

Montana Tech Faculty Senate Meeting  
Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017  
Pinter Room - noon-1:30pm

**Attendance**

**Senators present:** Glen Southergill, Scott Risser, Brian Kukay, Conor Cote, Charie Faught, Atish Mitra, Vicki Petritz, Dan Autenrieth, Tony Patrick, Stella Capoccia, Charie Faught, George Williams, John Getty, Miriam Young, Abhishek Choudhury, Michael Webb, John Morrison, Bill Drury, John Getty, Diane Wolfgram

**Guests:** Doug Abbott, John Garic, Vanessa Van Dyk, Joyce O’Neill, John Garic

**Welcome & Minutes**

- I. Welcome and Minutes
  - I. Found online at <http://www.mtech.edu/about/facultysenate/minutes/index.htm>
  - II. *Motion to approve. Motion passed.*

**Action Items**

- II. CRC Recommendations - CRC agenda and files attached
  - I. The following items were not approved at the last meeting pending confirmation about the Dean’s approval. Dean Coe has indicated approval. Items forwarded from the CRC include:
    - a. Alter Computer Science Prerequisites (CSCI 311, 347, and 361)
    - b. Add CSCI 444 as a requirement for the Computer Science Minor
    - c. Remove CSCI 136 & 232, and add CSCI 112, 117, or 135 requirement as well as 1 credit Capstone to Computational Science Minor
  - II. **Motion to approve CRC changes listed above.**
  - III. *Motion passed.*
- III. Proposed Resolution for LEP
  - I. Glen Southergill and John Getty worked on an alternative Limited English Proficiency (LEP) resolution as a result of questions raised at the previous meeting.
  - II. Doug Abbott encouraged the Senate to hold off on approving the resolution pending opinion from legal counsel.
  - III. Motion to table pending legal counsel 2<sup>nd</sup>. Scott Risser reminded that Senate that this item will need to be re-brought to the Senate afterwards.
  - IV. John Getty expressed concern that legal counsel may be inclined to take a very conservative reading of the policy. Therefore we should not feel bound to their recommendations.
  - V. Bill Drury said this is a question of expecting students to have meet prerequisites. Is legal counsel necessary in that case?
  - VI. **Motion to table the approval of the proposed LEP resolution pending legal consultation.**
  - VII. *Motion passed.*

**Informational Items**

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- I. Draft Policy for Therapy and Companion Animal Accommodation Procedures – Invited guests Vanessa Van Dyk and Joyce O’Neill
  - a. Human Resources and Student Services are looking into developing a clearer policy about Therapy and Companion Animal Accommodations on campus.
  - b. Vanessa Van Dyk and Joyce O’Neill explained current practices and legal requirements regarding Service Animals and Companion Animals on campus. Examples of policies at other institutions are being reviewed to inform the drafting of Montana Tech’s policy. They asked the senators to provide feedback and questions to help inform this policy.
  - c. Senate feedback:
    - i. Suggestion to put signs up where animals are restricted, including food preparation areas, medical facilities, and certain lab facilities.
    - ii. What about other individuals who are allergic to these animals? In the event that another individual is allergic, then an accommodation will be provided to the person who is allergic.
    - iii. How should disruptive behavior be reported if it occurs? Suggestion to include that process in this policy.
    - iv. What proof do owners need to provide? Animals do not need to be registered on campus and owners do not need proof of certification.
    - v. What about animal to animal conflict? How is that handled?
    - vi. Suggestion to reinforce the requirement that animals are kept out of labs due to the potential of lab materials being hazardous to animal, or for the animal to influence experiment results.
    - vii. Where are companion animals currently allowed on campus? Companion animals should only be in campus housing.
    - viii. Suggestion to clarify what specific responsibilities faculty and staff have to provide accommodations. For example, to provide a safe space for animals while an owner uses lab facilities.
    - ix. Senators should ask their departments for feedback and suggestions. Please send any questions or feedback to Joyce O’Neill or Vanessa Van Dyk.
    - x. Joyce O’Neill will send Conor Cote (Senate Secretary) with some additional information about companion animals for the Senate.

### Discussion Items

- IV. Proposed Revision to BOR Policy 940.1-Domestic Violence Initiative proposed by John Garic
  - I. John Garic expressed concern that individuals fleeing their home state due to domestic violence cannot receive in-state residency outside the standard process. He estimates this group is very small. This question recently came to the Board of Regents but was not taken up. Governor Bullock recently signed a bill for domestic violence victims forced to flee their jobs, entitling them to maximum unemployment benefits.
  - II. He clarified that the Senate does not have the power to approve this initiative and instead he is asking for the Montana Tech Faculty Senate’s endorsement. Some technicalities may still need to be worked out. He asked the Senate to publically support this measure, and he volunteers to bring this issue to other Faculty Senates across the state to build support for this issue.
  - III. John Morrison said that Montana tax payers should not be responsible to respond to issues that are initiated outside of the state.
  - IV. Doug Abbott asked about the language “any individual who moves to Montana...” Is there a difference between victims who move to Montana versus victims who are

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forced to flee to Montana? John Garic said that the draft intentionally avoided the term “escape” or “flee” out of respect, but that the details can still be worked out.

- V. Abhishek Choudhury noted that in-state residency impacts benefits other than tuition. It should be clarified what these other benefits are.
  - VI. Stella Capoccia expressed her support. Does Montana Tech have asylum laws? Would individuals be responsible for burden of proof? John Garic said that the current proposal asks each institution to determine its own criteria and process.
  - VII. Motion to accept the Domestic Violence Initiative proposed with the understanding that John Garic will bring this issue to other faculty bodies in the state.**
  - VIII. *Motion passed.*
- V. Advisory Committee for Special Focus Institution and Program Prioritization – Nomination and appointment update
- I. Nominations were collected and submitted for the Advisory Committee for Special Focus Institution and Program Prioritization.
  - II. Course buy-outs for Committee members have still not been approved. Volunteers for this committee should be aware that course buy-outs are not guaranteed at this point.
  - III. Doug Abbott noted that this process may call for a separate committee to work on the Special Focus designation. The question of the Special Focus designation will be discussed at the upcoming BOR meeting, which may clear up whether this will be necessary or not.
  - IV. The Senate went into a closed session to review the nominations and appoint members based on the nominations received from the Full Faculty.
  - V. The Senate voted to appoint the following members to the Advisory Committee for Special Focus Institution and Program Prioritization:**
    - i. Graduate School – Brian Kukay**
    - ii. College of Letters, Sciences and Professional Studies – Hillary Risser**
    - iii. Highlands College – Rita Lamiaux**
  - VI. School of Mines and Engineering senators will take additional time to solicit nominations and vote for a member and an alternate member to represent SME.
- VI. Meeting adjourned.