

MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Friday, May 4, 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: Lance Edwards, Betsy Garlish, Karen Porter, Miriam Young, John Nugent, Rod James

Members absent: John Brower, Mark Sholes

Attending without vote: Doug Abbott, Kirk Waren

Business

- The minutes of the previous meeting, with revisions made, were accepted by vote. The secretary will place hard copy and a CD of all the Senate meetings of the 2006-2007 academic year on file with the Library. The documents will include the 2007 Faculty Satisfaction Survey.

Old Business

1. **Montana Tech Standards Guideline for hiring, promotion, and tenure within each department**

- Concern expressed about whether UM President Dennison will necessarily accept the standards of a given department at the time of a tenure or promotion application. Several senators affirmed the conversation held with Dr. Dennison earlier this year in which he stated that he does, in fact, honor all department standards for promotion/tenure so long as the department can demonstrate clearly that these standards are the standards generally accepted in that academic field.
- This Standards Guidelines document will become an action item at the next Faculty Meeting at the start of the fall term. The faculty should be asked to endorse the concept of departmental guidelines, as put forth in the Senate's document. Responsibility for getting departmental guidelines established will be up to individual departments and the VCAAR. Having guidelines in place - that represent each department's individual needs and intents - will be an advantage to each department in the hiring and advancement of its faculty. Departments could get started this summer if they wish.

2. **Faculty Satisfaction Survey.**

- This survey should be able to be conducted on-line, maintaining anonymity. The Senate should explore procedures and potential issues and be prepared to try this approach next year. Calculation of the results would be much easier and faster. This year's survey results will be posted in the Public Folders by the secretary, but wider distribution is desirable.
- The purpose and feedback process associated with the survey were discussed. Senators agreed that the content and format should be reviewed before next year's survey; goal would be to provide some means by which particularly administrative persons could respond and discuss the pertinent results. It should be a document from which the campus can learn about itself.

New Business

1. **Timing of registration of students vs. availability of term grades**, relative to a student's meeting of prerequisites. The current process is out-of-phase; faculty

who are assisting students with registration for next fall's courses are unable to learn whether the student will have met the prerequisite satisfactory course work.

2. An **agenda item for next year is to consider establishing a "Sunshine Fund"** – described as a small kitty of dollars within the Senate's purview from which sympathy cards or other occasions could be covered. Toward that end, \$19.00 were collected and given to the secretary to buy and send two sympathy cards. The balance will start the "Sunshine Fund"; these dollars will be handed to Lance Edwards for keeping until the Fund is discussed and formally established next fall.
3. **New Senators and Senate Officers for Academic Year 2007-2008.** Membership is for 2-year, staggered terms; one-half the senators are termed-out every 2 years, but can be re-elected if nominated and agreeable. Karen Porter introduced Kirk Waren who will serve the two-year term as the Bureau rep. Other new or continuing senators, for 2-year terms, and as voted by the full Faculty at its May 4th meeting, are: Mark Sholes (continuing), Rod James (continuing), Rich McNearney (new), Gerry Downey (new). The COT will try again next year to provide a rep to the Senate. Continuing senator John Nugent is the rep for part-time faculty. Election of officers was postponed until the first meeting next fall.

The Senate adjourned at 4:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Fall semester, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Porter
Secretary