Montana Tech Faculty Senate Meeting

Thursday, August 30, 2012
7:00-8:00 a.m.

Location: Pintler Room

MEETING MINUTES

Senators present:
Laurie Battle, Tom Camm, Jon Chesbro, Chris Danielson (V. Chair), Jerry Downey (Chair), Gretchen Gellar, Bill Good, Katie Hailer, Scott Juskiewicz, Raj Kasinath, Tom Moon, Mary North Abbott, Vicki Petritz, James Rose, Celia Schahczenski (Sec.), Glenn Shaw, Rita Spear, Miriam Young

Senators absent:
Merle Benedict, Hugo Bertete Aguirre, John Nugent, Bill Ryan

Vacant senate seats:
General Engineering
Professional and Technical Communication
Research Faculty, Center for Advanced Mineral and Metallurgical Processing (CAMP)

Guests:
Doug Abbott (VCAAR)

Call to Order: Jerry Downey, Chair

Roll Call: Celia Schahczenski, Secretary

Review and Approval of Minutes from the 26-Apr-12 and 10-May-12 Senate Meetings

Both sets of minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion Topics

1. Comments on the proposed Policy for Compensation of Academic Faculty Engaged in Research

   In previous Senate meetings, Jerry requested comments on this proposed policy. He will provide the Senators with the proposed policy along with a compilation of the comments received to date for review and a final opportunity to comment.

   Action item: Senators are requested to discuss the proposed policy and existing comments with your constituents and return any new comments to Jerry (by September 13, if possible). He will submit a modified compilation of comments to the Senate in

advance of the September 27 meeting. At that meeting, the Senate plans to finalize the comments for submittal to the Administration.

2. Review and recommendation regarding honorary Distinguished Professor and Distinguished Scholar designations

   The Metallurgical and Materials Engineering Department asked the Senate to provide the Administration with a recommendation on the assignment of these designations. Presently, there are no established criteria; some departments use the Distinguished Professor designation while other departments do not. As an M&ME Department assignment, Jerry drafted a recommendation for these designations. He researched how these are used at other institutions and found the terms are not applied consistently. At some schools, they are actual faculty ranks while at others they are honorary titles. Jerry created a draft recommendation, which he will forward to the senators. He asks the senators discuss this draft with their constituents and send comments to him. He suggests that non-engineering faculty examine this draft because he focused the draft on criteria that are applicable to engineering disciplines; other more relevant criteria would need to be developed for other disciplines.

   Action item: Senators are asked to discuss the draft recommendation with their constituents and return the comments to Jerry. He will compile and distribute the comments before our next meeting, where the Senate will discuss a recommendation to the Administration.

3. Quality and content of the Montana Tech web page

   While some senators like the recent changes to the Montana Tech web site, the following issues are still causing some frustration:

   - Content changes cannot be made directly to departmental web sites. Senators do not advocate being able to directly change the format or style of their departmental web sites. All departmental documentation needs to be consistent, however, especially when the programs are being accredited, and being able to directly change the content of the site would facilitate this.
   - A faster turn-around time is needed to effect content changes to departmental web sites.
   - The Web Guidance Committee should enable faculty to have input into the web site. However this committee rarely meets.

   Action item: Amanda Badovinac, Director, Marketing & Public Relations, will be invited to attend our next meeting.

4. Academic calendar

   The Faculty Senate has been invited to participate in the Dean's Council Meeting the next time the Council discusses the academic calendar. Some senators voiced a preference to develop specific recommendations in advance of that meeting. It was decided to create a subcommittee to draft the recommendations. The subcommittee will return the draft recommendations to the Senate for discussion. Senators are requested to send an e-mail message to Celia if they, or one of their constituents, would like to serve on the subcommittee.

   On a related issue, it was brought up that the current contract ends before the spring semester. Doug admitted that this was an error and stated that the correct date may appear on the revised contracts.

5. Recommendation for tenure/promotion of faculty without a terminal degree

   Although the Senate discussed this topic extensively in previous years, Jerry and Doug reviewed past meeting minutes and confirmed that no formal recommendations were voted on by the Senate. The Administration has asked the Senate for their recommendation on this matter. The Dean's Council proposes that faculty without a terminal degree may be promoted to Associate Professor but cannot attain tenure or become a Full Professor; Departmental Standards can set a higher bar, but not a lower one. The Dean's Council has not addressed whether departments can define what is meant by a terminal degree in their departmental standards.

   The Senate recognizes that it is extremely difficult for some departments to hire faculty members with terminal degrees. Consequently, some departments believe that faculty without a terminal degree should be eligible for promotion to Associate Professor and for earning tenure.

   Action item: Jerry will prepare a summary of relevant discussion from previous Senate meetings (2007-2012). Senators are requested to discuss the issue of eligibility for tenure/promotion in the absence of a terminal degree with their constituents. At our next meeting, the Senate plans to finalize a Senate recommendation to the administration.

6. Invitation for Senators to propose new agenda topics

   Senators receive many suggestions of issues faculty would like addressed. The Senate must filter and discuss these requests in order to identify the issues that are appropriate for Senate consideration.

   Action item: Senators are asked to determine the issues that their constituents want the Senate to consider. Senators are asked to provide Jerry with their lists. Jerry will consolidate the comments and provide the Senate with a master list in order that we can establish priorities for discussion and potential Senate action at future meetings.

7. Senate delegation of selected matters to appropriate academic committees and/or Senate subcommittees

   Academic committees exist to address issues. As issues arise, such as the academic calendar, temporary committees can be created. Each of these committees can report recommendations to the Senate.

New Business

1. Faculty concerns and issues – no new concerns or issues were voiced.
2. Other new business items – none.

Confirm the next Senate meeting will take place on September 27, 2012.

Confirmed.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 a.m.