

# MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Thursday, January 26, 2012

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: Laurie Battle, Chris Danielson, Jerry Downey (Chair), Bill Good, Katie Hailer, Scott Juskiwicz, Mary North-Abbott, John Nugent, Shane Parrow, Bill Ryan, Glenn Shaw, Celia Schahczenski, Heather Shearer (Vice Chair), Kirk Waren, Miriam Young

Members absent: Rajendra Kasinath

Attending without vote: Doug Abbott

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 am

### **Review and Approval of Revised Senate By-Laws**

The revised bylaws that apply the results of Faculty Senate Resolution 10.2011.01 were approved by the Faculty Senate.

### **Tech-Xpo**

Doug Abbott explained that Chancellor Blackletter proposes to make the Tech-Xpo event occurring Friday, April 20, 2012 an annual event. The event would occur every year on a Friday in April. It would become a non-instructional day at Montana Tech. The issue will be presented to the Faculty Senate for a vote within a few days.

### **Discussion of the Transcripts Issue**

Doug Abbott provided a description of the transcripts issues. No names or demographics of the individuals or departments involved with the changes will be disclosed at this time. The infractions involved changes in grades on transcripts and courses removed or added to transcripts. Audits have been conducted to evaluate the extent of the problem, and steps have been taken to generate notices if a grade is changed, added, or removed from transcripts. The infractions involved 36 students, eight of which have graduated, and all occurred after 2008. The infractions are being reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and it is expected that some students may be permanently dismissed by the university or face other consequences.

### **Business**

#### **Item 1. Questions regarding the existing policies for students to add classes**

The current policies, general rules, and exceptions to students dropping or adding classes were discussed. Heather Shearer will write a proposal for a policy based on the discussion.

#### **Item 2. Proposal to adopt “Academic Standards and Integrity” as a regular Senate agenda item**

Jerry Downey noted that he proposes that the Faculty Senate adapt “Academic Standards and Integrity” as a regular Senate agenda item. The Faculty Senate agreed to the proposal.

Jerry will likely see about having the Academic Standards Committee present some information on the topic to the Faculty Senate.

**Item 3. Faculty Concerns regarding the availability of research space**

Doug Abbott noted that the university is short of space, and that there is a research space policy. Doug will bring some information for the Faculty Senate at a future meeting.

**Item 4. Faculty concerns regarding the usefulness of Moodle**

Montana Tech has been directed to use Moodle for web-based interactions between students and instructors. The Faculty Senate discussed the matter briefly. Several members noted that the program seemed to work reasonably well, but that the training and help functions need improvement. Scott Juskievicz noted that at the library, students are often seeking help in the evenings and on weekends, and that the Campus Technology Services (CTS) desk should be staffed at least during the hours the campus library is open, including evenings and weekends. Scott will provide Jerry with summary of his concerns and suggestions regarding Moodle and the CTS desk.

The academic calendar was brought up as a topic of interest to the Faculty Senate. The issue will be added to the agenda for the February meeing.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting date is tentatively planned for the last Thursday in February – February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned at around 8:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Waren  
Secretary