

FACULTY SENATE
November 7, 2007
REID HALL 104
4:10 AM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Amin, Ashley, Becker, Cherry, Christopher, Dyer, Fleck, Gipp, Leech, Livingston, Longcope, Lynch, C. McClure, Mokwa, Neeley, Pinet, Prawdzienski, Starkey for Zhu, Taylor, Watson, Wojtowicz

Members Absent: Ag/ED/AOT, Bailey, Bandyopadhyay, Bangert, Bennett, Ecology, Jackson, Jacobs, Johnson, Lei, M. McClure, Nursing On-Campus, Peed, Political Science, D. Weaver

Others Present: Dave Dooley, Joe Fedock, Marvin Lansverk, Pam Merrell, Leslie Taylor

Chair Shannon Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – Pam Merrell, Leslie Taylor

- The policy is on the web for viewing/comments:
<http://www.montana.edu/legalcounsel/proposedPolicies.html>
- In 2006, there was a legislative audit conducted at University of Montana. There were a number of concerns in the way subcontracts were assigned for a specific grant through NASA. The BoR met to systematize a process, and a new policy arose. The new policy:
 - Applies to all employees on campus. However, any employees who are less than .5 FTE and classified employees are not required to sign annual disclosures. They are, however, still covered by the policy. Training will be conducted to inform all employees on how to fill out the required forms.
 - Requires employees to sign an annual disclosure statement.
- The new policy is a more formal process (i.e., procedures, written determinations, and management), and will require hiring a campus conflict-of-interest administrator. Because so many conflicts of interest arise in the research area, a subcommittee of MSU's Research Compliance Committee reviewed the document to segue it to its present form. The tone of the policy recognizes conflict, but requires disclosures that will be systematically evaluated. If there is no conflict or the conflict is so remote, MSU will manage it. Only in extreme cases will it be quelled.
- The BoR policy did not change the definition of conflict of interest it has used for a number of years, and the same language was used in crafting the current document. The new document, however, does define significant financial interest which is included in all federal regulations and states, "... \$10,000 or greater income or 5% interest or greater in ownership of a particular company..."
- The new policy will replace the old policy in the faculty handbook (Section 440). The substance of the new policy is the same as the old policy, and is primarily a federal/state law driven instrument.
- Does the policy encompass other conflicts of interest such as nepotism? Nepotism is referenced in the new policy.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) – Provost Dave Dooley

- The UAE Academy runs many colleges and universities in the UAE, and approached MSU to teach a two-year educational program because we are known for our Arabic program; they are aware of the State Department of the Middle East Partnership Program; and, they want the two-year program degree delivered by a research university. A sense of urgency for this program is dictated by their growing demand of 1500 students, and they would like to begin by January 2008. Academically, the UAE would like educational opportunities for students in areas such as computer science, information technology, computer programming, tourism, and science and technology (broadly).
- MSU presented a proposal of how we might proceed and what the academic structure might look like. The basic understanding is that the UAE would fund all aspects of this program to deliver degrees from MSU-Bozeman. They have already signed an agreement with Seattle-based Association for Cultural Exchange (our partner affiliate for English-as a second-language), who will partner with us and provide English language instructions beginning in January, 2008 for 300 students.

- MSU suggested a curriculum built on a block structure where students take a course for 3 weeks, take an exam and then take another course for another three weeks. MSU also suggested that web-based instruction would compliment classroom instruction.
- If, in the future, the UAE wants a transfer curriculum it would require introductory science classes as well as scientific laboratory facilities.
- If the UAE accepts our proposal, Provost Dooley will provide a first draft review for the BoR in January. If approved, MSU would begin, immediately, and funding would provide web-based programs and services of staff, administration, and MSU faculty.
- Through their own volition or by invitation, many other American universities have built colleges and universities in the Persian Gulf. Provost Dooley stated that we are competing for global prominence in a new economy funded with oil revenues.
- Discussion ensued:
 - Why MSU-Bozeman? Because the UAE requests a research institute teach, and MSU is the only one in Montana.
 - What will the curriculum be? Successful two-year curricula (e.g., College of Technology in Great Falls) that have been developed are of interest to the UAE and us. We will present those curricula to the Undergraduate Studies Committee for approval and implementation in the UAE for fall, 2008. The courses will, most likely, be core-like.
 - How will teaching two-year degree courses in the UAE fit with our five-year plan? One of the elements of the strategic vision was consideration of the importance and eventual implementation of a two-year program. Gallatin County businesses have voiced a pressing need for this kind of program for certain vocations and continuing education. MSU has responded, so far, by partnering with the College of Technology, Great Falls. MSU has never offered a two-year degree and Provost Dooley believes it is a concept we should adopt.
 - What about faculty resources? The essence of this UAE program is the basic financial understanding that they will fund everything. If faculty want to teach in the UAE, MSU will hire adjuncts to fill vacancies. MSU will also suggest to the UAE that in key areas, MSU might have to hire ex-patriots to teach overseas, hire more faculty at MSU-Bozeman to replace vacant lines, or hire dedicated faculty that would live in the UAE, full time, to teach. We have been informed that reporting requirements to the government work well with our accreditation process as long as MSU maintains complete academic control.
 - If faculty from Bozeman go to teach in the UAE, will that dilute the quality of education for our students here? MSU does not want to do this if it compromises the quality of education in Bozeman. MSU does, however, have many extremely highly qualified adjuncts, particularly at the lower division level, and Provost Dooley does not believe our teaching would be compromised. In key areas, MSU may have to hire more faculty in the United States to teach in Bozeman, and we would present that scenario to the UAE. As a codicil, currently, we have not been able to adequately fund web-based educational tools, and this would be a chance to capture a revenue stream that would do that. Research reports that more students would enroll if MSU offered web-based classes, as it would accommodate erratic schedules that classroom environments would not.
 - What will the cost “plus” side be? MSU would like our costs covered and a fair profit. What the UAE considers fair versus what MSU considers fair has yet to be determined.
 - Any major hurdles? If we were unable to reach an agreement on the financials, and unrealistic expectations of how fast this program could be implemented.
- Provost Dooley will report on his findings when he returns from the UAE in January.

Signature

Shannon Taylor, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary