

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: September 24, 2015

PRESENT: Tom Dell Patricia Vettel-Becker
A.J. Otjen Cindy Dell
Francisco Saldivar James Barron
Andrew Sullivan Vern Gagnon
Paul Pope Sarah Keller
Stephen Coffman Baudry Metangmo (student)
Diane Duin (ex-officio) Christine Shearer (ex-officio)
Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio) Clifford Coppersmith (ex-officio)
Matt Redinger (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Susan Gilbertz* Kelly Shumway*
Barbara Wheeling (ex-officio)* Robert Hoar (ex-officio)*
Terrie Iverson (ex-officio) Joe Oravec (ex-officio)
* *excused*

GUESTS: Mark Nook Cheri Johannes
David Craig Keith Edgerton
Patricio Mori Jodi Lightner

PRESIDING: Cindy Dell, Vice Chair

Cindy Dell called the meeting to order at 3:41 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

The minutes of September 10 were accepted as presented.

I. CHANCELLOR REPORT

Chancellor Nook stated he would also report for Provost Bob Hoar who was attending a task force meeting in Bozeman. Dr. Nook handed out a sheet on the Long Range Building Program (LRBP), and explained that first we put forward our priorities, which then are bundled with all MSU priorities, which are then bundled with the entire University System priorities. The final list is sent to the Montana Legislature, which then

discusses and dissects the list and approves some of it. Items 1-3 on the list are our biggest issues: (1) demolition of the Computer Annex and Poly Building, (2) modernizing the lecture halls in the Library, and (3) demolition of the current Art Annex and construction of a new Sculpture and Ceramic Arts Building somewhere on campus. Dr. Nook stated that several legislators were on campus yesterday for a tour of the buildings, and it went quite well. For the LRBP, we are required to plan through the next three biennia. If our top three are all approved, it will actually decrease our campus building square footage.

A request was made for a Yellowstone Hall fundraising update. Dr. Nook responded that we are bumping against several other fundraising efforts in town and are thus re-tooling our approach.

Dr. Nook also noted that they are moving forward with the plan he mentioned at the Senate Retreat, to research how many former students we have who completed the requirements for an associate's degree but did not apply to graduate. We have 144 of those students, who we are now contacting and we are going to post those degrees with the students' consent. Our performance based funding will be positively impacted by these students. October 1 is the day they pull our records, and we hope to have 60 of them done by then. Dr. Nook hopes to do this process every three years, if possible. It was suggested that many students end up taking more than 120 credits because they were unaware of the upper division credit rule. We need to make sure students are informed, but also departments could increase the number of 300-level courses offered. This is an especially big issue with transfer students.

Chancellor Nook stated that they are moving forward with some retention initiatives. Provost Bob Hoar and Vice Chancellor Joe Oravec are working on a charge to strengthen the support for at-risk students through the Advising & Career Center. They will work with students who are at high risk of dropping out but may not be eligible for services from Student Support Services (formerly Student Opportunity Services). Some strategies considered include requiring the student to meet with an advisor throughout the semester, or requesting the student meet with each of his or her instructors just to see how things are going (this checked off through a sheet returned to the advisor). Included in this at-risk group are the students who don't come back after their freshman year, even though 89% of them are academically eligible. We want to wrap those students a bit closer so we don't lose them. Provost Hoar and Vice Chancellor Oravec will also be forming an Advising Task Force. There will also be an Athletic Advisory Committee, formed under NCAA rules, which will be 50% MSUB employees.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Matt Redinger, Vice Provost, reported that the Student Success Committee is meeting tomorrow to finalize their report to the Chancellor.

Francisco Saldivar reported that the University Budget Committee (UBC) met and discussed strategies to for fall-to-spring retention. No budget numbers were provided, but the Committee was notified that we are lower than our target enrollment for Fall. Dr. Nook noted that between the enrollment reserve and some funding from Bozeman, we will not need to cut budgets for this year. However, the worry then is next year. Mr. Saldivar noted that the UBC co-chairs for this year are Provost Hoar and Professor Tony Hecimovic of Educational Theory and Practice.

Cheri Johannes, Registrar, noted that we currently have about 100 students who have not paid this semester. Tuesday (September 29) is the 15th day, so they will be dropped at that point if they have not paid. Her office is currently contacting those students.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Sabbatical Committee Request

The request for 10 names for the Sabbatical Committee has been received from the Provost. The Senate agreed to use the same procedure as last year, to request members by email. Those who had a sabbatical during the 2014-2015 year will be first on the list.

IV. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 12 Committee Report for 2014-2015: Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

⇒ Motion by Steve Coffman, seconded by Paul Pope to **accept Item 12 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 14 Emeritus Nomination: Sandra Kay Streeter, Department of Educational Theory and Practice, College of Education. For information.

⇒ Motion by Steve Coffman, seconded by Vern Gagnon to **accept Item 14 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

V. CONSENT ITEMS

Item 8 BSBA Major in Business Administration Online General Business Option. Modification to an existing program.

Item 8.a BGEN 347 Integrated Business Cases and Simulation. Delete course.

The Consent Agenda was accepted as presented.

VI. ITEM – FIRST READING

Item 13 Interdisciplinary Honors Minor. New program.

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

David Craig, Director of the Honors Program, noted that honors minors are very rare in this country. MSU-Bozeman is about to launch two of them. The question was raised as to the honors seminar courses being offered often enough to make them regular courses. Dr. Craig responded that they have had difficulty offering the seminars and are moving away from that strategy to small departmental seminars that also work for the Honors program.

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Vern Gagnon, seconded by Francisco Saldivar to **waive second reading of Item 13.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS continued

B. RevUp Grant Project (formerly SWAMMEI) Discussion: Vern Gagnon

Mr. Gagnon noted that since the last meeting he has learned that this project will be under a rigid MOU with Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC), which is the lead institution on the project. The idea is that we would take FVCC's whole program and embed it into our curriculum, knowing that the courses would be taught online by FVCC faculty. MSUB would provide the lab time and equipment, which is paid for through the grant. Initially three programs were proposed: Electronics Technician, Industrial Maintenance, and Machinist Technician. The Machinist Technician idea has been dropped since we do not have the equipment to offer such a program, and the funding for this program's equipment has been moved to other priorities. The Electronics Technician program has a lot of cross-walk with our energy programs. The Industrial Maintenance program is more new curriculum and equipment.

The issues Mr. Gagnon would like the Senate to discuss: MSUB will not have a faculty in this program, so how will new curriculum be proposed? Going forward we will not have a faculty member or program lead, so where should each be housed? This grant is giving us funding to test out whether these are viable programs we would like to keep in the future, but non-grant funding would eventually be needed. It was agreed that the Senate is comfortable with a Department Chair putting together new curriculum and signing off on it, even though the courses will be taught by part-time faculty.

It was noted that we will get the FTE from the courses we will offer. We must meet the FVCC outcomes, and our students may have to take two MSUB courses to meet the outcomes of one of FVCC's courses. The students will be registered as MSUB students and MSUB will count them as completers as they finish. We will have to pay FVCC for the online courses, but that sum is not yet decided. These new programs for MSUB will have to have Board of Regents approval, Level II. The curriculum will belong to MSUB faculty, so when the grant ends, we will have to decide if we want to keep the programs.

Dr. Johannes noted that programs of less than 30 credits are not financial aid eligible. Also, please be aware that, as the Senate approves new programs, lead time is important since not only the Regents but also the U.S. Department of Education, Veterans Administration, and many others need to be notified and approve new programs.

C. Review/Revise Emeritus Policy

The question for the Senate is, do we want to control this policy, or hand it off? If so, who should handle it? It was noted that the BOR policy on emeritus basically says it's up to the institutions to decide. Our current policy has not standards, and we are basically leaving it up to the nominating department and the Chancellor. There is no oversight.

Sarah Keller stated that we should look into other models at other universities, so she volunteered to do this research. Chancellor Nook stated that he would engage the Senate Chair and the faculty chairperson of the FACC in discussing moving this process into the hands of the unions.

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

rjrm