

Montana Tech Faculty Senate Meeting
Wed January 28, 2015
3-5pm, Pintler (SUB)

Call to Order: Chad Okrusch

Roll Call: Katie Hailer

Senate members present:

Scott Rosenthal, Chad Okrusch, Katie Hailer, Bill Ryan, Larry Hunter, Miriam Young, Bill Drury, Rick Rossi, Chris Danielson, Julie Hart, Vicki Petritz, Conor Cote, James Rose, Rita Spear, Courtney Young, Gretchen Geller, Celia Schahczenski

Senate members absent:

Amy Kuenzi, Glenn Shaw, Sue Schrader, Tim Kober, Rhonda Coguill

No guests today

- Review and approval of the December meeting minutes
- Motion to approve: Courtney Young second: Larry Hunter; motion passed unanimously

I. Welcome & Announcements

- Campus Suicide & Senate Response (if any) - moment of silence to show respect
- Meeting Dates: 4th Wednesday of Month- meetings will now be held on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 3-5pm.

February 25 / March 25/ April 22

- Wednesday = Senate Business - Chad is available on Wednesdays for faculty senate business.
- ASMT Communications & Relationship-building - Chad is meeting with ASMT president weekly.
- Weekly meeting (Wednesdays @ 10am)
- Students want increase use of SGIDs
 - Proactive
 - Opportunity for response w/in term
 - Requires campus infrastructure and support - there are few individuals trained to perform SGIDs. How are people trained? Who does the training? VCAA Abbott should send out the list of names of people to

run SGIDs at the beginning of every semester. Chad will follow up with Abbott so that he sends the email out early this semester. Chad will communicate with ASMT president that senate is in support of more SGIDs occurring in classes.

II. Ongoing Business & Reports

A. Academic Calendar Feedback: 13 votes - faculty for 2015/2016 in favor for the 1st option. 2016/2017 again voted in favor of option 1. Courtney Young advocated for a fall break during the fall semester. Fall semester has so few breaks until Thanksgiving and makes for a very busy, long semester. Table discussion for now, but it would be good to bring these ideas to forward. We can't change the next two years but we should try to look to make changes in the 2017/2018 calendar.

B. 80% Rule for Evaluations Language Revisited - moved to February meeting; Sue Schrader will work with Courtney Young and Scott Rosenthal to develop a language change. The language change will be brought to the entire senate. Rick Rossi suggested that the language in the faculty handbook be very similar to the CBA. Scott will check the language in the CBA and will work to match the language between the two books.

C. Sexual Misconduct Policy – No news to report.

D. Retention Policy - (Rita Spear) low participation on 20 and 40 day reporting (51%) they are going to do away with the 20 and 40 day reporting. Beginning after the 1st week, faculty can now report on at risk students. They are working to formalize proposals for the changes proposed. Proposals will be brought to the senate once the proposals are written.

*** Invocation of Article VI, Section 2: call for a closed meeting ***

III. Faculty Opinion & Satisfaction Survey Results –

- Failed to bring in many adjunct members to the survey (11 responses).
- Approximately 55-60% response rate from the tenure track faculty.
- 81 individuals from all colleges responded.
- Individual questions were gone through one at a time to see the distribution of responses. Comments were not shown to the group as there might be identifiable remarks.
- Survey results will be made public (put on the senate webpage).
- Larry Hunter suggested that in future surveys we add in a “I don’t know” response. The “neither agree or disagree” response is not the same as simply not knowing.

- Need to put together a final report and then communicate the remarks/results back to the appropriate people. Results also need to go to all faculty and eventually to President Royce Engstrom.
- Chad will have a frank conversation with Chancellor Blackketter. Chancellor Blackketter is open to discussion and is willing to troubleshoot.
- How long do we survey and collect data without seeing some sort of change in things that need to be changed. When do we give a vote of no confidence on certain issues? Rick Rossi commented that he has continually asked Abbott that department heads should be evaluating Dean's (every year). Dean Coe has not been evaluated by the department heads in years. The Chancellor needs to know this and the Dean's need to be evaluated. Need to check the faculty handbook as to the outline of yearly evaluations. It should be outlined in there.
- **Next steps:** Pick the most egregious issues and present those. When you present too much info at once, things get lost. Highlight the fact that tenured responses are very different than untenured responses.
- Working group should be formed to help design the final report and condense the data. Rick Rossi and Miriam Young will help Chad. What does U of M do with their survey data? Send a thank you to faculty for responding. How are we going to improve as the senate?

IV. Spring Survey Areas of Inquiry? Cafeteria, Financial spending and AD pay (25% increase in pay, Why?) This survey should be similar in scope to last year's survey so we have continuity and can link this year's response with last years.

IV. Other Business

V. Adjourn

- motion to adjourn: Chris Danielson; second: Scott Rosenthal
- Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm