

# MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Friday, October 5, 2007

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

Members absent: Lance Edwards, Betsy Garlish, John Nugent

Attending without vote: Doug Abbott

### Business

- Rich McNearny moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, and they were accepted by vote.
- The May 4, 2007 minutes have still not been approved.
- This Faculty Senate will generally meet every other Friday at noon.
- Rich McNearny asked for a description of the purpose of the Faculty Senate. Mark Sholes (Chair) stated that the Faculty Senate provides a voice of the faculty to the administration. Doug Abbott added that it is a body that can act as a sounding board for potentially contentious issues that may be of concern to the faculty. Rod James noted the “up or out” policy discussion as such an issue.

### Old Business

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

- The Departments are working on standards for hiring, promotion, and tenure.
- A discussion about tenure ensued. There is no “up or out” policy on the Montana Tech campus. Nor is there a university policy that dictates that a faculty member must apply for tenure after some specified time. After considerable discussion, Mark Sholes moved that we table the discussion and next meeting vote on the following:

*Should a faculty member be required to apply for tenure after some specific amount of time, and if tenure is not attained, they are put on a terminal one-year contract? What amount of time?*

#### 2. **Faculty Satisfaction Survey.**

- This item was not discussed. The minutes from May 4, 2007 should be reviewed and discussed at a future meeting to determine this academic year’s survey content and how it might be conducted on line.

#### 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**

- Mark Sholes suggests this should not be a function of the Faculty Senate. The topic was tabled until Lance Edwards can be present to provide additional details to the Senate members.

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

- Mark Sholes plans to send out an email to the faculty to obtain a vote.

6. **The faculty senate representatives for other committees:** A member representative still needs to be designated for the Bookstore Advisory Board.

- Bookstore Advisory Board – **Vacant**

7. **The upcoming meetings of Faculty Senate members with George Dennison and Sheila Stearns.**

- The meeting with George Dennison is on Monday October 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00. Rod James and Jerry Downey plan to attend and will discuss the ongoing development of department standards for hiring, promotion, and tenure, and also note the continued discussions by the Faculty Senate of tenure track. Other Faculty Senate members may attend as well.
- The meeting with Sheila Stearns will occur on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30. Gretchen Geller and Rich McNearny plan to attend and other members may attend as well.

The Senate adjourned at 1:00 PM.

**NEXT MEETING: October 19, 2007**

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Waren  
Secretary