

Minutes - Faculty Senate
October 26, 1999
7 AM – Steward Room - SUB

Attendees: Henry Gonshak, CHAIR, Bill MacGregor, Danette Melvin, Larry Smith, Curtis Link, Butch Gerbrandt, Mary MacLaughlin, John Evans
Visitor: Chancellor Gilmore, VCAAR Dan Bradley
Recorder: Curtis Link

New Business

Request from Vice Chancellor Bradley to finish handbook -

Vice Chancellor Bradley requested that the faculty senate work with Don Stierle to finish a draft version of the faculty/staff handbook for presentation to the faculty at the first faculty meeting of the Fall 99 semester. Compensation will be provided to Stierle over the summer to continue work on the handbook that he spearheaded as chair of the faculty senate during the 98/99 academic year. Stierle will be reviewing drafts of sections of the handbook over the summer before presenting a full draft to the faculty in the fall.

Bradley suggested that after presenting the full draft version of the handbook to the faculty in the fall that several faculty forums might be an effective method for refining the draft version. Hopefully a final version will be approved by October 1, 1999 for use in the Northwest Accreditation process.

Discussion took place on some of the topics that need to be addressed or revised in the current handbook including:

- promotion/tenure guidelines,
- looking at "unit standards" in place at the Missoula campus, and considering their usefulness on this campus.
- evaluation guidelines for full professors,
- how to clarify what is meant by "good teaching" in the criteria for tenure and promotion,
- how to evaluate teaching in the promotion process,
- post-tenure review guidelines, and
- collegiality.

Faculty senate mission statement -

Discussion took place on whether to create a mission statement for the faculty senate. It was agreed that a mission statement might help the faculty at large develop increased trust in the faculty senate as a representative body.

Chancellor's cabinet report -

Curtis Link reported on the June 7 meeting of the Chancellor's cabinet. Among other items, Chancellor Gilmore requested that the senate look at the issue of collegiality on campus. The collegiality issue is being used as an evaluation criterion on some campuses and the Chancellor requested that the senate discuss whether the Montana Tech faculty wants to address this topic.

Chancellor Gilmore provided an attachment from *Lex Collegii*, a legal newsletter for independent higher education, which included the following statement on professorial ethics from AAUP guidelines:

As colleagues, professors have obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. Professors do not discriminate against or harass colleagues. They respect and defend the free inquiry of associates. In the exchange of criticism and ideas professors show due respect for the opinions of others. Professors acknowledge academic debt and strive to be objective in their professional judgment of colleagues. Professors accept their share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of their institution.

July Board of Regents meeting -

Curtis Link will be able to attend the July Board of Regents meeting in Helena.

June 22 Chancellor's cabinet meeting -

Bill MacGregor will be able to attend the June 22 Chancellor's cabinet meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 2:00 PM.