

MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Friday, November 2, 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: Jerry Downey, Gretchen Geller, Rod James, Mark Sholes (Chair),
Kirk Waren

Members absent: Lance Edwards, Betsy Garlish, Rich McNearny, Miriam Young,
John Nugent

Attending without vote: Chancellor Frank Gilmore

Business

- The May 4, and October 5, 2007 minutes were approved.

Old Business

1. **Montana Tech Standards for hiring, promotion, and tenure within each department**

- The Departments are working on standards for hiring, promotion, and tenure.
- Mark Sholes updated all members present of the outcome of the Faculty Senate vote regarding tenure policy on October 19th, and read the policy.

2. **Faculty Satisfaction Survey.**

- This item was discussed and the Faculty Senate decided by vote to discontinue this activity.

3. **Timing of registration of students vs. availability of term grades to determine eligibility.**

- This item was not discussed. From last May's minutes; the current process is out-of-phase; faculty who are assisting students with registration for next fall's courses are unable to learn whether the student will have met the prerequisite satisfactory course work.

4. **Establishing a Sunshine Fund**

- This item was discussed. Mark Sholes moved to eliminate the Sunshine Fund activity, but the discussion then moved on to another item and we never got back to this topic.

5. **The faculty should be emailed to obtain a vote on Miriam Young's continued membership on the faculty senate.**

- This item was not discussed.

6. The faculty senate representatives for other committees:

- Bookstore Advisory Board – **Vacant**

7. The meeting of Faculty Senate members with Sheila Stearns.

- The meeting with Sheila Stearns occurred on October 23rd at 10:30. Gretchen Geller was the only Faculty Senate member to attend. She noted that Sheila Stearns places a high priority on the issue of transferability of courses within the Montana University system. Chancellor Frank Gilmore mentioned that this issue was addressed back in about 1999 or 2000, and Montana Tech at that time complied by renumbering certain courses as so forth, at least some of the other colleges never did this so the problem was not resolved completely. If Montana Tech's changes are accepted, we may have already completed much of the work to accomplish this goal. Gretchen mentioned that the legislature has designated funds for the university system to address this issue.

New Business

1. Climate Change Accord

Chancellor Frank Gilmore brought this issue to the Faculty Senate. The issue is whether Montana Tech should sign on to an accord of sorts regarding climate change. This consisted of a multiple-paged document that Frank brought to the meeting, and is from an organization of university and college presidents. Frank felt it is an item that needs some consideration by faculty because there are potentially some costly mandates for curriculum and physical operations at the university (for example, heating systems). Frank felt the Faculty Senate can assist in determining how this issue may be presented to some or all of the faculty. We agreed, and Frank will be having the document converted to an electronic version that can be emailed to the Faculty Senate so we can review it. A couple of options to consider were mentioned, such as utilizing the curriculum committee and for faculty senate members to discuss the issue with other faculty and staff.

2. Potential honorary doctorate degree

Chancellor Frank Gilmore noted that a potential honorary doctorate degree nomination from Montana Tech has been approved by the Board of Regents. The name of the potential recipient is confidential during a portion of the process, so we need to be mindful of that before releasing any names. By policy, it must now be reviewed by the Faculty Senate, and finally by the faculty. Doug Abbott was unavailable today to provide the information to the Faculty Senate. Frank said he planned to have Doug send us the information we need to further address this issue.

The Senate adjourned at 1:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING: November 16, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Waren
Secretary