

FACULTY SENATE  
AUGUST 29, 2012  
LEON JOHNSON 346  
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA  
Minutes

**Members Present:** Gerlach (ChBE), Greenwood (Math), Newhouse (Art), Herbeck (Ed), Kaiser (E&CE), Larson for Sobek (M&IE), Letiecq (HHD), Lynch (Psych), Mokwa (Civ Eng), Martin (Mod. Lang), Neumeier (Physics), Ricciardelli (Film & Photo), Rossmann (Libraries), Schachman (Nursing), Hendrikx (Earth Sciences), Zhu (CS)

**Others Present:** Terry Leist, Ron Larsen, Marilyn Lockhart, Waded Cruzado, Richard J. Smith, Chris Jenkins, Steve Sofie, Bern Kohler, Bob Swenson, Hugo Schmidt, Brent Gunnink, Rob Walker

Marvin Lansverk called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm and after reflecting on his past two years as chair of Faculty Senate, turned the gavel over to incoming chair, John Neumeier.

FS members introduced themselves to the senate.

**Announcements**

Chair Neumeier will discuss the structure and function of Faculty Senate next week.

**New Business:**

**Update on Faculty Excellence – Marilyn Lockhart**

- The New Faculty Excellence Program was a two-day affair: The first days was a meet and greet, diverse topics such as grants and contracts and advising were discussed, with the day culminating in a session at the President's home. The second day was a conference of concurrent sessions on syllabi, midterm assessment, grading rubrics, etc. The mentoring program will continue and faculty hired and within their first three years, may be matched.
- Three awards will be given this year: President's Teaching Award, Teaching Innovation Award, and Advising Award. The monetary amounts for each have not been decided.
- Upcoming Programs
  - o Book discussion group on how learning works
  - o Student Success Summit in innovation pedagogy
  - o Writing center
  - o Concept maps and other nonlinguistic representations
  - o Team based learning
  - o Counseling center
  - o Dealing with difficult students
  - o Various teaching with technology sessions
- Contact Marilyn Lockhart at [lockhart@mnotana.edu](mailto:lockhart@mnotana.edu) or 994-4555 for dates, times and more information about these and other activities.

## Discussion of Materials Science PhD

- Background:
  - o This is a joint PhD program among UM-Missoula, MT-Tech, and MSU-Bozeman.
  - o It will set an important new precedent – MT-Tech will be offering a Ph.D. for the 1st time.
  - o MT-Tech has published only a modest amount of research in Materials Science in the last 20 years. Has also has no active or expired NSF awards in this area for a similar time frame.
  - o UM-Missoula's only contributing department is Chemistry, which does not conduct too much research in Materials Science.
  - o MSU-Bozeman certainly has a core of people doing Materials Science Research from the College of Engineering, Chemistry and Physics.
  - o MSU-Bozeman currently offers a Ph.D. in Engineering with options in Applied Mechanics, Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Industrial Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering.
- There have been many written iterations of this program, and MSU-Bozeman has just recently been involved in the discussions.
- The FS Academic Affairs Committee reviewed the proposal in its current form, was unanimously in favor of it and crafted a letter to give to the Provost (which was subsequently distributed to all FS members), based on its evaluation of the program. The committee addressed some needs:
  - o A program coordinator and secretarial support would be needed. These would likely be part-time.
  - o A list of related courses is provided, as is an outline of credit requirements, but no required curriculum is provided. This is unlike three other Materials Science programs that were used for comparison. Furthermore, about six (6) key courses are absent from our offerings. This leads us to a best guess that three (3) new faculty members would be needed.
  - o As far as the collaborative aspect of this proposal, the committee agreed that substantial resources from the Montana University System must be diverted toward Butte and Missoula to develop respectable programs there.
- Discussions ensued
  - o The College of Engineering favors the Materials Science PhD program and looks forward to reading the AAAS study/report that will be forthcoming next week. The provosts of the three universities have asked MSU's engineering faculty to be on a committee to draft a response to the AAAS comments specifically, resources.
  - o Steve Sofie has crafted a list of courses that would be needed.
  - o The potential for collaboration among the three campuses would include online courses, industry (internship), for example. An administrative plan has been developed which includes an academic advisory board of all three campuses to oversee the program, program coordinator (to ensure coordination and collaboration among the three campuses), summit of revolving campuses for technical interchange, mentoring, etc.
  - o Chem & Biochem's analysis of this program shows further examination of resources is needed. Examples of research/library investments on journals reveals that licenses at MSU-Bozeman are not transferrable and Butte's budget might not be able to accommodate those library

investments for the PhD program. They like the Materials Science PhD idea, however.

- FS members are confused by the dual stance of the BoR: no new programs, but supporting the three-campus PhD program. The BoR could potentially vote to accept the program in September. However, items from the agenda may be postponed.
- It is believed that the AAAS report , a comprehensive document on the program's feasibility, will have a large impact on the PhD proposal.
- Since the FS Academic Affairs Committee is transitioning Chair Neumeier is asking FS to approve (or not) the contents of the letter for a program that is still evolving (with addendums submitted by FS) to send to the Provost. Gough will send out a ballot.
- It was mentioned that the letter identifies many of the resources, but not all, and actually under estimates some of the costs. Neumeier stated that the letter is to be used as a guide, since the proposal is still evolving.
- The program would follow a home-department model and it would grant the degree.
- Much of PhD research is done one-on-one. Professor's grant PhD's, and the collaborative model might not be able to accommodate that.

Signature

*John Neumeier, Chair*

Signature

*Robert Mokwa, Chair-elect*

*Minutes were transcribed by Gale R. Gough, Administrative Associate, Faculty Senate.*