

Montana Tech Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, 9/29/2000

In Attendance: Bill MacGregor, Bob DeDominic, Dave Hobbs, Kelly Amtmann, Butch Gerbrandt, Kate Miller, Danet Melvin, Dan Bradley, Henry Gonshak

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Dan Bradley addressed the Senate on several topics:

1. All departments received copies of the NW Accreditation report. 4 more copies were handed out to the Senate.
2. The Faculty Evaluation Committee met on 9/29/00. A representative from the Faculty Senate is desired. A policy will be developed to evaluate the Faculty. The Geophysical Engineering Department will participate in a trial run.
3. Procedure #307 in the Faculty Handbook needs to be revised. The 14 day appeal time for students to appeal final grades should be changed to 14 working days after the start of the next semester.
4. Additionally, the Handbook has no process for student grievance against a Faculty for unfair treatment NOT related to gender or grades. Maggie Peterson will be a resource.
5. Tech is 50 FTE down from last year. The number of Freshman is consistent. Out-of-state and transfer students are down – probably because of cost and delayed graduation. Non-returning students are down, probably because of the strong economy providing jobs for them.

Bob DeDominic volunteered to serve as Senate representative on the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Evaluation.

The following Faculty Senate representatives will serve on committees this year:

Atheletic Committee	Dave Hobbs
Curriculum Review Committee	Kelly Amptman
Instructional Improvement Committee	Curt Link
Library Committee	Curt Link
Motor Pool	Kate Miller
Research Advisory Committee	Dave Hobbs
Salary Advisory Committee	Butch Gerbrandt
Scholarships and Finance Committee	Danet Melvin
Student Disciplinary Committee	Danet Melvin
Student Union/Mill Bldg	Bob DeDominic
Telecommunications	Bill MacGregor
Chancellor Cabinet	Curt Link
General Education Committee	Henry Gonshak
Ad Hoc Faculty Evaluation Committee	Bob DeDominic

Henry stated that the Tech Political Forum will try to combine with the Montana Standard candidates debate. Bill suggested a projection of the questions on a screen in order to keep the participants focused. Bill was asked to have the PTC department put together a Fact Sheet on higher education for the forum. Bill said he would approach the Department to do this. Chris Van Newland will be asked to handle the publicity, including a press release.

Bill suggested that the Administration come up with a long term plan to handle the budget.

Bill stated that he started an email group of small unit faculty senators to address issues common to the small units of Montana University System. He would like to see a dialog with other Faculty Senates in Montana.

Henry stated that some Tech faculty and administrators think UM President Dennison is planning to overstep the bounds of the original restructuring agreement and turn the smaller schools into feeder schools. Chancellor Gilmore contacted the Board of Regents about this issue. The BOR has hired a consultant (Mr. Mingle) to look into this. Mingle will come to Montana Tech in the future.

Henry will edit the letter to the Montana Professor addressing benefits to same-sex partners, toning down some of the language. He will then sign the letter by the 1999-2000 Tech Faculty Senate. The Senate then orally agreed that "sensitive" issues going outside the campus should receive input from the larger faculty. If there is unanimity among the Senate on an issue, than we don't have to poll the larger Faculty. Butch pointed out that the new signing of the "Professor" article does adhere to the above procedures regarding the Senate's taking controversial public positions, since every member of last year's Senate did, in fact, back the letter's thesis in favor of extending MUS health benefits to same-sex couples.

Notes

Since our meeting, the MT Standard has agreed to co-sponsor our political debate. Kelly Amtmann has graciously volunteered to serve on the Chancellor's Advisory Committee.