

MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Monday, January 24, 2011

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: Suzan Gazioglu, Hal Millegan (Chair), Rod James, John Nugent, Traci O'Neill, Bill Ryan, Heather Shearer, Kirk Waren

Members absent: Jerry Downey (Vice-Chair), Celia Schahczenski

Attending without vote: Doug Abbott

- **Minutes**

I arrived a few minutes late, so we did not get around to approving the minutes of the Dec. 6th meeting.

- **New Business**

1. **Hear a proposal from Vice Chancellor regarding Mission**

Doug Abbott brought forth a proposed Revised Mission Statement for work with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The current Mission Statement was created in the past, and Doug felt that some minor wording changes would clarify that Montana Tech does not focus on undergraduate education, but seeks to integrate undergraduate and graduate education, research, and service. After discussion, a motion was made to endorse the proposed Revised Mission Statement; the motion was seconded and approved with none opposed.

The above action included a discussion about how such actions might be handled in the future by the Faculty Senate rather than Administration taking the issue to a Faculty Meeting. Doug pointed out that the larger Montana universities don't have Faculty Meetings, whereas Tech still does.

After Doug Abbott's departure at about 3:45, we discussed further how academic committees and Faculty Senates work at UM and MSU, and the relation of Faculty Senates to the Union and Administration. Hal's concept is that we would like Montana Tech's Faculty Senate to be more representative of the University, and to operate more like UM and MSU's.

- **Consider meeting schedule**

Hal mentioned he would gather schedules and see if any other time would work better for the Faculty Senate meeting. Until further word is issued, we will plan to continue to meet at 3 pm every other Monday.

- **Old Business**

1. Discussion of Resolution to change size and composition of Senate

Hal presented on the dry erase board his concept of how to expand the Faculty Senate to a more representative body that will ultimately have 27 members, nine of which would be up for re-election every three years. The members would have terms of three years rather than the current two. After some questions and discussion, we agreed to the concept, and suggested Hal work out some final details and create a spreadsheet to show how the changes are implemented and especially the end result for the next few upcoming years.

The plan is to have the Faculty Senate hold a Faculty Meeting around the first part of March to present the plan of expanding representation of the Faculty Senate. If the plan is approved, we would then ask Faculty permission to postpone Faculty Senate elections until May. The Faculty Senate By-Laws would be revised and voted on by Faculty by about the end of March. Elections would follow in May, and the result would be to add about 8 new representatives in 2011, and 9 more in 2012. A few members' current terms will need to be extended.

2. Discussion of Academic Committees in Relation to Faculty Senate

This was discussed to some degree as described earlier under "New Business" above.

- **Communications from Faculty, Administration, Staff, and/or Students:**

None

The Senate group adjourned at approximately 4:45 pm.

NEXT MEETINGS:

The next meeting will be held 3 PM, Monday February 7th.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Waren
Secretary