

Montana Tech Faculty Senate Meeting

Friday, April 26, 2013

7:00-8:00 a.m.

Location: Pintlar Room

MEETING MINUTES

Senators present:

Hugo Bertete-Aguirre, Sally Bardsley, Laurie Battle, Tom Camm, Chris Danielson (V. Chair), Jerry Downey (Chair), Gretchen Gellar, Katie Hailer, Scott Juskiewicz, Mary North Abbott, Chad Okrusch, Vicki Petritz, James Rose, Celia Schahczenski (Sec.), Glenn Shaw, Jack Skinner, Rita Spear, Miriam Young

Senators absent: Bill Good, Tim Kober, John Nugent, Raj Kasinath, Tom Moon, Bill Ryan

Vacant senate seats:

Research Faculty, Center for Advanced Mineral and Metallurgical Processing (CAMP)

Guests:

Doug Abbott (Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs) for open session, 7:35am

Call to Order: Jerry Downey, Chair

Roll Call: Celia Schahczenski, Secretary

Review and approval of minutes from the 28-Mar-13 Senate meeting

Review and approval of minutes from the 8-Nov-12 and 4-Apr-13 Instructional Faculty meetings

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of all three meetings. This passed unanimously.

I. 7:05 a.m. Closed Session (senators only)

Discussion of Senate meeting format and establishment of more formal protocols for introducing topics for Senate consideration

Protocols for adding items to the agenda will be followed and meetings will adhere closely to the agenda. The senate bylaws state that special closed meetings may be called. The pros and cons of closed meetings were discussed:

- The Senate Chair prefers that all meetings be open. He feels this will enhance communication and enable the campus to run more smoothly than it would if the Faculty Senate has some closed meetings.
- All Faculty Senate meetings at UM and MSU are open meetings.
- Montana law states that all meetings are to be open to the public.
- In private, senators have expressed the inability to discuss some topics openly with administrators present. Some senators fear retaliation and, regardless of whether it is justified, the fear must be taken into consideration.
- Provost Abbott has expressed that just getting minutes of senate meetings isn't enough to understand the sentiments of the Senate.
- If senators don't feel comfortable talking in front of administrators, administration isn't hearing the ideas anyway.
- Closed meetings can lead to inefficiencies, so generally the meetings should be open. However, periodically the Senate's interests will be at variance with the administration's views and it will be more productive for the senators to communicate without the administration present.
- Administrative meetings, the Deans Council meetings for instance, are not open.
- The Senate could ask to have representation at Deans Council meetings.
- We need to choose our battles and the right to have closed meetings isn't important enough of an issue to pursue.
- Senators are representatives of departments/areas and, hopefully, aren't just expressing their own opinions, but those opinions of their constituents. Senators should not fear retaliation for expressing the opinions of their constituents.
- Having closed meetings places a burden on the chair to communicate the ideas of the senate to the administration, and vice versa.

When Provost Abbott joined the meeting, Chair Downey summarized: By and large the senators would like to have open meetings. Periodically, however, there may be contentious issues which senators will want to deliberate in a closed session before having administration present.

Provost Abbott agreed to this arrangement.

Nomination of Senate Officers for AY2013-2014

Senator Schahczenski was nominated for secretary, Senator Downey was nominated for chair and Senator Danielson was nominated for vice chair. It was moved and seconded that nominations be closed. Election for Senate Officers will take place via Survey Monkey.

Tech has not had a representative at the MUSFAR (Montana University System Faculty Association Representatives) meetings last year. If voted in as chair, Chair Downey will not have time to attend these meetings next year. It was recommended that a senator volunteer to attend these meetings and to find a replacement when he/she cannot attend. Since no senator volunteered, it was suggested that an email go out before each BOR meetings to ask for a volunteer to attend the MUSFAR meeting which will occur during the BOR meeting.

Department Standards regarding requirements for faculty promotion and tenure and the Professor of Practice classification

Time constraints did not allow this topic to be discussed during the closed session.

II. 7:30 a.m. Open Session – Discussion Topics

Department Standards regarding requirements for faculty promotion and tenure and the Professor of Practice classification (continued)

It was noted that the section on Departmental Standards was placed above the PoP section in this document to subordinate the PoP classification to the Departmental Standards.

It was moved and seconded that the Faculty Senate shall recommend the Departmental Standards, as written, to the administration. The vote was unanimous.

“Department Standards for Promotion and Tenure

The Faculty Senate recommends that the individual departments define and codify faculty promotion and tenure standards within their Department Standards, as decided in consultation with the Administration. Each department is responsible for developing and maintaining standards that are consistent with the current practices in their discipline. Among other requirements, the standards will specify the levels of education and experience that faculty members must attain in order to be eligible for promotion to Associate Professor and to Full Professor as well as to be eligible for tenure. The Department Standards will delineate the terminal degree that is appropriate to the field or department and state whether a faculty member must possess a terminal degree in order to be granted tenure and/or be promoted to the rank of Associate

Professor. A faculty member must possess a terminal degree to be promoted to the rank of Full Professor.”

A friendly amendment was made and accepted to the PoP section of the document to change the word “should” to “shall” (1st sentence of 3rd paragraph). A second friendly amendment was made and accepted to remove the phrase “For maximum benefit” and add the phrase “shall determine the need for PoP position and” (1st sentence of 3rd paragraph). Revised text:

Professor of Practice

In February, 2013, the Montana Tech Faculty Senate voted (18-2) to endorse the establishment of Professor of Practice faculty classification. In response to a request for clarification from the Chancellor (February 28 Senate meeting) and through discussions with a Senate sub-committee, the Senate (March 28 Senate meeting) and the Faculty (April 4 Instructional Faculty meeting), the revised recommendations to the Administration for implementation of the new classification are summarized in the following paragraphs:

Professor of Practice contracts are renewable at the option of both parties with opportunity for advancement in subsequent contract periods. PoPs are subject to the standard rules, procedures and protocols in place for tenured and tenure-track faculty as described in the Faculty Handbook and in the individual Department Standards. Applicants for PoP positions must demonstrate that they possess an appropriate blend of education and experience to teach specific courses, consistent with Montana Tech and MUS Board of Regents policies. PoP positions are limited to a campus-wide ceiling of 10% of total instructional faculty.

Individual departments shall determine the need for PoP positions and define the requisite education and experience levels for them. The departments must have the latitude to assign PoP responsibilities, including research and service components, in order to meet department-specific needs. PoP compensation may be commensurate with that of tenure-track faculty with equivalent responsibilities and decisions regarding promotion/tenure will be made in accordance with approved Department Standards.

Discussion:

- This provides flexibility for two departments which want PoP classifications: General Engineering and Petroleum.
- A trial period is still considered important. The senate can reassess the PoP classification after a period of time.
- General Engineering is currently doing a search using the PoP classification. Senator Skinner agreed to report on how the classification worked for them at a future senate meeting.

It was moved and seconded that this recommendation be voted on by the Senate via a Monkey Survey ballot. This motion also passed, with one vote not-in-favor.

Nominations for Professor Emeriti (Provost & VCAA Douglas Abbott)

The Senate voted unanimously in favor of endorsing the nomination of Dr. Curtis Link for Professor Emeritus status.

Faculty Satisfaction Survey

The subcommittee met last Wednesday afternoon but was unable to complete the survey. They decided to conduct two surveys: a survey on administration in the fall and a survey on facilities in the spring.

III. 7:50 a.m. Academic Items for Vote (electronic vote to be conducted subsequent to the meeting)

Approval of Senate Officers for AY2013-2014

Approval of Curriculum Application for WRIT 101 (from the General Education Committee)

Approval of Curriculum Review Committee Recommendations

Approval of the list of graduates for the May 2013 commencement ceremony

IV. 7:55 a.m. Topics for Consideration

Status of House Bill 240

This may end up being contested in court, since the BOR can set policy separate from the state. Guns are not allowed in the capital or in private colleges, but this Bill says that BOR schools must allow them.

Academic Standards and Integrity

- Faculty concern about electronic signature process (for grade changes, etc.)
- Penalties and potential rehabilitation of students accused of academic dishonesty

Shall the Graduate Council become the Faculty Senate's review/advisory body regarding academic policies, curricular changes, certificate programs, and other topics related to graduate-level education at Montana Tech?

VI. 8:00 a.m. Adjournment

It was moved, seconded and unanimously agreed that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15.