

Montana Tech of The University of Montana
Staff Senate
Minutes
October 23, 2015

Members present: Peggy Delaney, Melissa Kump, Frances Holmes, Annalee Werkmeister.
Members absent: Casey Vanatta, Marilyn Patrick, Joyce O'Neill, Theresa O'Leary, Faye Wilson.

1. Election of Senate President

Election of a new President to replace Fred Sullivan was discussed. Because a majority quorum was not present, the nomination and election of a new president was postponed until the next meeting.

2. Solicitation of new senate members

The structure of the staff senate was discussed. The Senate is comprised of 1 crafts representative (vacant), 1 exempt representative (Joyce O'Neill), 5 MPEA representatives (Annalee Werkmeister, Marilyn Patrick, Theresa O'Leary, Faye Wilson, Casey Vanatta) and 2 staff professional representatives (1 from Tech (Melissa Kump) and 1 from the Bureau of Mines (Peggy Delaney). Peggy will contact absent members to see if they will remain on the staff senate. Possible staff to represent the crafts was discussed as well as the importance of retaining a member from the South Campus. It was suggested that using Facetime or Skype to connect South Campus representative(s) would facilitate their participation.

An email soliciting new members will be drafted by Peggy for senate review. The message will be sent out after any edits are made by senators.

Concern was voiced by members was a lack of supervisor support for senators to take time away from work to attend meetings and conduct senate work during company time. Members felt it was critical that Montana Tech's administration should endorse the existence, development and activities of the Staff Senate and encourage supervisors to do so as well.

3. Senate purpose

The purpose of the staff senate (as displayed on the current webpage) was reviewed. Peggy shared information about activities from other senates in Montana and elsewhere. Several themes were common for all of them and Peggy distributed a sheet with common senate activities. . Peggy shared a link to the University of Wyoming's senate page. They are a very active senate with many good ideas. <http://www.uwyo.edu/staffsenate/> Development of goals and objectives by the senate was discussed. The discussion will continue at the next meeting

4. Senate representation on campus committee.

Melissa Kump reported that the staff senate was represented on the Chancellor's Cabinet and the Strategic Planning Committee. The most recent strategic plan does not specifically designate someone as a staff senate representative

5. Montana Tech Strategic Plan

Dr. Blacketter requested that the Senate provide its input on the latest version of the Strategic Plan. Copies of the plan were emailed to senators previously. Senators were asked to review the plan so that it can be discussed at the next meeting.

The next Senate meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, November 20, 2015 at 9 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Delaney