

Montana Tech Faculty Senate Meeting
Tue October 13, 2015
3:30pm, Pintler Room (SUB)

Call to Order: Sue Schrader

Senate members present:

Bill Drury, Sue Schrader, Scott Risser, John Getty, Larry Hunter, Conor Cote, Rita Spear, Tim Kober, Tony Patrick, James Rose, Glenn Shaw, Gretchen Geller

Senate members absent:

Scott Rosenthal, Rhonda Coguill, Chad Okrusch, Rick Rossi, Miriam Young, Sally Bardsley, Stella Capoccia, Vicki Petritz, Michael Webb, William Gleason, Celia Schahczenski

- I. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve minutes approved as amended – John Getty. Seconded – Scott Risser. All in favor.
- II. Old Business
 - a. Names for the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee sent to Doug Abbott
 - b. Stella Capoccia agreed to serve on the Student Grievance Committee and this information was sent to Doug Abbott
 - c. This completes the Senate's duties toward appointments for this year.
- III. Action item: Letter from the Senate in Support of the Civil and Mechanical Engineering degrees
 - a. Larry spoke with Bruce Madigan and the new degree program seems to be moving forward again. It has been submitted for the agenda at the next Board of Regents meeting, but it won't be voted on until the meeting after that at the earliest. It is a good time for the Faculty Senate to be sending a letter.
 - b. Sue distributed copies of the draft letter for review. Sue asked if the preference was for the letter to be signed by everyone in the Senate. Larry said that would be the best course. Sue asked if anyone had suggested changes to the letter.
 - c. John Getty commented that the tone of the letter could be more positive and volunteered to help work on the wording. Anyone that would like to contribute can send suggestions to John in the next week so that the Senate can have a final version to vote on and sign at the next meeting. Scott Risser suggested forwarding the letter to Chad Okrusch for review. John will send his edited version to Sue and Sue will give that to Chad. After Chad has finalized the letter Sue will send a copy by email for the Senators to vote to approve electronically. If approved, this letter will be signed by the Senators at the next meeting. It will then be sent to Doug Abbott.
- IV. Review strategic plan

- a. All committees are being sent feedback forms that ask to provide 1) Accomplishments and initiatives that support the strategic plan; 2) Suggested changes to the strategic plan. Doug asked the Senate to devote time during this week's meeting to discussing this.
- b. Senate accomplishments
 - i. Distribution of the Faculty Opinion and Satisfaction Survey
 - ii. Approving other initiatives such as the new Retention Plan
 - iii. Positive feedback about the Senate from the Faculty Opinion and Satisfaction Survey
- c. Senate initiatives
 - i. Initiative (1b) - Faculty Advising: Sue proposed that the Senate work to improve Faculty Advising processes, specifically better access to advisee lists and additional faculty training. Several Senators echoed the feeling that access to advisee lists could be handled better. Scott Risser pointed out the administrative associates should have access to this information. The general consensus was that a centralized online portal to look up and email advisees would be useful.
 - ii. Initiative (2e) - COEs: John Getty suggested the Senate work to increase faculty awareness and cooperation with COEs. Rhonda Coguill is the Senate rep for CAMP. Sue said she would reach out and see if someone from CAMP would like to clarify COEs to the Senate.
 - iii. Initiative (3b) - Dual credit: John asked about our dual-credit courses in partnership with Butte High School. Scott Risser pointed out that this is a complicated issue. John suggested there could be better communication between the high school and college faculty. Also how do we know whether these courses are meeting benchmarks?
 - iv. Initiative (2b) - Faculty workloads: Glenn Shaw suggested that the Senate work on increasing dedicated research time for faculty.
 - v. Initiative (6b) - Collegiality & Respect: The Faculty Satisfaction Survey distributed by the Senate serves to "assess employee morale with a goal of improving or addressing troubling issues." This survey will be distributed again this year.
 - vi. Initiative (4a) - Faculty participation: Last year Sue and the Senate officers met with the administration to talk about getting faculty more involved in events and improve faculty attendance at campus social gatherings. One comment was that there are not enough gatherings that were social in focus rather than informational. The Senate could continue to work on increasing faculty participation in campus events.
 - vii. Accomplishment (6a) - Diversity: Conor recalled a previous discussion in the Senate about campus diversity and wondered if the Senate could contact the Diversity committee for an update on Diversity initiatives on Campus.
 - viii. Sue will reach out to last year's officers to fill in some of the gaps concerning last year's progress. Specifically Sue will speak with Chad to about the Faculty

Satisfaction Survey results. Conor and Sue will meet to put this information in the Strategic Planning feedback form.

- V. Next meeting
 - a. The Senate will now meet at 3:30pm instead of 3:00pm
 - b. The next Senate meeting will be Tuesday, October 27th at 3:30pm
- VI. Potential items for next meeting
 - a. Draft proposal for updating classroom size spreadsheet and ensuring the up to date records for each classroom
 - b. Invite the new HR director to the meeting
 - c. CRC & Instructional Improvement committee recommendations
- VII. Adjourn
 - a. Motion to adjourn – Scott Risser. Seconded – Tony Patrick. All in favor.