

MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Thursday, November 10, 2011

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: Jerry Downey (Chair), Rod James, John Nugent, Celia Schahczenski, Heather Shearer (Vice Chair), Kirk Waren

Members absent: Bill Ryan

Attending without vote: Doug Abbott

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 22, 2011 meeting were approved.

Recommendation for an honorary doctorate degree (Doug Abbott)

Doug Abbott described the results of this year's evaluation of candidates by the Honorary Doctorate Committee. After some discussion, the committee's recommendation for an honorary doctorate degree was approved by the Faculty Senate by a vote of 5 for, 0 against, and one abstaining.

Merit Pay Committee update (Schahczenski and Downey) and discussion of a Merit Pay Committee recommendation on committee membership

Jerry noted that the Merit Pay Committee activities were proceeding, and brought forth two proposed additions to the "General Considerations" section of the Merit Award Plan (Section 24.100 of the MTFA contract). The additions were:

1. At the end of each merit award cycle, the committee shall elect a chair for the subsequent cycle. More than one committee member in addition to the chair may carry over from one cycle to the next.
2. A merit award applicant who is strong in a combination of two or more areas may be as deserving of an award as an applicant who is exceptional in a single area.

These considerations were approved by the Faculty Senate by a vote of 6 for and 0 against.

Faculty Senate expansion vote results

The Faculty Senate expansion vote has passed with a vote of participating faculty members of 70 for and 28 against. These results were reported by Jerry Downey, and verified by Heather Shearer and myself (Kirk Waren).

Doug Abbott asked if the days of voting by the faculty on important issues were over. We discussed this issue, and the answer as stated by Jerry after discussion was generally yes, but some situations could still be presented for a faculty vote by email. This will normally not occur unless an issue cannot be resolved by the Faculty Senate for some reason, or perhaps in some cases if a vote is requested by faculty members. Jerry reminded Doug that an early order of business for the expanded Faculty Senate will be to define what constitutes a quorum – for both the Faculty Senate and for Faculty.

Jerry and Heather have spoken with Chancellor Blackketter about the results of the Faculty Senate expansion vote. Jerry will be drafting emails to announce the results of the expansion vote to the faculty, and to department heads notifying them of details regarding the selection of a department representative. Both emails will include information about potential meeting schedules.

John Nugent and Heather Shearer are expected to fulfill their senate terms. All other member will be determined by the departments, and will serve 2 or 3 year terms.

New Business

Website Design Issues (Heather Shearer)

A Web Guidance Committee exists but has apparently been inactive recently. Heather notes that a smaller group that includes the Web Guidance Committee Chair Melissa Holmes has been meeting to discuss potential changes to the MT Tech website.

College of Technology –

Jerry reports that to his understanding, regardless of any “rebranding” of the COT, the COT will still be a part of MT Tech.

Future Faculty Senate topics and academic committees

We discussed future Faculty Senate topics and the status of academic committees briefly.

The meeting was adjourned around 2:30 pm.

NEXT MEETINGS:

None scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Waren
Secretary