

FACULTY SENATE
September 3, 2008
REID HALL 101
4:10 AM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Amin, Catoira, Cherry, Eitle, Fischer, Fleck, Gerlach, Igo, Lei, Lynch, Marshall for D. Weaver, Maskiell, M. McClure, Mokwa, Neumeier, Prawdzienski, Snider for Becker, Taylor, Watson, Wojtowicz, Yoo for Zhu

Members Absent: Animal & Range, Architecture, Ashley, Bangert, Bennett, Business, Gee, HHD, Jackson, Jacobs, Larson, Leech, C. McClure, Nursing On-Campus, Political Science, T. Weaver

Others Present: Dave Dooley, Joe Fedock

Chair Shannon Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present.

FACULTY SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2007-2008 – Chair Shannon Taylor

- As his last meeting as Faculty Senate Chair, Shannon Taylor highlighted 2006-2008 accomplishments:
 - 1% Retirement (ORP) Increase. Inequities in faculty retirement programs allowed participants in the old Teachers Retirement System (TRS) to be subsidized by newly hired faculty obligated to participate into the TIAA system. As a result, the majority of professors participating in TIAA are being “taxed” and these funds are being transferred to TRS to maintain its solvency. (The TRS system is a defined benefits system, whereas the TIAA system is a defined contribution system.) Faculty Senate and MSU administration rallied the legislature to correct this inequity and as a result, increased funding (1%) for the Optional Retirement Plan (TIAA) was approved by the governor. One and a half million dollars will be contributed to the base to decrease the load of TIAA_CREF from 4.5% to 3.5 %.
 - Multi-year Contracts for Adjunct Professors: MSU’s President, Provost, and Faculty Senate, in consultation with other shared governance leaders, brought the issue of multi-year contracts to the attention of the BOR in February 2005. The BOR granted permission to utilize multi-year contracts for a trial three-year period which subsequently became permanent policy.
 - Recruitment and Retention Task Force: Recruitment and retention of MSU employees is challenging due to the high cost of living in the Gallatin Valley. It was recommended by the task force to the governor that proactive measures be implemented while planning the state budget.
 - Family Leave: Faculty Senate expanded faculty family leave options.
 - Administrative Review: Significant handbook revisions were made as a result of Faculty Senate’s annual administrative review. Faculty now have a vehicle to annually review their immediate supervisors and to have the reviews used “...in a substantive manner.”
 - For more information on Faculty Senate accomplishments, please go to the Faculty Senate web site: <http://www2.montana.edu/facultycouncil/index.html>
- Currently, Faculty Senate is working on:
 - P&T Task Force. Improvements and changes to policies and procedures for P&T were made via the P&T Task Force. Results were presented to Faculty Senate, who responded. A P&T Implementation Committee reviewed the responses and subsequently addressed issues of concern:
 - External Reviews and soliciting letters of recommendation
 - Definitions
 - In-depth assessment of teaching

UPDATES – Chair Wes Lynch

- Party Planning: A gathering of Faculty Senate members and their partners is being planned. When details have been finalized, it is essential FS members RSVP.
- Union: Petitions have been filed for the composition of the group to the bargaining unit. Meetings should be taking place soon.
- Enrollment: More returning students; slightly more non-resident students than resident students.

- P&T Implementation Group has been working this summer and summary committee work is nearing completion. Vice Provost Fedock will report on the progress so FS may review.
- United Arab Emirates: Provost Dooley is still involved in negotiations with UAE involving joint programs. After his visit to the UAE in October, Faculty Senate will invite Provost Dooley to speak.
- Renovations in Hamilton Hall will begin in January 2009. The Faculty Senate office will move to the first floor, somewhere.
- Shared Governance: The shared governance steering committee constituents (Association of Shared Governance Leadership) will propose to President Gamble that he make it an official entity and have language in the handbook acknowledging it as such.
- Transferability Initiatives: Some 5000 course transferability equivalencies are being driven by a BOR policy and a process being run by the COHE office. The goal is to make transferability among MUS higher learning institutions seamless and transparent.
<http://www.homepage.montana.edu/~transfer/phpBB3/index.php>

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS – Chair Lynch

- Faculty Senate members are encouraged to submit agenda items.
- After Faculty Affairs receives and reviews the new wording from legal counsel on Who May Become a PI? It will be brought back to FS for a vote before it goes into MSU TODAY.
- The Emeritus wording is done, agreed to and will be submitted to MSU TODAY, then back to FS for a final vote.
- FS will review and discuss the ASGL.
- New software to interface with BANNER, making advising easier, will be discussed at a later date.
- The Association of Retired Faculty requested seminars/assistance in retirement financial planning and an exit interview process. It was suggested that the exit interview not be a policy; rather a service from which to collect data to help retiring faculty.
- BOR meeting will be on September 25-26, 2008 in Butte. The agenda has not yet been posted.
<http://mus.edu/board/meetings/meetings.asp?>
- Salary recommendations; distribution, 2% initiative – will it happen?
- Accreditation is on-going and the first summary meeting standards committees will be completed soon.
- 1% ORP parody correction again, this year?
- Sick Leave: There will be a new reporting tool on faculty sick leave implemented.
- It was suggested that the Benefits Committee speak to FS to discuss the balance between premiums and coverage.
- University Committee Vacancies:
 - Recreational Sports and Fitness Advisory Board – One faculty member
 - CORE 2.0 Curriculum Committee – Two faculty to provide leadership in the direction of general education at MSU.
 - Web Advisory Committee- One faculty member.
 - Nominating Committee – One faculty member to chair the committee.
 - Equipment Fee Allocation Committee – Two faculty senate members.
 - All university committees may be view at this website (except the Recreational Advisory Board. Please contact the Faculty Senate office for information about it.)
<http://www.montana.edu/aircj/coms/>
- How to best disseminate Faculty Senate information such as agenda, minutes, etc.

The Faculty Senate meeting ended at 5:00 PM, as there was no further business.

Signature

Wes Lynch, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary