

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: March 15, 2018

PRESENT:	Suzette Nynas	Jim Barron
	Scott Butterfield	Cindy Dell
	Kelly McCoy	Susan Gilbertz
	Heather Thompson-Bahm	Joy Honea
	Kelly Shumway	Paul Pope
	Sarah Keller	Rachael Waller
	Christine Shearer (ex-officio)	Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)
	Robert Hoar (ex-officio)	Matt Redinger (ex-officio)
	Darlene Hert (ex-officio)	

ABSENT:	Vern Gagnon*	Katelyn Focht (student)*
	Diane Duin (ex-officio)*	Cliff Coppersmith (ex-officio)
	Trudy Collins (ex-officio)	Joe Oravec (ex-officio)
	* <i>excused</i>	

GUESTS:	Michael Barber	Cindy Bell
	Susan Balter-Reitz	Cheri Johannes
	Ron Larsen	Kurt Toenjes
	Jennifer Pope	Becky Lyons
	Sam Boerboom	

PRESIDING: Susan Gilbertz, Chair

Susan Gilbertz called the meeting to order at 3:39 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Order your graduation regalia as soon as possible!

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 15 were accepted as presented.

III. CHANCELLOR REPORT

Chancellor Larsen explained that we have entered the busy time of year, with lots of awards and ceremonial activities.

IV. PROVOST REPORT

The Board of Regents approved our equipment fee request, so that funding will be released very soon. They also approved the demolition of the old Computer Annex/Academic Support Center building. It will come down this summer. The BOR approved six emeritus faculty for MSUB as well as our new Chancellor.

V. OTHER REPORTS

Information Technology Annual Report

Guest: Michael Barber, Chief Information Officer

Dr. Barber listed the current projects of the I.T. department:

- CRM Radius – communicate more readily with incoming students
- Academic Works – for students to apply for scholarships online and ensures easier distribution of those applications to the scholarship review committee
- Digital Measures – collection and storage of faculty activity
- Digital Measures Workflow – for faculty evaluations/tenure process
- AccuSQL – for scheduling tutors with the Academic Support Center
- CourseLeaf – first the catalog will be built into their system, then the workflow for the curriculum process. May be training for the workflow at start of Fall 2018 semester. Main advantage to the electronic workflow is that paperwork no longer gets lost or stopped and no one knows where it went.
- Bookstore updates to get faculty into the textbook system
- Jacket Proud working on employee engagement survey using Qualtrics
- Early Alert is working well
- I.T. is now using new Help Desk software
- TIEL classroom will receive a number of software updates
- Bozeman is discontinuing their course evaluation product, so we are moving with them to IDEA
- DocuSign – for anything that needs electronic approval not covered by CourseLeaf and Box
- The new 10 gig circuit to Bozeman, which we have been talking about for years, is finally up and running. We have substantially more bandwidth as a result.

VI. CONSENT ITEM

Item 51 Certificate of AS in Pharmacy Technician. Modification to an existing program.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Jim Barron to **accept the consent agenda.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VII. ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Item 55 Emeritus Nomination: W. Gregory Allard, Department of Educational Theory & Practice, College of Education. For information.

⇒ Motion by Cindy Dell, seconded by Paul Pope to **accept Item 55 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VIII. ITEM – FIRST READING

Item 50 COMT 587 Applied Communication Theory. New course.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Scott Butterfield to **approve Item 50 on first reading.**

New course for Dual Credit instructors in the high schools.

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Joy Honea to **waive second reading of Item 50.**

⇒ Motion carried.

IX. ITEM FOR INFORMATION continued

Item 41 CARE Grants Report on Gender/Tenure/Discipline Bias.

⇒ Motion by Cindy Dell, seconded by Paul Pope to **accept Item 41 for information.**

This report came about from a concern voiced by a faculty member that there may be bias in how the CARE Committee awards grants. Cindy Bell, Director of Grants & Sponsored Programs, put together this report. Ms. Bell noted that the Committee members use a rubric to help score each proposal, but it is meant to be a means for discussion only, not hard criteria. The rubric is based directly on the CARE application guidelines. Ms. Bell noted that the award data was compared based on gender, department, and tenure status of the submitter. Overall, women are 13% lower in awards than men. There does appear to be a bias toward science as opposed to arts and literature.

It was noted that one faculty member has applied many times with lots of denials. Perhaps some training for that faculty member, and all faculty, on how to write a proposal could be a solution. It was noted that the data presented, indicating success rates, supposes that all CARE grant submissions are of equal merit, but are they?

It was cited that we need a better way to determine quality proposals. Adding members to the CARE Committee to cover all disciplines will help, but more is needed. Also, we may be looking at a discipline bias that ends up looking like gender bias.

Ms. Bell noted that in the 2016-17 year, the CARE Committee contacted the submitters to ask them targeted questions about their proposals. The Committee has not done this before, and it was very helpful to the members. They plan to continue the practice. It was suggested that the CARE Committee bylaws should be modified to indicate disciplines to be represented and whether the Committee should continue with a Senator as Chairperson. The Committee will bring recommended bylaw changes to the Senate in Fall 2018.

Regarding the submission criteria, it was noted that external funding is not the only goal of awarding CARE funds. This gives rise to a bias for the biological & physical sciences, since they are most likely to bring external funding. It was suggested that CARE funds only be awarded to non-tenured faculty, but it was responded that then tenured faculty would need a separate process to procure funding.

It was noted that the Senate should continue to analyze the CARE award rates in the future.

⇒ Motion carried.

X. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Gen Ed Committee Report

Jim Barron, GEC Chair, stated that a couple Senate meetings ago, it was requested that the GEC talk with the College of Education about the Praxis test. It was suggested that the Praxis test could replace the Proficiency Profile for Elementary Education majors only, as an assessment of Gen Ed. Several COE faculty and staff came to the GEC meeting in February and the tests were discussed. The GEC voted to recommend to the Senate that the Praxis test not be used as an exemption for Elementary Ed students, but rather the Proficiency Profile test be mandatory for all four-year students. Matt Redinger, Vice Provost, noted that this would be a huge step forward regarding the recommendation we are going to receive from NWCCU.

Dr. Barron noted that students would be eligible to take the Proficiency Profile once they have completed Gen Ed. If a student is taking their final Gen Ed course in their final semester, the test will have to be completed during that semester. In the meantime, we

will continue to do voluntary testing. Dr. Barron also believes that students will try on the exam, rather than just rushing through it, if they are properly motivated by a pep talk, which will likely be in video form because the testing will mostly be done online.

The question was raised as to how this testing requirement will be policed. It will indeed fall to the Admissions Office. Cheri Johannes, Registrar, noted that it would likely work best to create a registration hold. That is, once a student has completed Gen Ed, a hold would be placed so they could not register for the next semester until the test is completed. It was noted the hold may even be placed earlier, so students keep hitting it and get reminded to do the test. Chancellor Larsen noted that the Bozeman engineering program has created a zero-credit course in which the students take the assessment test.

⇒ Motion by Jim Barron, seconded by Suzette Nynas to **accept the GEC recommendation to make the Proficiency Profile test required of all students before graduation.**

⇒ Motion by Cindy Dell, seconded by Rachael Waller to **amend the motion to exempt Elementary Education majors from the graduation requirement.**

It was noted that the Praxis test is state-mandated for Elementary Education majors. The question was raised as to whether the Praxis test data could be used as an appropriate sample of all our students' Gen Ed knowledge, but it was agreed it would not.

⇒ Motion to amend failed.

⇒ Motion to accept GEC recommendation carried: 7 for, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions.

B. Homeless Courses Round 2: A&SC, HUMN, RD

The A&SC courses are still an issue, only because they are academic courses delivered by Student Affairs staff, outside the purview of the Academic Senate. This is not about the qualifications of the instructors, but a greater discussion of the "home" of the courses, especially the First Year Experience course (A&SC 111) and what it is intended to do.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

rjrm