

FACULTY COUNCIL
April 25, 2007
STRAND UNION 276
4:10 AM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Angryk for Starkey, Ashley, Bailey, Bandyopadhyay, Becker, Cherry, Clark, Croy, Dyer, Gipp, Jones, Levy, Lynch, Livingston, Marshall for D. Weaver, M. McClure, Neeley, Prawdzienski, Pinet, Watson, Seymour, Taylor

Members Absent: Ag Econ, Ag/ED/AOT, Amin, Chem/Biochem, Christopher, Ecology, English, Erickson, Idzerda, Jackson, Jacobs, Nursing On-Campus, Peed, Political Science, K.A. Scott

Others Present: Lansverk

Chair Shannon Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present. Minutes of April 4, 11 and 18, 2007 were unanimously approved.

STUDENT CONDUCT GUIDELINES – Chair Taylor

- Chair Taylor will be working with Glenn Puffer, during the summer, on the Student Conduct Code. If Faculty Council members have input, please contact Chair Taylor: staylor@montana.edu
- FC members believe students should take evaluation process more seriously.
- There is a function on BANNER called “wait-list” and its functionality is questionable. Chair Taylor will investigate and report back to Faculty Council.

STUDENT RETENTION - Vice Chair Warren Jones

- UPBAC met to discuss student retention processes, since the budget will be designed around the present undergraduate student population.
- Some of the issues around student retention problems are:
 - More men on campus than women;
 - Mostly “B”, “C” students are leaving, and we do not know why;
 - Graduation rate - We lose about 25% freshmen, 15-20% sophomores, 10% of juniors and then a very small fraction after that. Graduation rate of entering freshman to seniors is 55-60%. Initially, out-of-state student recruitment costs about \$3400. However, since retention is not 100%, it actually costs more.
 - Many reasons for student frustration once they get on campus:
 - Some “gate” classes cannot support student demand; and
 - Students who cannot make gates have no alternatives.
 - UPBAC looked at how to retain the large populace of freshmen entering MSU each year and gave the following suggestions for retention:
 - Presidential Tutors – A math/science tutorial program in the evenings.
 - Supplemental Instruction – An academic assistance program that utilizes peer assisted study sessions for historically difficult large lecture courses.
 - Out-of-class Experience for Freshmen Seminar Classes – Provide a monetary budget incentive to seminar instructors to have an out-of-class event such as dinner, attending a cultural event, etc.
 - Educate and Motivate Faculty (Faculty/Advisor Toolkit) – All advisors need access to vital information to aid students with academic course selection and extra-academic issues.
 - Develop Early Contact with Advisors – Data shows that many freshmen know within 6 weeks of the first semester whether or not they will continue into a second year. Early contact with faculty has been shown to positively impact the degree of “belonging” of students with the institution.
 - Reduce the Size of English 121 – Start with a pilot program of 4-6 sections with caps of 25 students instead of 33, and try some of them as “themed” sections such as “A sense of place” and “the Montana experience.”

- Early Faculty Connection Within Major – Require every department to hold one event during the first eight weeks of the semester specifically designed to bring new students together with faculty.
- Overview Course in Major – Conduct an inventory of all majors to assess the degree to which the curricular structure provides an opportunity for freshmen in the major to connect with the department and the faculty during the first semester.
- Faculty feedback included:
 - Some faculty have never received reports of “D” and “F” students and as a result, retention efforts cannot be implemented.
 - Sometimes students are able to get their registration number without seeing their advisor.
 - How many over traditional aged students are we losing due to non-rigorous beginning classes?
 - Some faculty advisors have 40-50 advisees, and it is hard to schedule meeting times with them.
 - Some students do not believe they need to see an advisor.
 - Many instances of student retention are social in nature. For example, asking student the following questions, “Do you know your professors?”, “Do you know anyone in your dorm?”, “Are you having a good experience, socially, on campus?” may hold answers to student retention.
 - Maybe a “majors” fair could be conducted to connect students to their interests.
 - Have a centralized advising center for students on campus that is staffed at all times.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM, as there was no other business.

Signature

Shannon Taylor, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary