

MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Friday, January 23, 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: David Armstrong, Jerry Downey, Betsy Garlish, Gretchen Geller, Rod James (Chair), Rich McNearny, John Nugent, Kirk Waren, Miriam Young

Members absent: Traci O'Neill

Attending without vote: Chancellor Frank Gilmore

The minutes for the Dec. 5th meetings were approved.
November 14th meeting minutes are still in draft form.

The 2:00 Friday time frame for the biweekly meetings was deemed workable by the Faculty Senate members.

Old Business

1. **Tenure, promotion, and related items**

- As Rod recalls, Doug Abbott would like to know from the Faculty Senate if tenure and promotion are connected or separate concepts. Rich noted that in practice, they seem to be treated separately. There was then quite a bit of discussion about how tenure and promotion is viewed and conducted in the University System, and roles of Departments, Colleges, and so forth in the decision process. Chancellor Gilmore noted that Departmental Standards for Tenure and Promotion need to be developed by each Department, which is underway. See the table below for references to past meeting minutes covering this topic.

2. **New Business**

- The discussion moved on to aspects of how the academic calendar is reviewed and approved. Apparently, the Faculty Senate in the past had a chance to review the academic calendar, but this has not happened recently.
- The topic of teaching standards and whether they can be bargained in any way as part of union or other labor relation contracts was discussed
- Merit pay concepts were discussed.
- Apparently there is some activity on campus regarding some revisions to the General Education requirements. The Faculty Senate felt it would be a good idea to find out more about what is being proposed.

3. **Summary of 2008 Faculty Senate business topics**

This summary of recent business is provided to show the topics the Faculty Senate has discussed, the results if applicable, and items unresolved, during 2008:

Summary of 2008 business

| Discussion found in the minutes of: | Topic | Standing |
|--|--|--|
| Nov. 14, 2008; Oct. 17, 2008; Oct. 3, 2008; Sept. 12, 2008; 2007 minutes | Tenure and Promotion | Unresolved, awaiting Departmental Standards to be developed |
| Dec. 5, 2008 | American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment | Faculty Senate recommends Montana Tech join the initiative |
| Nov. 14, 2008 | Amethyst Initiative – re: drinking age re-evaluation | Votes from the faculty and faculty senate were tallied on this issue and provided in the meeting minutes |
| Nov. 14, 2008 | Tobacco or smoking free campus | Aspects of the issue were discussed, such as potential loss of faculty or staff, possibility of constructing smoking facilities |
| Nov. 14, 2008 | Honorary Doctorate | No action necessary (none proposed this year from the Honorary Doctorate Committee) |
| Oct. 31, 2008; Oct. 3, 2008 | Class 8 Certification | Documented informational meeting, Oct. 31, 2008 minutes |
| Oct. 17, 2008; Jan. 25, 2008 | Space Committee | Update on Space Committee activities |
| Sept. 12, 2008; April 25, 2008; April 18, 2008 | Faculty Senate Representation changes | Rod James elected chair, Replacements named |
| Sept. 12, 2008 | Montana Tech Budget process | Unresolved, mentioned as an item of potential interest to the Faculty Senate |
| Last Academic Year | Topic | Standing |
| Apr. 25, 2008; April 18, 2008 | Student travel policy | Faculty Senate recommends approval with some suggestions |
| Apr. 18, 2008 | Faculty Senate purpose and representation | Set forth in Appendix D of the Montana Tech of the U of M Faculty and Staff Handbook |
| Apr. 18, 2008; Feb. 8, 2008 | Conflict of Interest forms and implications | UM attorney was scheduled to discuss the issue with faculty on Feb. 14, 2008 |
| April 18, 2008; Feb. 8, 2008; Jan. 25, 2008 | Timing registration of students vs. availability of term grades to determine eligibility – | Partly resolved, but unresolved was: can a teacher's name be associated with an approval to take a class with prerequisites (that are not met) |
| April 18, 2008; Feb. 8, 2008 | Union Activities, North and South Campuses | Unresolved, invite union representatives to a meeting |
| April 18, 2008; Feb. 8, 2008 | Non-Cash Benefits Update | Unresolved, invite Doug Abbott to provide an update |
| Jan. 25, 2008; Feb. 8, 2008 | New Faculty Senate representation on other committees | Gretchen Geller: Bookstore Advisory Board; Kirk Waren: Space Committee Jerome Downey: Research Advisory Committee |

The Senate adjourned at 1:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING: February 6, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Waren
Secretary