

MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Friday, November 14, 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: David Armstrong, Betsy Garlish, Gretchen Geller,
Rod James (Chairperson), Rich McNearny, Traci O'Neill, Kirk Waren,

Members absent: Jerry Downey, John Nugent, Miriam Young

Attending without vote: Doug Abbott

Business

The minutes of the Oct 17 and Oct. 31 meetings were approved.

Old Business

Montana Tech's status on the Climate Initiative or Green Campus Initiative was discussed (American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment). Numerous members pointed out positive aspects of the initiative. We discussed the potential for an alternative energy technology firm to present some information to the campus, perhaps highlighting some successes at other campuses around the nation; and discussed how students and classes could become involved. Ultimately, courses of action will depend on funding levels and other factors. The faculty senate voted unanimously to recommend to Chancellor Gilmore that Montana Tech join the initiative.

New Business

Montana Tech or Chancellor Gilmore's position on the Amethyst Initiative was discussed. Rich McNearny conducted a survey of Montana Tech faculty and staff, asking their opinion on the initiative. He presented the results of the vote and selected verbatim comments from the responses, some from both "yes" and "no" voters. There were a total of 49 faculty and staff responses, with 32 "yes" votes and 17 "no" votes.

The potential difficulty in understanding what a "yes" or "no" vote exactly means was discussed. After the discussion, the Faculty Senate held a vote on the issue. There were seven voting members present at the meeting. Five voted "no" to the initiative and two voted "yes."

Rather than present a single recommendation to Chancellor Gilmore, we simply offer the results of the votes above for Chancellor Gilmore to weigh in with whatever other information or opinions he has regarding the initiative.

The concept of a tobacco-free or non-smoking campus was introduced to the Faculty Senate by Chairperson Rod James. Numerous aspects of this issue were discussed, such as the potential loss of faculty or staff due such a policy or mandate, and the potential need to accommodate nicotine users by providing smoking facilities such as windbreaks and so forth. No decisions were made or considered.

Doug Abbott reports that the Honorary Doctorate Committee is has no honorary doctorate candidates for consideration by the Faculty Senate this year.

The topic of tenure and promotion was discussed. Departmental standards for tenure and promotion are being developed by individual departments, and Doug Abbott notes that they are in about a second-

iteration status. While the Faculty Senate voted for an “up or out” policy last year, there remains questions about the hierarchy of university, campus, and departmental policies and letters of appointment.

The Senate group adjourned at about 1:10 PM although a few members had to leave earlier.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate is at noon on December 5, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Waren
Secretary