

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
5:00 PM, October 11th, 2005
Mountain Con Room, SUB

minutes submitted by secretary A. Stierle

Members present: Chair Grant Mitman, Vice Chair Susan Leland, John Brower, Paul Conrad, Rod James, Karen Porter, Mark Sholes, Miriam Young, and Secretary - Andrea Stierle

Member absent: Bruce Madigan

In attendance: Chancellor Gilmore, Vice Chancellor Patton

Agenda for Faculty Senate Meeting – Oct. 11, 2005
MT Con Room - Student Union Building

1. Approval of Sept. 27th minutes (Stierle)
2. Assignment of Senate members to Faculty Committees
3. Report on the new Faculty Collective Bargaining Unit (Brower)
4. Discussion of Strategic Plan and Goals
5. Report of BOR mtg (Mitman)
6. ROTC
7. Other

Chair Grant Mitman opened the meeting at 5 PM. Andrea reported that the minutes from the Sept. 13th and the September 27th Faculty Senate meetings were approved by email and posted in the public folders.

○ **Faculty Committee Rosters**

Various faculty committees have a faculty senate representative as part of their membership. Some of the Faculty Senate representatives needed to be replaced on certain committees. The list of new (or reappointed) Faculty Senate members on each committee follows:

Athletic	Rod James
Bookstore	John Brower
Library	Mark Sholes
Motor Pool	Karen Porter
Salary Advisory	Miriam Young
Scholarship and Financial Aid	Paul Conrad
Space Committee	Karen Porter
Student Disciplinary Appeals	Miriam Young

○ **Collective Bargaining Unit**

John Brower, the new President of the faculty collective bargaining unit gave a brief report. The officers of the new Union (John Brower-President; Pat Munday – Vice President; Bill Macgregor

| – Treasurer; and Don Stierle – Secretary) are meeting to establish timelines for the new collective bargaining agreement (CBA). The CBA will draw upon the current Faculty Staff Handbook wherever possible, but it must be carefully drafted because it will be binding upon both Union members and the administration.

Once a draft contract is developed it will be presented to the Union members for an approval vote, and will then be subject to negotiations between the Union’s negotiating team and the administration’s team. It will ultimately go to the Commissioner’s Office for final approval.

- **Strategic Plans and Goals**

Vice Chancellor Patton has been requesting feedback on the strategic plans for Montana Tech. There has been concern that the proposed goals are too vague and “feel good”. One Senate member felt that it was important to have lofty goals to strive for – it was not reasonable to set goals of mediocrity. Others felt that if our goals were indistinguishable from those of Harvard we were not being realistic or fair. There is a major concern that some of the goals are not attainable without significant changes in funding, recruitment policies, placement exams for students, or stricter adherence to hiring/ promotion/ tenure guidelines already set in the Faculty/Staff Handbook. Chancellor Gilmore commented that the nanotechnology initiative and Bob DeDominic’s business center program were good examples of meeting strategic planning goals.

Andrea asked Vice Chancellor Patton to please discuss our current strategic plan and goals and how well we have met those standards, before we change anything. VC Patton agreed to provide this information as part of the October 24th General Faculty meeting.

- **Board of Regents Meeting**

The most noteworthy item from the recent BOR meeting was the proposal to raise the salaries of the Commissioner of Higher Education, the two College Presidents and that of all of the Chancellors. The concern expressed was that the average salary for a College President in Montana is only about 60% of those in neighboring states. The Faculty Senate representatives of all of the colleges voted for the pay increase, noting that faculty at these same colleges are in similar salary straits. The representatives hoped that increasing salaries for top ranking administrators would have a “trickle down” ultimately result in salary increases for faculty and staff as well.

The Regents commented that they would look into raising salaries for faculty at some point.

- **ROTC**

It was hoped that some of the faculty who had expressed concern about or support for the creation of an ROTC program on the Montana Tech campus would come to the Faculty Senate meeting. The creation of an ROTC program will be discussed at the General Faculty meeting on October 24th.

The Faculty Senate was primarily interested in some background information on the ROTC program in general and what it might look like on the Montana Tech campus. The program will be housed in Missoula and any faculty will be paid by the US Army. Montana Tech will provide office space and classroom space for the program. The University of Montana already has a Degree in Military Sciences and an ROTC program on their campus. The initial

phase of the ROTC program at Montana Tech would be a 2-year program for those who have already had basic training. It might eventually grow into a minor in Military Science that is open to all students.

- **Chancellors Advisory Council**

Mark Sholes gave a brief report from the Chancellor's Advisory Council Meeting. Highlights of the meeting include a discussion of problems associated with children in the Montana Tech library and Alumni flag football.

- **Use of Email for Open Discussions**

Vice Chancellor Patton was supportive of the use of email for open discussions among the faculty. In general, the members of the Senate were more concerned over the personal attacks by certain members of the faculty than over the general dissemination of discussion items. Vice Chancellor Patton will discuss the new Montana Tech web portal that can be used for open discussion forums (fora) without clogging the email system with lengthy general mailings.

- **Posting of Minutes**

Vice Chancellor Patton reported that several committees are posting their minutes, as requested by the Faculty Senate.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.