

# MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: David Armstrong, Betsy Garlish, Suzan Gazioglu, Jerry Downey, Rod James (Chair), Hal Millegan, Kirk Waren

Members absent: John Nugent, Traci O'Neill, Bill Ryan

Attending without vote: Doug Abbott, Doug Coe

Doug Abbott brought to the meeting two issues for the Faculty Senate to consider:

1. a retroactive withdrawal and syllabus policy, and
2. An administrative process to allocate research space on the Montana Tech campus.

- **Retroactive Withdrawal**

Doug Abbott presented background information for proposed changes to Montana Tech's policy and process, and some modifications were suggested by Jerry Downey. Basically, the changes allow a student to provide documentation that shows that extraordinary, extenuating circumstances led to their poor performance, and removes the requirement that past instructors must be contacted to recommend a grade.

Concerning the former requirement to contact past instructors, it has been found either difficult to contact past instructors, or the circumstances involved are private and sometimes sensitive, confidential issues for which it may not be appropriate to communicate to a multitude of instructors. It has been found that in such circumstances in the past, with very few exceptions, the grade suggested is inevitably a "W" anyway.

A letter of support for the request from the student's academic advisor, department head, or another Montana Tech faculty or staff member who is knowledgeable of the circumstances and the academic record of the student becomes a requirement rather than an option.

Many portions of the former steps to attain a retroactive withdrawal remain intact, with some updates in wording and other minor changes.

Hal Millegan motioned that the Faculty Senate accept the retroactive policy as submitted and amended. Betsy Garlish seconded, and the remaining senate members were in favor so the motion was passed.

- **Syllabus Policy**

This item was not discussed, but will be brought by Doug Abbott to a future meeting.

- **Faculty Research Space**

Doug Abbott provided a draft policy for the allocation of research space on the Montana Tech campus. The draft policy has already been reviewed by the Deans and Directors of Colleges and Centers.

There was a lengthy discussion about the policy. Hal Millegan motioned that the Faculty Senate support the policy and the motion was seconded by Dave Armstrong. The remaining members voted in favor of the motion with none opposed, and the motion was passed.

- **Other Discussion**

There was a lengthy discussion of the Board of Regents plan to “Re-invent the Montana University System, including each campus creating a “niche statement.” The pros and cons of such re-invention and niche statements were discussed. Also, there was further discussion of how the campus could handle significantly increased enrollments. It was noted that some class schedule changes might be in order at some point, but such changes would require some serious thought and coordination due to the many complexities of class schedules, labs, etc.

The Senate group adjourned at approximately 3:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> . .

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Waren  
Secretary