

## ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

**DATE:** April 25, 2019

**PRESENT:** Suzette Nynas  
Scott Butterfield  
Heather Thompson-Bahm  
Vern Gagnon  
Austin Bennett  
Rachael Waller  
Christine Shearer (ex-officio)  
Florence Garcia (ex-officio)

Jim Barron  
Kelly McCoy  
Sarah Keller  
Sam Boerboom  
Jennifer Lynn  
Joy Honea (ex-officio)  
Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)  
Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)

**ABSENT:** Cindy Dell\*  
Halle Keltner (student)  
Ed Garding (ex-officio)\*  
Melinda Arnold (ex-officio)  
Darlene Hert (ex-officio)

Keith Edgerton\*  
John Dorr (ex-officio)\*  
Vicki Trier (ex-officio)  
Trudy Collins (ex-officio)

*\* excused*

**GUESTS:** Sonny Ramaswamy (NWCCU President)  
Dan Edelman  
A.J. Otjen  
Rakesh Sah  
Mara Pierce  
Josh Hill

Becky Anglin  
Sougata Das  
Cheri Johannes  
Anne Cole

**PRESIDING:** Jim Barron, Chair

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

### I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new Senators were welcomed. Dr. Barron announced that NWCCU President Sonny Ramaswamy is on campus today and asked to meet with the Senate.

Dr. Ramaswamy stated that NWCCU is in the midst of a major overhaul of their Standards. As a result of a survey of member institutions, they learned that the Standards are exceptionally onerous and accreditation visits are very expensive. So, they decided to focus on the purpose of NWCCU, which is educating students with accountability to those students. The Standards have been reduced from eight to just two! They did receive feedback that both academic freedom and shared governance are not mentioned in the updated Standards, but those are listed in the eligibility requirements.

The revised standard—draft number four—will be voted on by the commissioners in June. Public comment will be received over the summer, and the approximate 160 member institutions will vote on draft number five in August. After the Standards are finished, NWCCU will set up hands-on training sessions. Some institutions will be piloted in January 2020, and full deployment will happen in 2021.

Also, MSUB will no longer be charged a fee when visited by NWCCU. Other fees will be reduced as well. Innovation is encouraged, just keep NWCCU apprised of what you are doing.

Dr. Ramaswamy asked that the Senators read the updated Standards when they become available. He thanked the Senate for their time.

## II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 11 were accepted as presented.

## III. ELECTIONS

### A. Three Vice Chairs

⇒ Vern Gagnon nominated Heather Thompson-Bahm for Vice Chair, and Sarah Keller seconded.

⇒ Sarah Keller nominated Kelly McCoy for Vice Chair, and Vern Gagnon seconded.

⇒ Sarah Keller nominated Cindy Dell for Vice Chair, and Rachael Waller seconded.

⇒ The three Vice Chairs were elected by acclamation.

### B. Secretary

Jennifer Lynn volunteered to serve as Secretary.

⇒ Dr. Lynn was elected by acclamation.

#### IV. PROVOST REPORT

Although the Provost is not present today, the question was raised as to the fate of the curriculum changes which have not been approved this year. The Vice Provost and others have asked and received no response. It was noted that this lack of information means programs cannot plan for Fall 2019 and onward.

Sarah Keller, Co-Chair of the Strategic Program Alignment group, noted that SPA is moving forward with the next round of programs to be modified. Reports concerning the revise/integrate programs are due to the committee by May 8. That information will be disbursed to the Departments by the Vice Provost.

#### V. ITEMS – FIRST READING

**Item 59** BFIN 430 Financial Modeling. New course.

**Item 59.a** BFIN 439 Financial Management II: Analysis/Problems. New course.

**Item 59.b** BFIN 441 Advanced Analysis of Financial Statements. New course.

**Item 59.c** BFIN 461 Portfolio Management. New course.

**Item 59.d** BFIN 464 Fixed Income Analysis. New course.

**Item 59.e** BFIN 473 Multinational Financial Management. New course.

**Item 59.f** BSBA Major in Business Administration Finance Option. Modification to an existing program.

**Item 59.g** Minor in Finance. Modification to an existing program.

⇒ Motion by Sarah Keller, seconded by Jennifer Lynn to **approve Items 59 through 59.g on first reading.**

Several questions were raised about this program adding so many new courses without new faculty, and with declining enrollment. Faculty indicated that more changes will be forthcoming next year, but they wanted to get started on the reinvigoration of this program now. The changes presented today are not effective until Fall 2020 anyway. The Senate asked that additional updates/changes to this program be brought forward before this packet is fully approved.

⇒ Motion carried with 3 opposed.

Second reading will be held next semester.

**Item 64** WRIT 101 College Writing I. Add prerequisite.

⇒ Motion by Vern Gagnon, seconded by Jennifer Lynn to **approve Item 64 on first reading.**

Anne Cole, City College Instructor, noted that they think about 150 students a year will need to take RD 101.

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Vern Gagnon, seconded by Scott Butterfield to **waive second reading of Item 64.**

⇒ Motion carried.

**Item 65** WRIT 104 Workplace Communications. Add prerequisite.

**Item 65.a** WRIT 121 Introduction to Technical Writing. Change prerequisite.

**Item 65.b** WRIT 122 Introduction to Business Writing. Change prerequisite.

Ms. Cole noted that the City College Curriculum Council was moving a bit slow with these proposals. The UCC expedited approval for these just today.

⇒ Motion by Vern Gagnon, seconded by Scott Butterfield to **approve Items 65 through 65.b on first reading.**

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Scott Butterfield, seconded by Vern Gagnon to **waive second reading of Items 65 through 65.b.**

⇒ Motion carried.

## VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

### A. Faculty Diversity Committee: Proposal & Bylaws

Guest: Mara Pierce

⇒ Motion by Vern Gagnon, seconded by Kelly McCoy to **approve the proposed bylaws.**

The question was raised as to who would appoint people to this committee. If it is moved under the Senate, the Senate will appoint people to it. Dr. Pierce noted that they already have members ready to go.

It was noted that the name of the committee is confusing. It may lead people to think the committee's focus is diversity among faculty.

It was cited that Senate committees are empowered to make decisions. What decisions would this committee make? If a class is found to be lacking (and how would that happen?), would there be penalties? What kind of penalties? It was suggested that the Faculty Diversity Committee could become part of the shared governance system in order to review curriculum for diversity. But, they can do that now!

⇒ Motion by Scott Butterfield to table the proposal.

The proposal will be discussed again in the Fall.

**B. Annual Review of Administrators by Faculty: Ad Hoc Committee Members**

The five volunteers are:

Paul Pope, CAS  
Jennifer Scroggins, CAS  
Salem Boumediene, COB  
Patricio Mori, COB  
Randy Schmitz, City College

⇒ The Committee was approved by acclamation.

Dr. Barron will draft a charge for the group, and send it to Senators for review via email. This summer the committee can do research on other institutions in preparation for Fall.

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

rjrm

The purpose of this proposal is to request for the Faculty Diversity Committee to exist under the purview of the Montana State University Billings Academic Senate as a university-wide serving committee.

The purpose and mission of the Faculty Diversity Committee is to identify current diversity issues and recognize/engage opportunities to build best practices inside and out of the classroom, throughout program curricula, and amongst campus entities. We address diversity concerns and work on solutions that lead to stronger, more effective teaching and preparation of the students at MSUB.

The proposed composition of the committee is faculty, staff, and students. The current composition includes faculty from the College of Allied Health Professions, College of Business, College of Education, and College of Arts and Sciences, as well as the Director of TRIO and the Director of Institutional Research.

We believe this committee fits under the oversight of the Academic Senate because of its first priority to assist faculty in working most effectively with all diversified student populations in and out of the classroom, thereby ensuring access to enriched longitudinal student success, retention and inclusive recruitment. We are most hopeful that the committee will be able to provide faculty with tools to reach higher levels of outstanding academic service free from biases that have potential to marginalize student groups and individuals even in the smallest, perhaps most undetectable, ways.

## Faculty Diversity Committee

a) Composition

The Faculty Diversity Committee shall consist of one (1) faculty member from each academic college, one (1) undergraduate student, one (1) graduate student, one (1) representative of the Diversity Subcommittee and the Diversity Coordinator (upon inception of the position). It is appropriate for junior faculty to serve on the Faculty Diversity Committee since no experience or prior knowledge is required to serve.

b) Officers

The chairperson(s) will be elected by majority after s/he/they have completed a first year, and shall serve a two-year term as the chairperson(s).

c) Terms of Membership

Faculty members shall serve three-year terms and shall be appointed by the Academic Senate from a list of nominees provided by the Committee on Faculty Service. The students may be appointed each year by the President of ASMSUB. Any vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as initial appointments.

d) Functions

The Faculty Diversity Committee shall:

- (1) Communicate and collaborate with the Diversity Coordinator and Director of the Center for Engagement regarding the following:
  - a. planning of programs, use of applicable space, and resources to support diversity in and out of the classroom
  - b. evaluation of programs, and use of applicable space and resources acquired to support diversity in and out of the classroom
  - c. policy, services, and curriculum development
- (2) Function as a liaison and champion to disseminate and share information between the Faculty Diversity Committee and the academic community.

e) Accountability

The Committee chairperson(s) shall report to the Academic Senate on Committee activities regarding the functions listed above at the end of Fall and Spring Semesters.