

Faculty Senate Minutes
April 9, 1999
Gallatin Room, Sub Building

Call to Order: 2:04 pm

Attendees:

Senate Members: Don Stierle, Celia Schazenski, Courtney Young, Curtis Link, Larry Smith

Others: Jim Handley.

Recorder: Larry Smith

Approval of Minutes March 26: approved; April 2: approved as amended.

Reports None.

New Business

Moving Spring Break: Courtney initiated a discussion about the lack of timing between Tech and community schools for Spring Break. He brought up the issue as a result of discussions with faculty who are parents. The lack of timing forces faculty to find short-term daycare services which costs money, and disrupts what could be a needed family vacation. Jim and Don provided background on historic problems of attempting to hold classes during the St. Patrick Day celebration in Butte. Courtney said he will explore the issue further with the primary and secondary schools in Butte.

Pay Periods: Jim brought a rough draft of a letter to President Dennison asking that Montana Tech remain on an every two-week pay period, which is scheduled to change to a monthly pay period starting July 1, 1999 for non-classified staff and faculty. Members present supported the idea of polling the faculty via email on the issue. If there is general support for the current pay periods, a letter will be revised and sent.

Low Morale among Faculty: Celia relayed the perception that morale among faculty members is low on campus.

Important factors seem to include:

- no raises were given for the current fiscal year; faculty are being asked to do more during the school year and during break times;
- even though productivity has increased in some departments, as agreed to in Project 2000, the possibility of getting significant pay raises seems unlikely;
- apparently Colleges will be receiving a reduced amount of money from the budgetary item that has historically been used for part-time teaching, without an explanation as to why the budgetary amount is decreasing;
- in the past, endowments intended for specific uses in the Petroleum and Metallurgy departments was permanently diverted to other uses; and
- even though significant salary savings have occurred due to retirements, some positions have not been able to be filled in some departments.

Celia stated that the Senate should express the angst of the faculty by focusing on a few of the issues in a letter to the administration. Suggestions for a focal point included looking at how productivity has increased by an increase in teaching loads on campus. Celia and Don agreed to work on the letter.

Retention Advisory Board: Don related the opinion of Joanne Cortese that people agreeing to work on the Board over break times should be compensated.

VCAA/R Search: The Senate agreed to the idea of sponsoring a faculty-wide forum shortly after the last candidate leaves campus. The tentative date of Friday April 30 at 3 pm unfortunately coincides with a conference that will involve the entire Petroleum Engineering Department. The plan is to have an initial secret ballot, a discussion of the candidates, and a final secret ballot. In order to get the voice of the entire faculty, a paper balloting of faculty that could not attend the forum will be carried out on Monday May 3.

Old Business

Parking: Don related that his discussion of proposed fee increases was a bit confused at the previous Senate meeting. At this time, parking fees are proposed to be increased from \$30 to \$40. There has been some discussion of instituting a maintenance fee for the campus, but nothing has been proposed, or been discussed by any committee on campus.

Tenure Review Form: Dan Bradley received changes proposed by the Senate and will get another version back to Don.

Faculty Handbook Discussion: Draft revisions to Sections 207, 208, and 210 were passed among members present. Members agreed to email versions to each Senate member, and to make comments via email before the next meeting. Don said that he and Mary McLaughlin had only one minor change to Section 209, which was strike the mention of tenure in the section, because it really doesn't apply.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:25 pm.