

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: October 3, 2002

PRESENT: Doug Brown
Keith Edgerton
Alan Davis
Matt Redinger
George Madden
Randall Gloege
Connie Landis

ABSENT: Mark Hardt
Audrey ConnerRosberg – *excused*
Sandie Rietz – *excused*
George Benedict – *excused*
Paul Bauer – *excused*
John Cech (ex-officio)
Randy Rhine (ex-officio)
Dan Zirker (ex-officio)
Janie Park (ex-officio)
Curt Kochner (ex-officio)
Joe Michels (ex-officio)
George White (ex-officio)
Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)
Nichole Alley (ex-officio)

PRESIDING: Keith Edgerton, Chair

Keith Edgerton called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. on October 3, 2002 in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

The September 26, 2002 meeting minutes were approved.

I. NEW BUSINESS

A. General Education – Assessment and Structure. Keith Edgerton stated that at the last Senate meeting it was noted that it is too late to get the Gen Ed program revisions into this catalog.

It was noted that a timeline of some sort for the Gen Ed Committee is needed. It was proposed that the Committee have a report containing something on outcomes and something on content to be voted on by the Senate by the beginning of December. This request will be carried to the committee by Randall Gloege.

It was cited that the Committee is still working on what Gen Ed should be doing (the aims of the program), which is a very difficult thing. The Gen Ed Committee may need to begin meeting with individual departments to help decide what the aims of the program should be.

Keith Edgerton stated that he would also send a memo to the Gen Ed Committee reinforcing the message of what the Senate wants.

B. Nominations to the Sabbatical Committee. It was noted that usually people who were on sabbatical last year serve on the committee this year. The Committee on Committees will be called together to make nominations.

C. General Faculty Meeting – Bylaw Changes. It was noted that the Senate has not officially changed the bylaws (which requires a vote at the General Faculty Meeting) to include the proposed Chair Elect policy and to change the number of Vice Chairs from two to three. Keith Edgerton said he would present the changes to the faculty next week (the meeting is Wednesday, October 9 at 4:00 p.m.). If there are not enough faculty present at the meeting, an electronic vote will be taken.

D. Commissioner's Visit October 14. Keith Edgerton stated that if any of the Senators can't attend the meeting, they are welcome to find a substitute. Dr. Edgerton then asked if the Senate would like to suggest some topics to discuss with the Commissioner.

Alan Davis noted that the Mission Statement of the Board of Regents makes no mention of faculty. How does the Board of Regents understand its relationship with faculty? Dr. Davis stated that he will be at the meeting and will ask this question.

Keith Edgerton stated that he would like to ask how and when the Commissioner plans to "shine up" the public's opinion of the University system after some of the Regents themselves objected to the raises for administrators which resulted in a great deal of bad publicity. When is he willing to take the 4% raise back? Or perhaps donate it to a scholarship fund?

George Madden stated that a recent study showed Montana Higher Education to be priced out of the market. Most Montanans of average income cannot afford college. Dr. Madden would like to know the Commissioner his comments on this problem.

E. *Building a Strong Future* Roundtable on the Budget in Bozeman on Thursday, October 24. Keith Edgerton stated the Chancellor Sexton asked him to attend this meeting, but he will be out of town. He asked for volunteers, and it was noted that Sandie Rietz had said to the Senate Office Secretary that although she could not make today's meeting, she will go to the budget roundtable if the Senate wants her to attend.

By acclamation of all Senate members, Sandie Rietz will be sent to Bozeman as a representative of the MSU-Billings Academic Senate.

F. Proposed New Academic Senate System of Approvals. Keith Edgerton stated that he has received some feedback about the proposed changes. The main criticism seems to be attendance at the college-wide meeting. Most faculty will either not attend, or not be able to attend. It was noted that how the college meeting is handled will be decided by the college. If they want to use committee representation, they certainly can. It was also noted that the narrative will not be popular. However, administration involvement shifted entirely to the Senate level seems to be well-liked. It was also noted that the commitment to this system is binding. The goal of this proposal is to stop the faculty from feeling like sheep.

It was noted that the proposal could be sent out once more on October 14 (right before the response deadline).

G. UCC Deadline for the 2005-2007 Catalog. George Madden, Chair of the UCC, noted that at their last meeting the UCC voted to move the deadline for the next undergraduate catalog to spring semester rather than fall, so the administration would have all summer to work out any errors.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

The next Senate meeting will be October 17 at the College of Technology.

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