

Minutes
Faculty Senate meeting
April 10, 2003

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM.
2. In attendance: John Brower, Chair; Rick Appleman, Doug Cameron, Dave Carter, Mary MacLaughlin, Andrea Stierle, Chip Todd. Absent: Danette Melvin, Grant Mitman, John Metesh.
3. Minutes of the March 27th meeting were approved.
4. Committee reports.
 - a. Chancellor's cabinet: (Carter) UM-Missoula legal counsel advised the Chancellor that the satisfaction survey was legal. Chancellor asked for the Cabinet to see the survey; D. Carter sent copies to members. MBMG had not gotten theirs, Carter will correct. Also, there is a problem in obtaining the part-time faculty e-mail list, as they are not in the campus faculty e-mail directory. Carter will see that they get the surveys.
 - b. Mandatory Fees special meeting of April 2nd: (Brower) The meeting was chaired by Chancellor Gilmore, to discuss the need for fee increases and 12% tuition increases in each of the next two years, to cover anticipated budget shortfalls in state funds. Attendees included ASMT representatives, senior administration, and Brower, Cameron and Mitman from the faculty senate. The Chancellor explained that fee and tuition increases would have to happen, but would like the ASMT's approval.
 - c. Instructional Improvement Committee: (MacLaughlin) The IIC met last Friday (4/4/03) but only three persons attended. As there was no quorum, official business could not be conducted, but discussions took place. Faculty development budget funds have not been used this year. Also, on June 30th, 2003, funds expire for Strategic Enrollment Planning. Mary M. suggested that the IIC be involved in the review/revision of the faculty teaching evaluation form/process, along with the faculty senate.
5. Old/continuing business.
 - a. Hiring review committee: The draft of the committee's report has been approved and will be presented to Chancellor Gilmore.
 - b. President Dennison will visit campus on April 17th. Senate will meet with him for an hour, and will suggest the following discussion items: conversion of lab director positions, faculty input into evaluations of administrative officers, the recent satisfaction survey, institutional arrangements of Montana Tech and COT vs UM-M and Missoula COT, and research cooperation.

c. RE a standing request from Chancellor Gilmore last A.Y. that the senate draft the performance evaluation criteria for the VCAA (as in Faculty & Staff Handbook Sec. 206 for Dept. Heads and Deans). The motion to so was withdrawn. With further discussion, the senate felt that it would be inappropriate for it to do so, as the VCAAR position is more administrative than academic. Senate voted unanimously to recommend that the VCAA write his/her own evaluation criteria, as that individual would be knowledgeable of the position's requirements, limitations and potential.

6. New Business.

a. The chair will obtain copies of administrative evaluation surveys used by the UM-M faculty senate, to help in formulating questions for the next annual survey.

b. There is a lack of communication regarding the faculty's evaluations of department head/deans. Communication is one-way, wherein which faculty identify issues that need to be addressed, but never hear back as to whether the issues have been discussed with the department head/deans, or how problems have been or will be corrected. The senate has no way of knowing whether the department head/dean evaluation process has been followed. Feedback is needed. If evaluations are beneficial to faculty, they are beneficial to all administrators as well.

c. Change in student grading. The possibility of adding a plus or minus to letter grades was discussed. Single-letter grades are restrictive. The plus/minus system provides more flexibility. It is not known if the Banner system would accommodate this change. The topic will be presented to the next faculty assembly for future consideration.