

Faculty Senate Meeting  
2/26/99  
Maddison Room, 2pm

Present: Doug Cameron, Mary MacLaughlin, Celia Schahczenski (recorder), Don Stierle, Larry Smith

Guests: Regent Margie Thompson, Diane Wolfgram, Bill MacGregor

**Regent Margie Thompson was invited to discuss the draft of the Board of Regent's Planning Document.**

Margie began by telling us of her interactions with the legislature during this legislative session. She recently testified to the legislature about the classified staff. She has been serving as the liaison between the legislature and the BOR. She has made certain that whenever the legislature plans to discuss an issue relevant to higher education, a regent has been present. Margie has heard that higher education may fair better in this session than they did in the session two years ago. She isn't sure.

Proposed tax cuts: Doug wondered that with the state short of money in so many areas (prisons, higher education, ...) why are tax cuts being proposed. It was speculated that the tax cuts may be moving towards a sales tax.

Lindsay Norman's suit: Doug asked where the \$80,000 would come from. Margie said that \$30,000 would come from the insurance company. She promised that the other \$50,000 would not come from this campus.

Planning document: The draft of the BOR Planning Document was created from a subcommittee of 5 of the 7 regents. Margie was not on the committee. Discussion of this document was on the agenda of the last BOR meeting, however, the meeting was long (7am to 6pm), the document was scheduled in the afternoon, and if there was discussion about it, it was brief.

- Goal 4 of the planning document reads "Award all degrees based upon outcomes rather than the accumulation of credits." Diane questioned who would define the outcomes.
- Distance education: Bill asked about what support the BOR was planning to give to distance education. Distance education seems to play an important role in the planning document.
- It was felt that there is a hidden agenda behind the planning document.
- Micro managing: Margie feels that the BOR should be developing policy. Much of this document is micro-management rather than policy.
- Goal 4 sounds like degrees could be awarded without any courses. Is this coming from WGU? Degrees at WGU are awarded for competencies not

courses. In some ways WGU is turning into an assessment agency. Goal 4 is good for WGU, not for Tech.

- Input: Margie argued that little to no input was gotten from those who offer education (i.e. faculty, school administrators, etc.) in creating this document.
  - Outcome assessments: Doug asked "How do we do outcome assessment? Has the BOR discussed this?" Apparently they have not discussed it as a group.
  - Source: Margie stated that the BOR vision and goal statement should match the higher education institutions vision statements.
  - Policy: Bill asked, "Who makes the policies for the institutions?" For example, who do the institutions serve, Montana citizens, the world, some other group? Distance education looks towards the world. We need a vision. Who makes it?
  - Motivation: Celia asked, "What need prompted the creation of this document." Margie thinks that possibly it came from a need to have meeting agendas more firmly laid out.
  - Distribution: Margie feels that this document is a draft. It hasn't been discussed and never should have been distributed.
  - Students: Margie asked, "How does this document help the students? Student concerns do not seem to appear too often in the document."
  - Goal 9: "Measure faculty productivity by contributions to student learning." Margie asked "How?"
  - Scope: Larry asked "Is this a vision statement for undergraduate education? If so it should state so."
- History: The existing mission statement for the BOR reads something like "We will carry out what the constitution mandates."

Margie would like a summary of comments about the Planning Document from this campus. It is thought that Chancellor Gilmore solicited comments. Don will find out if comments have been collected.

The senate expressed their appreciation of Margie coming to talk to us and serving as our advocate. Margie thanked the senate and guests for their useful input.

The meeting adjourned at 4pm.