

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting held March 01, 2002

Attending: Chair R. Appleman, D. Carter, K. Amtmann, D. Melvin, R. Donovan, J. Handley, D. Hobbs, A. Stierle, and M. MacLaughlin

Guest: Courtney Young

Old Business

1. Minutes from 2/15/02 meeting were approved. Chair will post in public folders.

New Business

1. Courtney Young: Honorary Degrees

Courtney Young described the process currently in place regarding honorary degree awards and provided a copy of Board of Regents Policy 322.1. The policy limits honorary degrees to a doctorate that can only be awarded by campuses that have a doctoral program. He expressed concern that the policy prevents Montana Tech from awarding its own honorary degree. Jim Handley and Dave Carter provided information about how Tech handled honorary awards in the past. Courtney Young asked for the Senate's help in determining if the policy can be changed. Brief discussion ensued, then a motion was brought forward to ask Chancellor Gilmore to contact George Dennison and begin an open dialogue regarding the possibility of awarding honorary degrees from Montana Tech. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

2. M. MacLaughlin Report on Funding Meeting

Mary MacLaughlin gave a brief informational report on a Montana University System funding meeting she attended in Helena on February 25.

During discussion related to the report, a motion was brought forward to invite Regent Margie Thompson to discuss campus and MUS issues with the Senate during one of its April meetings. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

3. Student Evaluation Process

Rich Appleman opened the discussion by posing the question of whether the Faculty Senate has (or should have) a stand on this issue. Discussion indicated that the Senate felt it should be involved. Several Senators expressed dissatisfaction with the current process but questioned the need for a uniform campus-wide system. Dave Carter reported that he has been having his students complete course evaluations for a number of years, using a variety of tools suggested & implemented by administration, but didn't recall the evaluations ever being reviewed by administrative personnel. Rich Donovan stressed the need for the student evaluations to be easy to administer and compile. Danette Melvin presented information about the Nursing Department's use of Blackboard to facilitate student evaluations. Citing the need to adjourn, a motion was brought forward to continue Senate discussions regarding student evaluations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was brought forward, seconded and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Danette Melvin