

FACULTY SENATE
December 3, 2008
REID HALL 101
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Amin, Catoira, Cherry, Eitle, Fields, Fischer, Gerlach, Gipp, Jacobsen, Lansverk, Livingston, C. McClure, Mokwa, Neumeier, Osborne, Prawdzienski, Sowell, Watson, D. Weaver, Wisner, Clark for Wojtowicz, Yoo for Zhu

Members Absent: Bangert, Bennett, Fleck, Gee, Igo, Jackson, Jacobs, Larson, Lei, Lynch, Maskiell, Political Science, Snider for Becker, Varricchio, Versaevel, T. Weaver

Others Present: Joe Fedock, Shannon Taylor

Chair Wes Lynch called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

and OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN TO FACULTY MEMBERS – Chair-elect Lansverk

- Topics for spring 2009:
 - The November 12, 2008 and November 19, 2008 minutes will be approved next week. Comments/corrections should be sent to lansverk@montana.edu or gough@montana.edu
 - Cliff Montagne, chair of the Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee, will speak at to FS.
 - Dr. Al-Kaisy, the faculty rep on the Strategic Planning Committee, would like to discuss the five-year vision for the campus.
 - It was suggested that someone from the joint education committee attend FS.
 - FS member Wisner suggested having a FS discussion about how to better connect FS to committees, councils and other university entities. A blog might be set up for faculty to communicate with each other on issues on a timely basis. Chair Lynch is in discussions about setting up a website dedicated to faculty.
- President Gamble is canceling his holiday party and in lieu, he and Mrs. Gamble are making a personal contribution to the Bozeman food bank. Wes Lynch suggested that faculty might also consider making a donation given the hard economic times for some in our community.
- The Association of Shared Governance Leaders (ASGL) wrote a letter to Montana voters thanking them for passing the 6 mill levy. It will be submitted to major newspapers in the state by Cathy Conover's office.
- December 10, 2008 – Montana legislator Frankie Wilmer (D. HR) and Bob Hawks (D. will talk about higher education priorities. If FS members would like other representatives to attend FS, please inform Chair Lynch.

TOPICS

- Union – Chair Lynch and Chair-elect Lansverk discussed with Marco Ferro, a representative of the union, the lack of discussions among the faculty about who will make up the bargaining unit. The current status is that the union-proposed bargaining unit and the MSU administration's proposed bargaining unit differ in composition. If the union and MSU cannot agree on its make up, an arbitrator will make the final decision. Chair Lynch and Chair-elect Lansverk would like to discuss the bargaining unit composition in a Faculty Senate coordinated open forum. All constituencies would be included in the discussions. Participation and attendance would be voluntary.
- ASGL – Years ago, the University Governance Council (UGC) was convened to jointly represent the interests of Faculty Council and Professional Council. UGC meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month of fall and spring semesters, and UGC is further guided by the UGC Steering Committee which incorporates representatives from both Faculty and Professional Councils. The implementation of shared governance involves a voice from all members of the campus community. As ASMSU, FS, PC, and Staff Senate represent, collectively, the vast majority of these constituents; a mechanism is needed for full and equal representation of these groups. ASGL (Association of Shared Governance Leaders) provides a communication forum for representatives from Faculty Senate, Professional Council, Staff Senate, and ASMSU to effectively discuss issues relevant to the

Association as well as other MSU governing bodies. Ratification of the ASGL document by FS is needed and will be incorporated into the FS Handbook. Motion to ratify the existence of the ASGL document and, sometime in the future, connecting it to the FS bylaws in some manner→seconded→all in favor→unanimously approved. The document is posted on the FS web site.

- BoR Meeting Summary –
 - Dual Credit - MUS faculty must be certified to teach a course, at the college level, for student credit at the high school level.
 - Seat at the Table - BOR reorganized their table, and faculty elected a single contact representative to OCHE, Andrew Ware (UM), for AY09.
 - ORP vs. TRS - Regents not willing to lobby for this due to budget constraints this session.
 - Bitterroot Valley Community College proposal to start a new college in the Bitterroot Valley. Seven trustees; 20+ speakers spoke in favor of it.
 - Budget Plan: Discussion by David Ewer (Governor’s Office) and Mick Robinson (OCHE):
 - Pay Plan: 1) There will be “modest increases” this year; 2) and money will target those lower in salary and/or further from market.
 - President Dennison queried about the ‘social compact’ with the state providing only 43% of inflationary costs. Mr. Ewer replied that voters wanted \$40million designated for social programs like CHIP, poverty programs, and CAP base, so requesting more money is not feasible at this time. Final budget will be contained in HB 13.
 - Regent Buchanan noted that there may have to be a re-allocation of resources. Wes Lynch conjectured that this may mean that MUS does not need more money; it needs to change the way it allocates .
 - The Montana Board of Regents awarded Dr. Brett L. Walker, professor of history, the lifetime honorary title, “Regents' Professor.” Walker, head of the Department of History and Philosophy, was recognized for his outstanding service to MSU and his unique contribution to the field of history. “In recognition of his outstanding service to Montana State University and his unique contribution to the field of history, especially Japanese environmental history.”
 - ASMSU Sustainability Fee was approved.
 - Staff and Compensation Committee report (Mick Robinson, OCHE).
 - Guidance regarding ORP (TIAA): Partial retirement status in the ORP is currently not defined.
 - Retirement liability costs (Kevin McRae, OCHE) \$17million and growing.
 - The BoR approved two new MSU master’s programs: Art History and Sustainable Systems.
 - Kindergarten to College -- UM Initiative:
 - Preparing k-12 students for college
 - Transitioning to college
 - Integrating the early college curriculum
 - Engaging students in college
 - Strengthening student support in college
 - Faculty & staff development
 - College Portraits: <http://www.collegeportraits.org/> This website contains information including academic abilities, interests, career goals, and financial circumstances. etc. for high school students thinking about attending college.
 - Program reviews (variety of programs on several campuses) – There is a website on the COHE website that reviews departmental programs.
 - Transferability and problems from faculty perspective were discussed.
 - Jim Stipcich discussed the current status of Montana Student Loans. There are no problems now. Programs are being put in place nationally to assure liquidity for student loans next year.
 - A supercomputer in Butte is now in place. Its unique features and capabilities were presented.

The Faculty Senate meeting ended at 5:00 PM, as there was no further business.

Signature
Wes Lynch, Chair

Signature
Gale R. Gough, Secretary