

# Montana Tech Faculty Senate

## Meeting Minutes

**Date & Time:** April 22, 2026 9:00am

**Location:** Copper Lounge

### Attendance

**Senators:** Scott Juskiewicz, Akan English, Foued Badrouchi, Atish Mitra, Doug Galarus, Sebastian Perduss, Dave Gilkey, Andrew Traut, Sudhakar Vadiraja, Jason Herndon, Gary Wyss, Charie Fought, Naim Rashid, Chris Gammons, Shihua Brazill

**Guests:** Madeine Thomas, Heather Skocilich, Tim Elgren, Johnny MacLean, Alan Christensen, Rick LaDouceur, Joe Cooper, Katie Hailer

### Meeting Agenda

- I. **Welcome and Minutes** – The Senate Chair welcomed everyone and presented the minutes from the last meeting. There was a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded. The motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

### Action Items

- II. **Emeritus Presentations** – Professor Jerry Downey presented Ron White's emeritus application. The senate was reminded in the past Dr. White served as a member of the senate as a representative of the Research Faculty. Additionally, Dr. White was hired with the classification of a faculty member even though he was the Director of CAMP.

A motion was made to accept the emeritus application, there was a second. The motion carried unanimously.

- III. **Curriculum Review Committee Items** – The following items passed the CRC and were presented to the senate for approval.

**Line Program** - Math add 1 Cr, remove from 1 cr from pole yard course, Mechanical updates, focus areas (not conc, not identified on transcript/diploma)

**Creation of a MS in Nuclear**- NEW COURSE - NUCL 501 – Foundations of Radiophysics, NEW COURSE - NUCL 502 – Isotopic Analysis and Nuclear Forensics, NEW COURSE - NUCL 510 – Nuclear Energy Policy, Society, and Governance, NEW COURSE - NUCL 520 – Foundations of Nuclear Reactor Physics, NEW COURSE - NUCL 530 Nuclear Fuel Cycle from Extraction to Disposal, NEW COURSE - NUCL 532 Material Science for Nuclear Energy Applications

**Create PhD Energy Engineering & Science (identified options on transcript/diploma),** NEW COURSE - ENRG 500 Survey of Energy Engineering and Science, NEW COURSE - ENRG 500W Survey of EES Writing, NEW COURSE - ENRG 501 Energy Systems Fundamentals, NEW COURSE - ENRG 502 - Managing Energy Resources and Policy, NEW COURSE - ENRG 503 - Mathematical Modeling of Energy Systems, NEW COURSE - ENRG 520 Thermodynamics of Energy Systems, NEW COURSE - ENRG 521 Energy Systems Engineering, NEW COURSE - ENRG 522 Energy Systems Dynamics, NEW COURSE - ENRG 530 - Advanced Geomechanics

**Construction Management curriculum changes** (add EGEN 194 to required first term)

Remove Sprint degree options, end cohort code ECIV 208 - title from Construction Contracts and Introduction to Construction Engineering to Construction Contracts ADD PRE\_REQS, and update desc, ECIV 210 - adjust pre-reqs, now ECIV 101 or 102 or consent, ECIV 225 -title from Civil Engr Plans, Details, and Specification to Construction Plans, Details, and Specifications ADD PRE\_REQS, And update desc, ECIV 402 - title from Sustainable Engineering to Sustainability for the Built Environment. Pre-reqs and desc change, ECIV 407 - title from Building Inspections to Building Codes & Inspections. Add "or consent" to pre-reqs, ECIV 499W - title from Capstone: Civil Engineering Design to Capstone Experience. Adjust pre-reqs, change desc.

**BIOM 160/161 and BIOH 311** - add 200/300 level BIOH to pre-reqs.

Discussion of CRC items. A question was asked if the senate votes to approve the creation of the MS-Nuclear and PhD-Energy does this meet the deadlines for the BOR? It was noted that voting today will allow the campus to advertise the degrees and for the programs to be presented to accrediting agencies for approval.

Another question arose, does the campus have the resources to support these programs and are there faculty able to teach in these programs. It was noted the campus is partnering with the Idaho National Lab to assist with the MS-Nuclear program and there is inhouse expertise in the Materials and Mechanical Departments. The PhD-Energy is asking for funding for new faculty lines to support the program.

The senate was also notified OCHE is asking the State Legislature for \$3-\$6,000,000 to fund energy programs in the MUS. The campus has also submitted a \$250,000 grant application for a nuclear simulation program to support the MS-Nuclear. Additionally, these programs are being developed concurrently with funding requests from the campus. It was confirmed the programs would not move forward without the proper resources in place.

There was a motion to pass the CRC items as presented and a second, the motion carried unanimously.

- IV. **Faculty Senate Approve Faculty Satisfaction Survey Questions** – The senate was presented the questions to the faculty survey; they are the same questions that have been used for the past two surveys. The senate was reminded the survey is part of the bylaws and is part of the NWCCU Accreditation process. During discussion the following questions were asked. How much flexibility do we have to change the survey this semester? Can we make substantial changes to the survey? Is there another survey tool the senate can use to conduct the survey.

The senate does not have the ability to change the survey or investigate another survey tool as it is late in the semester. A sub-committee will be formed in the fall to address these questions and will be placed as an agenda item on the first meeting in the fall.

An additional question was raised. Does the staff senate also provide the staff with the same survey? No, the staff senate is working the MUS group MUSA to administer a survey to the staff.

A motion was made to accept the survey questions and a second. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Information Items**

- V. **Student Satisfaction Inventory, SSI** – The Dean of Students, Dr. Joe Cooper, provided the senate with a summary of the SSI. This past year was the first time since 2019 the survey was administered to students. This is a toll the campus can use to compare ourselves against our peers and ourself. This is also a long survey with over 100 questions, there was a good response rate from Tech students. There are a number of strong areas MT Tech does very well in, such as faculty caring for students and some areas the campus can improve in such as parking and IT infrastructure. Overall MT Tech performed well in the survey. A question was asked if there was department specific data faculty could view? There can be department specific data however it is collected at the college level. The senate thanked Dr. Cooper for his time.
- VI. **Canvas Courses** – Alan Christensen from the IT Department presented to the senate about courses in Canvas. Mr. Christensen said, in Canvas all courses have a shell that is in an inactive state. In this inactive state students are unable to see if they are enrolled in a

course. Can the IT Department enable the courses so students can see that they are enrolled? If we do this, any course content will be hidden from the students and the content can they be enable/unhidden by the faculty when it is ready for students to view. The senate thought this would be fine and would help the students know the courses they are enrolled in. The senate thanked Mr. Christensen for his time.

- VII. **No Numbering in the Faculty/Staff Handbook - A** senator noted the numbering system had been removed from the faculty and staff handbook. This item was noted and the Provost mentioned he would ask for the numbering system to be reimplemented in the handbook.
  
- VIII. **Faculty Service Committee** – The senate was informed they would need to nominate a tenured faculty member to the Faculty Service Committee, nominations are to be sent to the Faculty Senate Officers within the next week. Can we nominate a member and vote through email? A motion was made to nominate and vote through email, with a second, the motion carried unanimously.
  
- IX. **For the Good of the Order** – The senate was reminded about the Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony taking place today from 3-5pm in the Copper Lounge. A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, the motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:50am.