

Montana Tech Faculty Senate Meeting  
Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 – 8:30-10am

**Attendance**

**Senators present:** Abhishek Choudhury, Conor Cote, Bill Drury, Charie Faught, Brian Koontz, Atish Mitra, Tony Patrick, Scott Risser, George Williams, Diane Wolfgram, and Miriam Young

**Guests:** Doug Abbott, Leslie Dickerson, Jeremy Williams, Joe Kujawa

**Welcome & Minutes**

- I. Welcome and Minutes
  - a. Found online at <http://mtech.edu/about/facultysenate/minutes/2016/october-12.pdf>
  - b. Motion: To approve minutes (Tony Patick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Miriam Young)
  - c. Vote: All in favor.

**Information Items**

- II. Last-Date-of-Attendance Reporting
  - a. All students receiving a failing final grade must also have a last attended date reported. This will impact how we input final grades in Oredigger/Banner starting this semester.
  - b. Guest Leslie Dickerson
    - i. The Department of Education now requires last date of attendance for failing grades. Montana Tech is the last school in MT to implement this change. Starting this semester, the last date of attendance will be a required field for failing grades. If you do not enter the required field, you will lose all your data entered up to that point. She recommends that faculty submit often rather than in bulk.
    - ii. Faculty can use their best guess and estimate for this semester, but will need to keep a record for upcoming semesters. In the Department of Education guidelines are not specific requirements for how to track last date of attendance, so faculty members can use their best judgement.
    - iii. George Williams asked about large classes where attendance is not taken. Leslie Dickerson suggested using the date of their last quiz or test taken.
    - iv. Abhishek Choudhury asked what to do if the student never came to class. Leslie Dickerson said to use the 1<sup>st</sup> day of class in that case. Scott Risser suggested that in that case you could also use an administrative withdrawal.
    - v. Scott Risser suggested that the registrar to notify department heads of this change and asked senators to notify the faculty in their departments.
    - vi. Charie Faught suggested that if using Moodle, you could use last time they logged in. This is useful for online courses.

**Discussion Items**

- III. December Graduation
  - a. Guests Doug Abbott and Leslie Dickerson sought Faculty input on the upcoming December graduation ceremony

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- i. The graduation ceremony is set for Friday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> and will be in the HYPER. It has steadily grown. This year's has been planned, but still wondering what the faculty's preferences are. Currently the faculty sits in the general audience, as opposed to convocation or commencement, where the faculty wears regalia and sits together. Do faculty prefer to be on the floor with regalia? How do they feel about holding TGIF afterwards as has been the practice?
- ii. George Williams suggested that = students graduate by department. This would make it easier to acknowledge students from your department.
- iii. Doug Abbott said that currently the students do not graduate by degree/department. If grouped, the students would need to be lined up, and that opens up a question of formal entrance.
- iv. Charie Faught asked what the graduates prefer, and suggested forwarding these questions to ASMT.
- v. Miriam Young suggested doing a full commencement, but would like to see what students say.
- vi. George Williams said that it is to have a low key event. It gives provides more opportunity to speak to the students and their families.
- vii. Scott Risser wondered how we can work to increase faculty attendance. It is currently on a class day in the middle of finals. He asked senators to seek feedback from their departments.

IV. Synchronization of clocks on campus

- a. A resolution to synchronize campus clocks was submitted by John Getty.
- b. Joe Kujawa provided an overview of the history of efforts to synchronize clocks on campus. In the past, a clock synchronization program was not successfully implemented.
- c. Joe Kuwaja estimated we would need 300 clocks, and at their current price they would total ~\$20,000, plus \$2,000 for each transmitter.
- d. Joe Kuwaja said an alternative would be to prioritize certain buildings. For example, the SUB might be a priority.
- e. Brian Koontz proposed that we remove all the clocks and not replace them. It's better to have no clocks at all than inaccurate clocks. Alternatively, digital clocks could be placed in hallways and instructors could keep track of times using their phone or computer.
- f. Miriam Young said that the Nursing department needs accurate clocks in classrooms for testing purposes.
- g. Abhishek Choudhury said that if we use clocks then we should make an effort to synchronize the,
- h. Joe Kujawa said that we also need to have a maintenance plan for the clocks. Batteries need to be replaced and budgeted for.
- i. Joe Kujawa said that hardwired clocks would be more expensive.
- j. George Williams said this would entail a lot of money and labor, and in the end cannot guarantee that clocks would stay synchronized. Bill Drury said this may be more of a human issue, even with synchronized clocks students will still be late for class.
- k. No further discussion. Scott Risser said there does not appear to be strong support on the Senate to pursue this issue.

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Action Items

- V. Recommendations from the CRC
  - a. Creation of WRIT 326 (Advanced Composition) and PSCI 250 (Introduction to Political Theory)
    - i. Scott Risser provided the Senate proposals for two new classes. WRIT 326 is a result of Henrietta Shirk's work with the Nursing department. PSCI 250 was designed by John Ray and is an alternative to Political Science with a focus on philosophy and theory. This fits with the new mission of Liberal Studies.
    - ii. Charie Faught said that the CRC is a very thoughtful committee, so she would be comfortable moving forward. Conor Cote said he has seen these proposals in the past and he is supportive.
    - iii. Motion (Conor Cote, 2<sup>nd</sup> Charie Faught): Approve new WRIT 326 and PSCI 250 as new courses.
  - b. Expansion of the Aerospace Welding Certificate
    - i. The Aerospace Welding program is seeking to extend their program by 8 credits (for a total of 29) to a full year. The program is working with Montana Precision Products, who have asked that students have more hands-on time in the welding labs.
    - ii. Jeremy Williams explained that the 8 students in program are aware of this expectation, but still would have the option to graduate now if they choose.
    - iii. Scott Risser said his only concern is that this sets a precedent that we can increase credit requirements on students significantly while they are in a program. Jeremy Williams said that in this case, it will give them more seat time, make them more employable, and they will be safer workers so the impact on the students is a positive one.
    - iv. Miriam Young asked if the department will take students each semester. Jeremy Williams said that the industry partner now wants a full year program, and prefers quality over quantity. He said there will be Fall entry next year and that the hope is to eventually extend the program to 40 credits.
    - v. George Williams said he is inclined to approve this if it is what the department and industry wants.
    - vi. Motion (Abhishek Choudhury, 2<sup>nd</sup> George Williams): Approve extension of Aerospace Welding by 8 credits.
    - vii. Vote: All in favor.
    - viii. Scott Risser asked the Aerospace Welding program to work with the registrar to update the catalog to reflect this change.
- VI. Other Items
  - a. The Academic Dishonesty Workgroup has met to begin evaluating and updating Academic Dishonesty policies.
  - b. Student Evaluations
    - i. The Senate has offered to tackle student evaluations, but is hesitant to spend time and effort unless there is hope to make actual improvements. Scott Risser will be seeking volunteers for a sub-committee to work on this item.
  - c. Administrative Evaluation

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- i. The Senate also said it would look at administrative evaluation, and review issues like term limits for deans and administrations. He will be also seeking volunteers for a sub-committee on this item.
- d. Senate Representation
  - i. Based on feedback from the Full Faculty meeting, the Senate also needs to review departmental representation, which may require updating the by-laws.
- e. Adjourn: (Bill Drury, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Patrick)