

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: November 8, 2001

PRESENT: George Benedict
Sandie Rietz
Keith Edgerton
Connie Landis
Dan Zirker (ex-officio)

Doug Brown
George Madden
Randall Gloege
Matt Redinger
Janie Park (ex-officio)

ABSENT: David Gurchiek – *excused*
Mark Hardt – *excused*

Paul Bauer – *excused*
Doxey Hatch – *excused*

Bob Carr (ex-officio)
Randy Rhine (ex-officio)
Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)
Lee Peters (ex-officio)

Scott Harris (ex-officio)
George White (ex-officio)
Jennifer Gerondale (ex-officio)

PRESIDING: Sandie Rietz, Chair

Sandie Rietz called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. on November 8, 2001 in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

The November 1, 2001 meeting minutes were approved.

I. OLD BUSINESS

A. Senate Member to Attend BoR Meeting with Chair. The Senate suggested a few names, but none were finalized.

B. BoR November Meeting Topics. The Senate discussed the credit cap (set at 170) and its possible reduction or elimination. The Senate decided to endorse a no-credit-cap stance.

An article was also brought to light concerning a national movement to do away with Boards of Regents. The Senate resolved that the Board is a necessary part of the university system, but will now be on alert for such movements in Montana. Program transferability was also discussed.

Sandie Rietz stated that the November BoR meeting will be mainly academic, so the salary parity issue may not even be raised.

A point was then made about the obstructive policy of non-duplication of degrees in the university system. As a result of this policy, all the programs at MSU-B are in the lowest levels of funding. Sandie Rietz stated she would take this policy up with the Board.

C. Membership in the ad hoc Committee on Writing Proficiency. The Senate suggested several names of people to be contacted. They were: Kathy Holt, Sandie Rietz, Susan Baack, Deb Schaffer, Curt Kochner, an English Specialist from the ASC, Walt Utroske, Mary McNally, Tom Rust, Tami Haaland, and Melinda Tilton. Ex-officio members include Dan Zirker, Janie Park, and George White. Sandie Rietz will write a memo to the above, asking them to participate.

Discussion

The writing proficiency program will be gated at both ends of the student's education. It is important that the University retain control over these requirements. This program must also improve the student's writing, rather than punishing them for unsatisfactory writing.

D. Crisis Management. Sandie Rietz distributed the minutes of the November 6, 2001 meeting. It was pointed out that most people do not have the background on such problems as Anthrax to decide the best practice for the University.

E. ASFAC (Academic Senate/Faculty Association Coalition). The ASFAC will have a preliminary meeting on November 29, 2001 without the administration. They will then meet with the Chancellor and the Provost on December 6, 2001. The main point to be discussed is performance based funding.

F. Performance Based Funding. It was established that departments will be measured against themselves, rather than other departments. Then at least a year of measurement will be required before funding will be redistributed according to the results.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Any members of the Senate may attend the preliminary meeting of the ASFAC on November 29, 2001 at 3:30 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room.
- B. The ASFAC meeting with the administration will be December 6, 2001 at 3:30 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2001.

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