

Montana Tech Faculty Senate Meeting

Friday, December 6, 2013

7:00-8:00 a.m.

Location: Pintler Room (Student Union Building)

MEETING MINUTES

Senators present:

Sally Bardsley, Laurie Battle, Chris Danielson (V. Chair), Jerry Downey (Chair), Bill Drury, Gretchen Gellar, Bill Good, Katie Hailer, Tim Kober, Scott Juskiwicz, Mary North Abbott, Chad Okrusch, Vicki Petritz, James Rose, Bill Ryan, Celia Schahczenski (Sec.), Glenn Shaw, Jack Skinner, Rita Spear, Miriam Young

Senators absent:

Hugo Bertete-Aguirre, Tom Camm, John Nugent

Vacant senate seats:

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

Call to Order (7:00 a.m.): Jerry Downey, Chair

Roll Call: Celia Schahczenski, Secretary

I. Senate Business (7:05)

A. Review and approval of minutes from the 7-Nov-13 Senate meeting

Minutes were approved

B. Summarize the results of the November Faculty Senate vote

- CRC modifications from the Nov. 12 meeting were approved
12 to approve, 0 opposed
- Senate voted to endorse the proposed B.S. degrees in Civil Engineering and in Mechanical Engineering (as recommended by the CRC)
11 to endorse, 1 opposed
- Senate voted to keep CRC in the process for graduate programs
11 to keep, 1 not to keep
- Senate voted to modify the language in the handbook to reflect the above
11 to modify, 0 not to modify

Action item: CRC develops the language to be added to the Faculty Staff Handbook, reflecting how things are done.

- Senate voted to approve the Administration proposal to modify the language in the Faculty/Staff handbook 206.4.2. (re: evaluation of part-time faculty)
12 to approve, 0 opposed

All of the nominations for faculty representation on committees were approved:

- Committee on Service: Matt Egloff
- Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee: John Ray; Matt Egloff
- Grievance Committee: John Nugent; Matt Egloff

C. Faculty Opinion & Satisfaction Survey

1. Overview of the survey results

The Satisfaction Survey was sent to all Montana Tech, Bureau of Mines and Highlands College faculty members. Unfortunately an accurate list for part-time faculty could not be obtained, so part-time faculty members were not included. Of the 133 possible, 55 faculty members responded. The results haven't been thoroughly reviewed, as the survey just closed. Downey passed a single copy containing the tallies and comments around for Senators to quickly review. He invited senators to drop by his office if they wanted to spend more time reviewing the survey.

2. Discussion of path forward

Downey suggests that the survey results, tallies and comments, are sent to the Chancellor and eventually to President Royce Engstrom. He suggests that packets are created, containing tallies and comments relevant to particular administrator, and sent to that administrator. Since, as expected, some of the comments were very pointed, he suggests not posting all comments for the public.

Discussion:

- There must be a way to communicate to the faculty, in a humane way, the themes of comments.
- Only the tallies could be posted.
- An executive summary, containing the less sensitive points, could be developed and placed onto the Senate website.
- What will come of this? If there is an item which stands out as a problem, will we bring the relevant people in to discuss what will be done about this?
- We could invite the relevant administrator to a future meeting for discussion.
- The results need to be sent to President Engstrom
- The same report should be sent to Chancellor Blacketter and Engstrom.
- We could give Blacketter an opportunity to respond before sending the report on to Engstrom.

- 55 respondents out of 133 is about 41%.

Path forward:

The Senate officers will digest the results and put them into an executive summary, which will be shared with the Senate. If Senators want to see the survey itself, they can drop by Downey's office.

In addition, the officers will create a general report, including all comments, that will go to the Chancellor and a series of reports which will go to the relevant individuals with all relevant comments.

Post the survey results but not the comments on the Senate website.

The Senate Chair will send a thank you note to all the faculty for responding and inform them that the results are posted on the website.

D. Election of faculty to fill openings to various committees

1. Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee (1 position open)
2. Grievance Committee (1 position open)

II. Topics for Senate Consideration (open)

III. Summary of Academic Items for Vote (open).

1. No items are currently scheduled for vote.
2. Items pending:
 - Approval of the list of December graduates
 - CRC Recommendations

IV. Other Business (7:40)

- A. Library Journals – top 20 by Department (Scott Juskiewicz)
Scott gave a packet to each representative which lists the journals relevant to their department .
- B. Academic Standards and Integrity

V. Adjournment (7:50)

Reminder: the next scheduled Faculty Senate meeting is 7:00-8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 4 (Pintler Room)

The meeting adjourned at approximate 7:50am.