bismarck State College

9:00-11:00 and 1:30-3:30

Present: Members- Quijano (DSU); Paschke (MaSU); Murphy (UND, SBHE Rep); Thorsen (BSC); Russi (VCSU); Pijning (MiSU); Knudson (DCB); VanderMolen (WSC); Redding (NDSCS); Selekwa (NDSU).

Guest- Dr. Tanya Spilovoy, NDUS

Dr. Tanya Spilovoy, NDUS Director of Distance Ed Director and State Authorization was a guest. She spoke about her NDUS position that also involves being a regulator to check out of state higher ed programs that operate in ND. ND, MN, and others have entered state authorization reciprocity agreements.

Dr. Spilovoy also communicated the latest news regarding Open Educational Resources (OER). In 2013, the ND legislature, through HR 3013, told the NDUS to “look at” OER as a way to keep costs down for students. (CCF responded to that with a statement- see attachment). She talked about MOOCs (such as those through MIT, Coursera, Edutech, Stanford) and startup textbook companies like Flatworld that offered “free” classes for enrichment and even certifications. However, entities such as Coursera have now become for-profit. An open-textbook library at U of MN has been created, of which ND is a partner. 2015 HB 1261 allows $1 million of $5 million previously set aside for performance funding for NDUS to be used for the development of OER in ND. It would pay faculty up to $20,000 to develop an peer-reviewed OER textbook as long as it is made available for free to his/her students and is put on the U of MN library. If passed, it would go into effect immediately.

Spilovoy says that faculty should get paid to develop OER since the time and effort involved is above and beyond normal duties. Spilovoy wants CCF to testify when it comes to committee; four days’ advance notice will be given as to the date. Pijning and Paschke reminded the meeting attendees of academic freedom and the instructors’ choice should be the ultimate deciding factor for classroom textbooks. Spilovoy reassured them academic freedom will not be infringed upon. Any faculty that would like to be heard should use their own resources such as email or cars to testify or lend support. There are not partners with any private sector entities; the only partner is the UMN Open Library. Copyright resides with the copyright owner.

A question was raised about technical subjects, such as diesel mechanics- would John Deere be open to partnering? That is unknown. She was also reminded of the difficulty of developing an OER for many upper level subjects. The question was raised whether there would be funding for developing skills in writing and technical aspects of putting together a book.

Spilovoy is developing an all-NDUS faculty survey regarding the OER project. Even if the money has already been allocated for NDUS she says this bill acknowledges a working collaboration between the NDUS and the ND Legislature. Murphy said it also facilitates scholarship and faculty development, along with tying to the NDUS strategic plan.

Pijning and Thorsen spoke in favor of the survey. No votes taken in a.m. session due to lack of a quorum.

SBHE Report:
Murphy talked about the Chancellor Search. AGB Search is assisting the “fast-paced” search. Both the Staff and Faculty Representatives are on the committee but cannot vote. Candidates will be examined at the end of March. More candidates can be directly nominated/submitted to AGB Search. Finalists will be interviewed in mid-April. Murphy said CCF can take concerns/wishes about the new chancellor to Interim Chancellor Skogen but individual faculty should go through their institutions’ presidents.

Murphy spoke to Feldner (NDUS) regarding the motor pool issue. It is up to the interpretation of individual campuses.

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CCF members went to the SBHE meeting being held at BSC from 11:00-12:00. After the lunch break with the SBHE and president’s reports, CCF members in attendance introduced themselves at the SBHE meeting. CCF meeting resumed at around 1:30.

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Motor Pool Survey- Pijning will send it out again to gain more participation, though there had been 300 respondents as of the meeting time. Thorsen (BSC) and Russi (VCSU) told of instances where their extra-curricular clubs can no longer use state cars. Pijning said that if one uses a personal vehicle then they are personally liable. Discussion included points such as reduced retention of students and how the policy diminishes our ability to perform our mission. However, of the 300 respondents, only 5% said they were not able to use state cars at all.

New Business Items Raised:

- Students being able to opt out of subscribing to university email. In previous elections students got political emails because student emails are public record.
- Tenure- An email has come out that North Dakota United (NDU), the public employees and educators union, wants two seats on a committee being formed to discuss tenure. Unsure of what the impetus is.
- SB 2290 (Sinner and Warner sponsors) says if a person is temporary but full-time and they have been employed as FT/temp for 24+ months then contracts should be offered at the same time as regular FT employees. However, MiSU says this won’t solve the issue with adjunct instructors. Very often their contracts don’t come out for 2-3 weeks after the semester has started because administration is waiting to see whether or not there are enough students to hold the class, putting instructors in limbo.

All-Faculty Conference- This is tabled to see whether a fall date would work. The proposed dates for May 20-22, 2015 were set because the current chancellor did not want faculty to cancel class for the conference. However, faculty are not necessarily on contract during the May dates and are not enthusiastic about an off-contract meeting time.

CCF Vice-President- The current CCF VP, Suzanne Russ of DSU, is on sabbatical. Knudson and others volunteered to take her spot at AAC meetings.

Business was concluded. Meeting adjourned at 3:30.