

MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Friday, February 8, 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: Jerry Downey, Lance Edwards, Betsy Garlish, Gretchen Geller,
John Nugent, Kirk Waren

Members absent: Rod James, Rich McNearney, Mark Sholes (Chair), Miriam Young

Attending without vote: None

Business

- The minutes of numerous previous meetings were approved, including those of the last meeting, Jan. 25, 2008. All of the approved meeting minutes are now posted in the Faculty Senate public folder.

Old Business

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

- The registrar emailed some members of the Faculty Senate noting that students that are taking a class in a series are automatically eligible to register for the next class in the series in their system.
- While this answered one question, other questions still remain, such as whether a name can be attached to an approval to take a class with prerequisites. Therefore, the meeting with someone from the registrar's office (see the Jan. 25th minutes) is still desired.

New Business

1. **Faculty Senate purpose and representation**

- The purpose and representation of the Faculty Senate was questioned and discussed. I will look into finding information on the make-up and governance of the entity and will provide this at an upcoming meeting.

2. **Union Activities**

- The existence and activities of the two faculty unions, one at each campus location, was discussed. The Faculty Senate would like to invite each union to provide a presentation of their history, intent, and activities at a future meeting. We would also like to know any specific information that they can provide about their stance or involvement on policies regarding human resource issues such as family leave.

3. **Non-Cash Benefits Update**

- We discussed certain non-cash benefits provided by the University, such as tuition discounts for faculty family members. We are interested to know if any expansions of such benefits have been planned or implemented. We would like

to invite Doug Abbott to provide an update to the status of non-cash benefits to the Faculty Senate.

4. Conflict of Interest forms and implications

- Jerome Downey discussed the fact that many faculty members involved in research activities have questions about the conflict of interest forms that need to be signed by many individuals on campus. An attorney is scheduled to come from The University of Montana on Valentine's Day to further explain this form.

5. Research Advisory Committee

- Jerome Downey was invited to be a Faculty Senate representative on the Research Advisory Committee. The Faculty Senate agreed to this, so he will fulfill this role.

6. Prepare for Next Year's Faculty Senate

- The Faculty Senate needs to develop recommendations for the April Faculty Meeting regarding the makeup of the Faculty Senate in the next academic year. The information discussed in (1.) above should be useful for this purpose.

The Senate adjourned at 1:40 PM.

NEXT MEETING: February 22, 2008 @ 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Waren
Secretary