

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: April 14, 2016

PRESENT: Tom Dell Patricia Vettel-Becker
Cindy Dell Francisco Saldivar
Susan Gilbertz James Barron
Andrew Sullivan Vern Gagnon
Kelly Shumway Paul Pope
Stephen Coffman Diane Duin (ex-officio)
Christine Shearer (ex-officio) Barbara Wheeling (ex-officio)
Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio) Clifford Coppersmith (ex-officio)
Robert Hoar (ex-officio) Matt Redinger (ex-officio)

ABSENT: A.J. Otjen* Sarah Keller*
Sonja Choriki (student) Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)
Joe Oravec (ex-officio)

** excused*

GUESTS: Mark Nook Trudy Collins
Cheri Johannes Kurt Toenjes

PRESIDING: Susan Gilbertz, Chair

Susan Gilbertz called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

The minutes of March 31 were accepted as presented.

I. CHANCELLOR REPORT

Dr. Nook presented a page from a report of a survey done of business owners in Billings, asking them to rate how well education and training providers in Billings align with their needs. This is the first time they were given an option to answer "unknown" and that number is about 30% for both MSUB and City College, which is unfortunate. However, overall, MSUB and City College, as well as Rocky Mountain College, scored fairly well.

The Foundation received 28 applications for their Executive Director position. Eight to 10 people will be pulled from that group as qualified applicants. The Foundation is not a state agency, so they do have the option to run the search entirely privately. Dr. Nook has requested that the candidates meet with him, as well as the Deans, since he and the Deans will work closely with the chosen director. There will not be any public presentations as part of the interview process.

II. CONSENT ITEMS

Item 59 DENT 305 Introduction to Dental Hygiene Research. Change credits from 2 to 3 and change course description. (course only offered online)

Item 59.a DENT 360 Educational Methods in Dental Hygiene. Change course description. (course only offered online)

Item 59.b DENT 380 Contemporary Issues in Dental Hygiene. Change course description. (course only offered online)

Item 59.c DENT 470 Leadership in Dental Hygiene. Change course description. (course only offered online)

Item 59.d DENT 499A Capstone Part 1. Delete course.

Item 59.e DENT 499B Capstone Part 2. Change number to 499, change title to Capstone, change credit hours from 2 to 3, and change course description. (course only offered online)

Item 59.f BAS Dental Hygiene Thematic Concentration. Modification to an existing program.

Item 60 M 088 Mathematical Literacy. New course.

Item 57 EDCI 570 Computers in Education. Delete course.

Item 57.a EDF 505 Education: Law and Policy. Delete course.

Item 57.b EDF 551 School Finance. Delete course.

Item 57.c EDF 552 General School Administration. Delete course.

Item 57.d EDF 560 Educational Leadership. Delete course.

Item 57.e EDF 597 Capstone in Educational Foundations. Delete course.

Item 57.f MEd Curriculum and Instruction Teacher Licensure Option. Modification to an existing program.

Item 57.g Non-Degree Teacher Licensure Option. Modification to an existing program.

Item 62 EDCI 515 Instructional Strategies in the Visual Arts. Delete course.

Item 62.a EDCI 516 Instructional Strategies in the Performing Arts. Delete course.

A question was raised as to whether we have data on the impact of remedial courses on our courses with high DWFIs. It was responded that we do, and the remedial courses do have a positive impact on students in those high DWFIs courses. Chancellor Nook noted that there is good national data indicating that remedial or recitation courses taken *as corequisites* work even better.

⇒ Motion by Steve Coffman, seconded by Cindy Dell to **accept the consent agenda.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Dr. Gilbertz noted that she is pulling together the Provost and Deans soon to discuss who owns and designs developmental education.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Annual Catalog Proposal

Guests: Cheri Johannes, Registrar & Rita Rabe Meduna, Admin. Support to the Academic Senate

Dr. Johannes noted that several months ago when DegreeWorks was implemented, they began running into problems with differences between a program as it appears in the catalog and what had been changed since then. DegreeWorks can only handle one catalog at a time, so juggling which requirements to use for a given student has become very difficult. In order to make our system more user friendly, simple, and current, we are proposing moving to an annual catalog for all programs. City College has been operating with an annual catalog for years, but this proposal would move all east campus programs and all graduate programs to an annual catalog as well. This would mean that any curriculum change would be effective the following Fall, and *only* the following Fall, unless there was a very compelling reason to do otherwise. We would begin annual catalogs in Fall 2017.

It was noted that with an annual catalog effective every Fall, any changes would have to be done before students begin registering. Students register for the Fall semester beginning mid-March. Dr. Johannes noted that federal financial aid is also moving to a requirement that they will only fund courses that are in a student's plan of study, so a mid-year change would not be reflected in a plan of study and thus would cause financial aid issues for students.

It was cited that we have had multiple curriculum changes come through the Senate this year with claims of essential approval despite problems. A hard and fast deadline may alleviate some of the pressure to approve paperwork improperly submitted.

It was noted that we haven't printed the last couple of catalogs. Most of our students, including graduate students, hear about and research our programs online.

⇒ Motion by Francisco Saldivar, seconded by Jim Barron that **the Senate recommends to the Provost that we move to an annual catalog that is only available online.**

⇒ Motion carried.

B. Proposed: One Summer Senate Meeting

It was noted that the College of Arts & Sciences position on Senate is still open.

We will have some additional curriculum coming through at the end of this semester, and a meeting in May will be needed. A quorum of members was available for a meeting on May 12, so it was scheduled.

IV. BYLAW CHANGES – FIRST READING

Item 65 Academic Senate Bylaws Article III. Organization of the Academic Senate Section C. Meetings. Addition of statement on electronic voting. *Requires general faculty vote.*

⇒ Motion by Vern Gagnon, seconded by Jim Barron to **approve Item 65 on first reading.**

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Francisco Saldivar to **waive second reading of Item 65.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Since it is so late in the year, we will not hold a General Faculty Meeting. However, the bylaw changes the Senate has done this year will be sent out to the faculty for an electronic vote before the end of the semester.

V. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS continued

C. Implications of Tuition Increase vs. Tuition Freeze

Guest: Trudy Collins, Budget Officer

Ms. Collins noted that every year we have cost increases related to salary and benefits, insurance, library and I.T. inflation, and operating costs inflation. They build the budget based on the cost increases, and then the state pays a percentage of those increases, usually around 40%. MSUB makes up the 60% with tuition. The agreement of a tuition freeze means the state will fund the difference between our budget and the cost increases we accumulate every year, but that funding is never 100%. The state has provided additional funding during each tuition freeze, but it is not enough to cover the difference between our cost increases and tuition. Other units in the system, like Bozeman, cover the difference with growing enrollment and out-of-state tuition, but our enrollment is generally flat, so we must cut our budgets. If there is not a tuition freeze, we can only increase our tuition to cover costs; we are not allowed to use that funding to generate new

programs. The Board of Regents reserves the right during every legislative year to not set tuition until the legislative session is finished. However, the Regents have made deals with the governor to freeze tuition before the legislature is done.

It was suggested that we shouldn't recommend any numbers, but rather recommend that the BOR freeze tuition and fully fund the cost increases for the campuses. We have been eating the cost increases for the last 10 years of frozen tuition.

⇒ Motion by Cindy Dell, seconded by Francisco Saldivar to **leave this topic until the student Senate member is present.**

⇒ Motion carried.

D. Theatre Program Moratorium and the Program Prioritization Process

Steve Coffman stated that although the Program Prioritization Process recommendations indicated that the Theatre program be maintained or even grown, it was cut instead. What most likely happened was a one-year faculty member in the program was seen as low-hanging fruit. Dr. Coffman is not advocating bringing the Theatre program back, but rather a discussion needs to take place about the program prioritization document and how it was used or dismissed. Given that the Theatre program was not recommended to be phased out, the program prioritization process seemed to give the appearance of participation without actual input into decisions.

It was suggested that the Senate ask that the program prioritization recommendations be dismissed and set aside. However, a lot of work by a lot of people across campus went into those recommendations, so dismissing them outright is probably not best. It was cited that the program prioritization process was not about budgets and cutting programs, but rather as a response to our accreditor, NWCCU, saying we had too many programs for an institution of our size. The recommendations that resulted from the process didn't actually get rid of any programs. It was further noted that it was not clear among the groups that participated in the process what the checkboxes (grow, maintain, integrate, phase out) meant and in the Theatre case, the checkbox recommendations and the comments are opposite.

It was noted that we do still need clarity of what cuts are made when by who. The majority of the University's budget is people. Faculty should not be involved in situations where they decide which of their colleagues are cut.

The Senate has four questions about the program prioritization process:

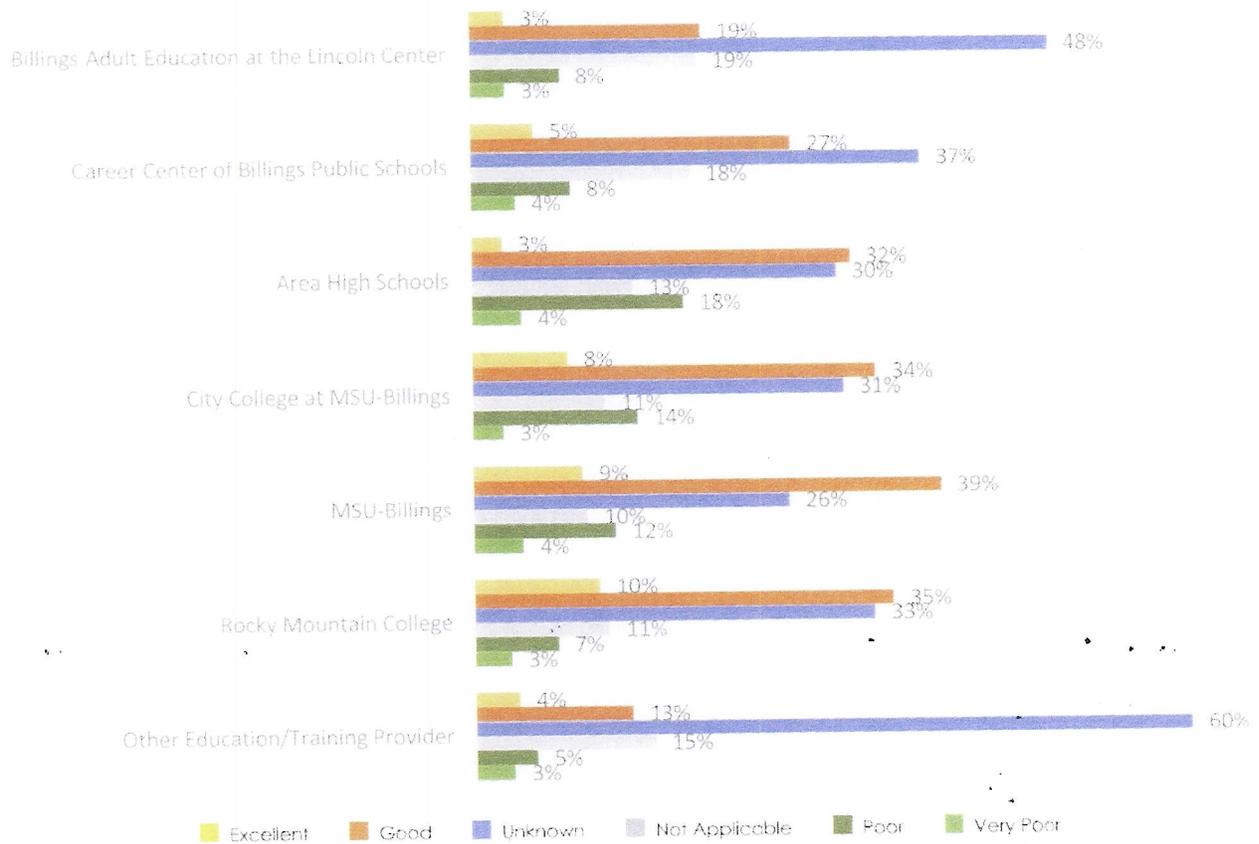
1. Does the Senate want the program prioritization document used in any way?
2. Will we need to reduce our number of programs for accreditation?
3. How are programs chosen to be placed on moratorium?
4. Do we have concerns regarding the role of Senate in budgetary decisions?

It was responded that this program prioritization document is out of date and no longer useful. It was also noted that the program prioritization process brought to light that our program review process needs to become regular. The BOR mandated reviews are nearly useless, so we must build our own evaluation process and calendar for our accreditation reviews. It was cited that there is a lot of data that should be regularly run and distributed to departments. That data should also include the research and scholarly activity produced by faculty in those departments.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

rjrm

Please rate how well programs from the following education and training providers align to your workforce needs



The full 2016 State of the Workforce Report will be released on May 3, 2016

Email Brittney@bigskyeda.org to receive a copy at your office or to be emailed a PDF of the report.



Tuition freeze information for Academic Senate

1. Cost increases occur each year
 - Salary and benefit increases
 - State fixed costs (Risk management insurance, Audit, IT)
 - Present law adjustments (costs to continue at same service level)
 - Annualization of previous year's salary and benefit increases
 - Utilities usage and rate increases
 - Operating cost inflation
 - Library and IT inflation
2. In the absence of an agreement to **freeze tuition**, cost increases are covered by a mix of state support and student tuition. In theory, the calculation attempts to cover 100% of the cost increases. The split is around 40% State Support and 60% coming from student tuition rate increases. The tuition rate increases are not intended to generate additional revenue to fund new items. New items continue to be funded through reallocation of existing budgets or through enrollment growth.
3. Neither the Governor or the Legislature has the authority to set tuition for the Montana University System. The authority rests with the Board of Regents. When an agreement is struck between the Board of Regents and the Governor to **freeze tuition**, the agreement is contingent upon the Legislature providing a larger percentage of state support to offset the cost increases. Under a tuition freeze, resident and Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) tuition rates are not changed. Nonresident tuition is increased to offset a small portion of the cost increases.
4. Tuition rates for City College majors have been frozen for the past ten years and tuition rates for University majors have been frozen for eight of the past ten years. Nonresident students have seen modest tuition increase during the past ten years.
5. Although much appreciated, in the past 10 years of tuition freezes, the state support increase has been insufficient to cover the cost increases. The remainder of the cost increases has come from internal reallocations or budget reductions. Some campuses in the Montana University system have covered the difference through enrollment increases (specifically nonresident students) and increases on nonresident tuition rates.
6. The impact of a tuition freeze?
 - a. Affordable tuition for Montana and WUE families
 - b. Less student loan debt for Montana and WUE students
 - c. A higher percentage of the budget supported by the State
 - d. Without enrollment growth, the inability to cover cost increases (salaries, benefits, inflation) requires cost reductions and budget reallocations within the existing base budget
7. Questions?

This is the basis upon which the Theatre programs were placed on moratorium. Steve Coffman

Department Chair - Overall Recommendation for the Degree

Grow Maintain Integrate Phase Out

Overall Recommendation Comments:

The BA in Theatre is a valuable option for the diversified student population at MSUBillings. We need one new TT line and one part-time professor in Theater in order to maintain the program.

DEAN - Overall Recommendation for the Degree

Grow Maintain Integrate Phase Out

Overall Recommendation Comments:

B.A degree in theatre is distinct in Montana. Theatre programs warrant strong integration with community resources in performing arts. Service expectations inherent to the TT position will lead to expansion and better realize the program potential and community expertise.

Academic Senate - Overall Recommendation for the Degree

Grow Maintain Integrate Phase Out

Overall Recommendation Comments:

votes: 1 grow, 7 maint, 1 int, 1 PO

APC - Overall Recommendation for the Degree

Grow Maintain Integrate Phase Out

Overall Recommendation Comments:

How are your recommendations supported by the University Strategic Plan? Comment on the disagreement in recommendations thus far.

Provost - Overall Recommendation for the Degree

Grow Maintain Integrate Phase Out

Overall Recommendation Comments:

We will attempt to maintain this option during the coming year. We have not had a tenure track line for this program in quite some time. Due to budget shortfalls for the coming year, we are going to freeze this line for at least the 2014-15 academic year. During this time, we will determine the viability of the major and gage student and faculty interest.