

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: September 11, 2014

PRESENT: Tom Dell Patricia Vettel-Becker
A.J. Otjen Cindy Dell
Susan Gilbertz James Barron
Debra Johnson Paul Pope
Bruce Brumley Francisco Saldivar
C. Shearer-Cremean (ex-officio) Barbara Wheeling (ex-officio)
Mark Pagano (ex-officio) Matt Redinger (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Kelly Shumway* Diane Duin (ex-officio)*
Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)* Rita Kratky (ex-officio)
Terrie Iverson (ex-officio) Joe Oravec (ex-officio)
* *excused*

GUESTS: Cheri Johannes Mark Nook

PRESIDING: Bruce Brumley, Chair

Bruce Brumley called the meeting to order at 3:42 p.m. in Chancellor's Conference Room.

The minutes of April 24 and August 25 were accepted as presented.

I. CHANCELLOR REPORT

Mark Nook, Chancellor, stated that he would like to be at every Senate meeting his schedule will allow.

He noted that the University Budget Committee (UBC) usually gets called together in January, but since we know cuts are coming, we are starting early. There is a meeting scheduled for September 23, which is also the 15th class day, so we will know our enrollment at that time. However, we already know it's going to be lower than our target.

The student success committee will get rolling soon, with student, faculty, and staff representatives.

The Board of Regents meet on our campus next week, for the first time since we lost most of the Student Union, so the meeting is being held at City College. Directly after the BOR meeting, we go right into the Not in Our State Summit on sex assault.

A question was raised regarding new student affairs staff being hired. Dr. Nook responded that we've actually held a couple of positions open and redistributed those duties to existing staff.

II. PROVOST REPORT

Provost Pagano stated that this year they are testing a pilot with two or perhaps three faculty doing electronic submission of their review portfolios, from the DRTC through the URTC and on.

This year there will be changes to the CARE grants, since faculty often have trouble getting their funds spent before the end of the fiscal year. Discussion is underway of changing the timeline for submission so faculty will have an entire year to complete their project. There will also be other grants available.

At next week's BOR meeting, MSUB will have on the agenda the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, formalizing the new Developmental Education Department at City College, and Dr. Nook and Dean Diane Duin will make a short presentation on the Academic Prioritization Committee.

The OneMSU symposium that was planned for October at MSUB has been moved to the spring due to scheduling issues. It's an opportunity to pull together competency-based learning, prior learning, and other topics which all came out of the Complete College Montana initiative. The cost is split with MSU-Bozeman.

Dual Enrollment is running 7 courses right now, with as many as 70 students. The Connections program has even higher enrollment than last year.

As part of the student success project, Dr. Pagano would like to work with the Senate to get faculty more involved in summer orientation.

III. WELCOME NEW SENATOR

Scott Murray has resigned from the Senate, so Tom Dell was elected as the new College of Allied Health Professions representative.

The City College representative election, to replace Barb Pedula who is on a year leave of absence, will conclude this Friday. We will then run the at-large election.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Brumley attended the first UCC meeting and thanked them for their service on such an important committee. He advised them about the possibly large influx of proposals with program changes reflecting the six freed credits from Gen Ed. He also reminded the Committee to make sure other departments are being consulted to discover changes affecting other programs and faculty. He emphasized that those departments do not approve, but have to be made aware. He also emphasized the importance of checking CCN issues, and making sure that budget information is included in the proposals.

The issue of whether the Senate should receive items approved by the UCC as information items or action items was discussed. The Senate agreed that it will continue to receive UCC approved items as information items, and if questions are raised, the policy will be to return items to the UCC for further discussion.

V. ELECTION OF CHAIR ELECT

As per the bylaws, the Chair Elect must be chosen from the current Vice Chairs: Cindy Dell, Susan Gilbertz, and Francisco Saldivar. The candidates were asked to speak. Dr. Dell stated that she is not interested in the position. Dr. Gilbertz stated that she is very busy but would do the job if elected. Mr. Saldivar stated that he is now a Department Chair and does not have the time to be Senate Chair as well.

⇒ Motion by Patricia Vettel-Becker, seconded by Cindy Dell to **nominate and elect Susan Gilbertz as Chair Elect.**

⇒ Motion carried with 1 opposed.

VI. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 1 Committee Report for 2013-2014: Graduate Committee.

Item 2 Committee Report for 2013-2014: Library Committee.

Item 3 Committee Report for 2013-2014: Commencement Committee.

Item 4 Committee Report for 2013-2014: Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

Item 8 Committee Report for 2013-2014: CARE Committee.

Item 10 Committee Report for 2013-2014: Academic Standards & Scholastic Standing Committee.

⇒ Motion by A.J. Otjen, seconded by Susan Gilbertz to **accept Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, and 10 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 9 New Degree Award Categories for Certificates under 30 credits: Certificate of Completion (9-16 credits) and Certificate of Technical Studies (16-29 credits). For information.

⇒ Motion by Cindy Dell, seconded by Paul Pope to **accept Item 9 for information.**

It was noted that these new categories come from the Commissioner of Higher Education. They are being created because of the SWAMMEI grant, to fashion stackable credit programs that are less than 30 credits. Cheri Johannes, Registrar, noted that we cannot currently transcript anything below a Certificate of Applied Science, so these new categories will mean a new way to credential student's work. Chancellor Nook noted that these new certificates will not be counted in IPED data. Mr. Brumley noted that the University System performance based funding group is, right now, looking to have these low-credit certificates counted and tracked separately. However, that has not been finalized and can change at any time.

⇒ Motion carried.

VII. ITEMS – FIRST READING

Item 11 Immediate Past Chair Policy.

⇒ Motion by A.J. Otjen, seconded by Francisco Saldivar to **approve Item 11 on first reading.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 12 New Form/Process for Correcting Common Course Numbering (CCN) Errors.

⇒ Motion by Francisco Saldivar, seconded by Cindy Dell to **approve Item 12 on first reading.**

It was agreed that the questions on the back can be reduced to “Explain the nature of the error.”

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 13 Committee Roster for 2014-2015.

⇒ Motion by Francisco Saldivar, seconded by Cindy Dell to **approve Item 13 on first reading.**

It was noted that the Academic Computing & Allied Technology Committee has not met for many years. The Senate needs to evaluate the need for that committee.

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Cindy Dell, seconded by Susan Gilbertz to **waive second reading of Item 13.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VIII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Everfi/Alcohol Edu for College and Haven – Mandatory Training for All MSUB Students

Guest: Kathy Kotecki, Interim Dean of Students

Ms. Kotecki was unexpectedly unable to attend today's meeting. Dr. Johannes noted that students who have not completed the online training will be held from registering for Spring. However, they are making every effort to communicate the importance of this University System mandated training so students will not be held up in their plan of study. Students who may have taken the training at another institution will have the ability to opt out, but it will be handled case by case. Ms. Kotecki will be rescheduled to a future meeting.

B. COMPASS Exam Resolution from Senate

The Academic Senate does not support or endorse the use of the COMPASS exam as a challenge exam for credit. The COMPASS exam should only be used for placement. A suitable challenge exam including a writing sample should be adopted.

Many faculty across campus have objected to the fact that students can test out of WRIT 101 College Writing by taking the COMPASS test, which is not a writing test, only multiple-choice. Now that Gen Ed only requires one writing course, students can actually finish a program without taking a single writing course. This is especially problematic for the two-year programs at City College. It was noted that the English Department has used the COMPASS test as their challenge test for over a decade.

Dr. Johannes noted that the COMPASS test also covers math, and students can test out of Math for Elementary Teachers. Those are just a handful of students, but this resolution would include them as well. The number of students who test out of writing courses with the COMPASS test is easily a couple hundred. Dr. Johannes also cited that whatever is decided, the staff in student services and advising will need to know how to advise students appropriately, and with plenty of advance notice.

It was cited that right now, the English Department has a cheap and fast way for students to challenge their courses. If we decide the students must take a course, that's going to mean additional faculty need in the Department.

Chancellor Nook noted that it would be a good idea to get some data on these students who are testing out of WRIT 101. Do they really struggle in their other courses if they do not take WRIT 101?

It was also noted that if students test out of (challenge) WRIT 101, we do register students in the course and receive the FTE. Students usually do not pay additionally for the course because it's built into their load already. If we move to another test where we do not count the FTE, it's going to make an impact on our funding.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

rjrm