

**FACULTY SENATE
AUGUST 26, 2015
346 LEON JOHNSON
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes**

Members Present: Adams for DeWeese (Art), Arnold (Ag Ed), Babbitt (Chair), Babcock (Chair-elect), Berry (CE), Bolte (Music), Branch (English), Brester (Ag Econ), Brown (JJCBE), Cantalupo (Ext), Greenwood (Math), Gannon (Chem Eng), Hendrikx (Earth Sci), Herbeck (Ed), Herman (NAS), Hostetler (GC), Larson (MIE), Lu (PSPP), Lawrence (CBE), Martin (Mod Lang), McMahon (Ecology), Merzdorf (CBN), Olson for Mosley (Animal & Range), Prashant (Ag Research Cntrs), Reidy (Past-Chair), Repalsky (ECE), Rossmann (Library), Serman (Library), Swinford (Soc/Anthro), Vorontsov for Qiu (Physics), Wiedenheft (MBI), Wilmer (Poli Sci), Zabinski (LRES)

Others Present: Waded Cruzado, Martha Potvin, Terry Leist, Kellie Peterson, Chris Kearns, Theo Lipfert, Helen Melland, Ron Larsen, Chris Fastnow, Neal Cornish, Nicolas Yunes, Pat Widhalm, Bob Mokwa

Chair Babbitt called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm, and a quorum was present.

Passing the Bottle – Chair Babbitt

- Past Chair Reidy conducted an orderly succession, from one chair to another by ceremoniously “passing of the bottle” (in lieu of a gavel) to the new FS Chair, Randy Babbitt according to a tradition established by Dr. Bob Oakberg.
- In appreciation for Reidy’s hardwork and dedication, Babbitt present Reidy with a MSU gold watch and beer stein, with the promise of filling it whenever Reidy would meet to talk about Senate.

WebEx – Audioconferencing – Chair Babbitt

- Senate has capabilities for web conferencing. For more information, please contact the Faculty Senate office: facultysenate@montana.edu

Faculty Senate Charge - Chair Babbitt

- The charge of FS is noted on the senate website: <http://www.montana.edu/facultysenate/>
- Faculty Senate is the chief governance body of the faculty. FS leadership works closely with administration to achieve shared governance.

Welcome from President Cruzado

- The President thanked faculty for continuing to elevate MSU’s prominence nationally and internationally with the research and quality education they provide to all students.
- According to a public honors website, MSU was named first, in a list of four,

As a university who is a notable producer of scholarship winners. In the last five years we have produced: 13 Goldwater scholars, 2 Rhodes scholars, 2 Truman scholars, 1 Marshall scholar, 16 NSF grad research fellows, 9 Fulbright, to name a few.

- MSU's retention and graduation rates strategy calls for 65%; currently, we are at 50%. MSU must increase the graduate rate 5% per year for the next three years and the President looks to faculty for guidance and leadership in helping to reach that goal.
- MSU has hired many new faculty members at all ranks this fall. Of note are:
 - Peter Buerhaus – Nurse economist
 - A first endowed chair of PSPP
 - Matthew Byerly, Director of the Center for Mental Health Research and Recovery
- NWCCU approved two programs that Faculty Senate approved:
 - Associate to Masters Degree in Nursing
 - PhD in Education
- The President thanked faculty for working on and endorsing the parking garage concept for the Norm Asbjornson Innovation Center building.
- President Cruzado is working on a Montana Hall lighting ceremony to bring the campus community together. Suggestions for such an event included the following:
 - Wednesday before final exams begin, President suggested congregating around Montana Hall (students, community members, faculty, staff) and light the contours of the building with singing and refreshments?
 - Also illuminate every February 16 to commemorate the MSU anniversary.

Comments and suggestions may be sent to the President.

- The President would like faculty to help plan MSU's 125th anniversary to be celebrated February 16, 2018.

Election of Faculty Affairs Chair – Chair Babbitt

- Chair Babbitt introduced Theo Lipfert, Associate Professor of Film & Photography, as the nominated chair of Faculty Affairs for appointment by senate. Motion to approve → seconded → all in favor — unanimously approved.

Election of Faculty Senate Executive Steering Committee – Chair Babbitt

- Babbitt requested Senators create an interim Faculty Senate Executive Steering Committee until such time as the outdated description of such committee from the old ByLaws/Faculty Handbook is updated in the new ByLaws. Motion to establish the interim steering committee → seconded → all in favor → unanimously approved. Babbitt presented the nominees of the steering committee to senate for appointments:
 - Robb Larson – Engineer
 - Cathy Zabinski – Agriculture
 - Doralyn Rossmann – Library

- Omar Shehryar/Bill Brown Business (sharing membership role due to scheduling conflicts)

Also Babbitt, Babcock and Reidy as Chair, Chair-elect and Past Chair are ex-officio members (all L&S). Theo Lipfert is also ex-officio, as Faculty Affairs chair (Arts & Architecture). Chair Babbitt is still in the process of trying to recruit senate members from Nursing and EHHD. Most, if not all, nominees of the Steering Committee have memberships on the other university councils. Motion to accept nominees → seconded → all in favor → unanimously appointed.

Upcoming Year – Chair Babbitt

- Chair Babbitt’s main vision for senate would be : “Maintain and improve the quality of our programs while educating our students,” a different emphasis on one of the objectives of the Strategic Plan: “Educating more students while maintaining quality of our programs.”
- Priorities adopted for this year:
 - New Faculty Handbook: JAGS (Joint Academic Governance Steering Committee) is a joint working group comprised equally of MSU faculty and administrators for the purpose of developing, reviewing, or refining proposals for amendment of the Faculty Handbook. University Legal Counsel and a representative of Human Resources serve as staff to the committee. The committee is working from the three handbook documents (Old Faculty Handbook, CBA, and Interim Policy) to craft a new Faculty Handbook, and Babbitt would like the new handbook to be in place by December.
 - Implementation of Prioritization Plan:
 - The Faculty Prioritization Plan emphasizes quality. One measure of quality is a low student to faculty ratio. Our goal is to reach an 18/1 student/faculty ratio, with the goal of delivering a quality education to all students. This requires the hiring of a significant number of new TT faculty across the campus.
 - Develop plans for depts., so
 - The hiring trajectory is known and depts. know a position will be filled or not when faculty leave or retire or when there are failed searches, failed retention, and tenure promotions.
 - Dept. budgets are predictable, enabling depts. to better accomplish their goals.
 - Fund raising for more endowed chairs and student scholarships at MSU.
 - Improve shared governance – Faculty and administration co-chairing of councils and key working groups and co-chairs would alternate between. This concept is already implemented in JAGS, New Core, and P&T, and is shown to work well.

Announcements – Chair Babbitt

- Courses - Senators will review the following undergraduate course on the Faculty Senate web site for vote in Faculty Senate Steering Committee:
 - PSCI 438:National Security Policy Decision-Making
- Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) – Documents on the FS web site will be discussed at the September 2 senate meeting. The proposal will be brought to the September Board of Regents meeting (9/16-9/17).
- S&C grants – VPR Pera and Provost would like to introduce a single vehicle for applying for S&C grants that would include traditional S&C grants, grants to developing collaborative initiatives, and travel grants. A committee is being formed that will examine this concept and bring ideas to the S&C committee and research council.
- Raise process – Raises have been put on hold by OCHE due to contract negotiations. The raises process this year will be similar to last year. MSU is just awaiting final approval on how to implement them.

Extreme Gravity Institute Endorsement – Chair-elect Babcock

- Purpose – To study extreme phenomena to further our understanding of astrophysics and fundamental physics. The Institute’s main focus is to interlace research, education and outreach in an intrinsic way. To further this goal, the institute organizes biannual summer schools and workshops on extreme gravity, hosts short-term and long-term visitors, including a Fellows program, and organizes large outreach events, like the Celebrating Einstein science festival.
 - Funding – Initial seed money came from President and VPR. All future funding will come from external funding agencies, NSF, Physical Frontier and MSU Foundation
 - Curriculum – No new curriculum; no use of campus funding or resources.
 - Proposal for the new institute will be presented at the September BoR meeting.

Motion to endorse the institute from Faculty Senate → seconded → all in favor → unanimously approved.

Updating the Annual Reviews – Chair Babbitt

- JAGS is still in the process of reviewing and writing the policy of annual reviews. Final agreement has been reached within JAGS. Once JAGS has agreement on a draft policy, it will be brought to senate for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Randy Babbitt, Chair

Michael Babcock, Chair-elect