

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

Members Present: Amin, Ashley, Becker, Bandyopadhyay, Cherry, Dyer, Gerlach, Gipp, Jacobs, Jones, Lei, Livingston, Longcope, Lynch, M. McClure, Mokwa, Pinet, Prawdzienski, Starkey for Zhu, Taylor, Watson, D. Weaver, Wojtowicz

Members Absent: Ag/ED/AOT, Bailey, Bennett, Chem/Biochem, Ecology, Education, Fleck, HHD, Jackson, Johnson, Jacobs, Livingston, Music, Neeley, Nursing On-Campus, Peed, Political Science

Others Present: Dooley, Fedock, Lansverk

Chair Shannon Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present. The minutes from August 29, 2007 were approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Chair Taylor

- Chair Taylor will attend the September 19-21 BOR.
- Tegan Molloy, president of ASMSU, will be speaking to FC on September 12, 2007 about Pick-a-Prof, a web based evaluation system of professors. It is a for-profit company. Its value is questionable because the sampling is biased and non-scientific. Denbigh Starkey stated that he had experience with a similar web-based evaluation system on another campus and most comments were constructive and well thought out.
- Nancy Dodd, Ombudsperson on MSU campus, will be speaking to Faculty Council on September 26, 2007. (This has subsequently been changed to October 10, 2007). She will clearly articulate what she does and does not do. Currently, if an employee believes the results of the Ombuds are not favorable, the employee may file a grievance. After conducting a survey about 5 years ago, Faculty Council found that The Conciliation Committee was rarely used. The thought was that an Ombuds would be more successful. According to annual reports generated by Nancy Dodd, use has increased; the process has been found, by more and more employees, to be a beneficial one. The Ombuds is still a pilot program. As a result, the Conciliation Committee is still “suspended.” It was suggested that an evaluation form be used after an employee has used the Ombuds process. It was noted that in the grievance process, The Conciliation Committee is still referenced as a grievance “step.” Wording needs modification.
- Peter Fields, Director of Athletics, will be speaking at Faculty Council on October 3, 2007. FC members originally requested Bob Ash, football coach, but he has a scheduling conflict.
- FC would like to invite Bob Putske and/or Craig Roloff to speak about what emergency communications systems are in place should there be a campus disaster.

FACULTY COUNCIL/FACULTY SENATE – Chair Shannon Taylor

- Discussions continued around the Faculty Council/Faculty Senate name change. Chair Taylor noted that changing the name will not diminish the impact it has with administration, BOR or legislators and that the influence of Faculty Council on BOR and administration has been significant. Examples include FC input on retirement (HB 95: Increased funding (1%) for ORP (TIAA): to Governor’s desk for signing. One and a half million dollars will be contributed to the base to decrease the load of TIAA CREF to fund TRS from 4.5% to 3.5 %.); and, compensation issues (parental leave/tenure clock stoppage and voting membership on an Ad Hoc Committee from the COHE on Recruitment and Retention).
- Chair Taylor made a formal motion to change the name of Faculty Council to Faculty Senate→ seconded→all in favor→60% majority approved. A 60% majority vote is needed to change the name of Faculty Council to Faculty Senate.
- CEPAC is changing their name from CEPAC to Staff Senate.

STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTION – Chair Taylor

- Richard Wojtowicz, reference librarian, was unanimously voted to serve on the Faculty Council Steering Committee.

TRANSFERABILITY – Chair Taylor

- Three years ago, the legislative auditors examined all campus classes and reported that the transferability process was fair. However, we still having transferability discussions. COHE hired Bill Macgregor, Director of Transferability Initiatives, to sort through all transfer course equivalency. The entire CORE is transferable, but not individual classes. Students question why, if they took a CORE math class at one campus, they cannot get into a Math 101 class on another. MSU-Bozeman has very rigorous classes and may not be equivalent to those on other campuses.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM, as there was no other business.

Signature

Shannon Taylor, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary