

# MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Thursday, February 23, 2012

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: Laurie Battle, Merle Benedict, Jon Chesbro, Chris Danielson, Jerry Downey (Chair), Bill Good, Katie Hailer, Scott Juskiwicz, Rajendra Kasinath, Mike Miller, Tom Moon, Mary North-Abbott, Vicki Petritz, Bill Ryan, Glenn Shaw, Celia Schahczenski, Kirk Waren

Members absent: Hugo Bertite-Aguirre, Gretchen Geller, John Nugent, Shane Parrow, Heather Shearer (Vice Chair), Miriam Young

Attending without vote: Doug Abbott, Matt Egloff

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 am

### **Review and Approval of Minutes from the Jan 26, 2012 Meeting**

The minutes for the Jan 26, 2012 meeting were approved.

### **Status of Faculty Senate Expansion**

Faculty Senate members have been identified for 23 of the 25 positions on the senate. The Center for Advanced Mineral and Metallurgic Processing (CAMP) does not have an eligible faculty member at this time, and the Health Infomatics Department has not selected its member.

### **Discussion**

#### 1. Academic Standards and Integrity:

Jerry Downey announced the results of the senate vote on proposed requirements for students to obtain instructor's approval (instructor's signature on the Add/Drop card) in order to add the instructor's course after the second calendar day of the academic term. The results included 14 responses, with 12 in favor, one opposed, and one abstention. Doug Abbott suggested some specific details regarding the add/drop period deadlines.

Jerry Downey noted that another topic for consideration for Academic Standards and Integrity would be to consider requiring the instructor of classes to have the opportunity to evaluate course substitution requests. This was discussed for some time, and Jerry proposed to place this topic on the agenda for the March meeting.

#### 2. Research:

Academic Faculty Research Policy – Faculty Senate comments are requested by the Administration on the proposed policy. Jerry invites members to send him comments and concerns about the policy, and he will consolidate those and provide them to the administration. This topic will be included in the agenda for the upcoming Instructional Faculty Meeting.

Institutional Research Board – This is a topic that Heather Shearer (Vice-Chair) would like to participate in. Due to her absence, it will be postponed until the next meeting.

Available Resarch Space –topic not addressed.

### 3. Academic Calendar

Jerry announced the results of the Faculty Senate vote on the Tech-Xpo event. The results were 12 in favor, none opposed, and two abstentions to have a Tech-Xpo this spring. By a narrow margin, the day will not be a non-instructional day (6 in favor of a non-instructional day, 7 opposed, one abstention). Several dates were considered for this year's event, and the Chancellor has selected the date most faculty senators chose: May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Some details of why Montana Techs Academic Schedule is different than the University of Montana and other schools were discussed. Doug Abbott noted that he would like to see the Deans' Council and Faculty Senate provide recommendations for the Academic Calendar.

### 4. Moodle:

The pros and cons of Moodle were discussed by the senate. Some members felt that Moodle fulfills their needs, while others felt it was a cumbersome program that could be simpler to use. Jerry decided to place this topic on the agenda for the upcoming Instructional Faculty Meeting to explore how well the product meets the needs of faculty and students on campus.

Scott Juskiewicz distributed a note written to the Faculty Senate Chair explaining the lack support for Moodle and common complaints from students about the Campus Technology Services (CTS) Help Desk.

### **New Business**

#### 1. New faculty concerns and issues:

Expectation of faculty participation in enrollment events conducted during periods when faculty members are not under contract and/or with little to no advance notice. This topic was discussed. It was determined that the enrollment office cannot compel faculty to do anything, the enrollment activities are voluntary in nature. It was suggested that communications between the persons involved in designing enrollment events and the faculty could be improved. The topic will be placed on the agenda for the Instructional Faculty meeting.

#### 2. Other new business items:

None identified

### **Scheduling of the Instructional Faculty Meeting**

The Instructional Faculty Meeting will be held on March 9, 2012, at 2pm in ELC Room 203.

### **Scheduling of the next Faculty Senate Meeting**

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for 7:00-8:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 29, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Waren,  
Secretary