



ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: November 19, 2020

PRESENT: Suzette Nynas
Keith Edgerton
Scott Butterfield
Rachael Waller
Vern Gagnon
Austin Bennett
Christine Shearer (ex-officio)
Vicki Trier (ex-officio)
Darlene Hert (ex-officio)

Jim Barron
Jennifer Lynn
Natalie Bohlmann
John Pannell
Sam Boerboom
Naomi Norris (student)
Robert Nava (ex-officio)
Jana Marcette (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Don Larsen*
Kurt Toenjes (ex-officio)
Melinda Arnold (ex-officio)*
Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)
* *excused*

Heather Thompson-Bahm*
Richard Beer (ex-officio)
Susan Simmers (ex-officio)*

GUESTS: Kathleen Thatcher
Sydney Donaldson

Cheri Johannes
Melinda Tilton

PRESIDING: Jim Barron, Chair

Jim Barron called the meeting to order at 3:41 p.m. in Library 148, with members and guests attending via Webex.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 12 were accepted as presented.

III. PROVOST & CHANCELLOR REPORT

The Provost & Chancellor are both attending the BOR meeting today.

IV. OTHER REPORTS

Gen Ed Committee Update: Melinda Tilton, Co-Chair

Ms. Tilton assured the Senate that, regardless of where the charge to change Gen Ed came from, the GEC is moving forward with changing Gen Ed for the better. The group has just begun work on creating 8 to 10 programmatic outcomes, instead of the 30 category-based outcomes. They hope to have those outcomes to the Senate by the end of Spring semester. The Committee deeply appreciates Kathleen Thatcher's knowledge on assessment. They do not plan any major changes to the categories of Gen Ed, and we are one of the institutions in Montana most closely aligned with the MUS Gen Ed Core. The GEC and its two subcommittees are pleased to collaborate with Laura Gittings-Carlson, who has been tasked with reimagining A&SC 111.

ASMSUB Resolution for Online Option, Second Draft: Naomi Norris, ASMSUB Student Resolution Officer

Ms. Norris noted she still needs to take the word "option" out of the title of this resolution. The feedback she received from the student government is that the language is not strong enough. However, she realizes that students cannot tell faculty how to teach.

The question was raised as to whether the survey of students about course modality has been completed. It was responded that the survey is done, and the data are ready to be analyzed. It was suggested that the results of the survey and this resolution could be sent out to the faculty at the same time.

It was noted that the way this resolution is written, and campus COVID policy as well, students can use the online accommodations in a face-to-face course and never come to class the whole semester. This has happened to some faculty. This is not the intent of the resolution, but if students say they are staying home because they are sick, faculty and the University cannot question that. Further, it's not clear to faculty what, if any, guidelines are out there for accommodations. Some students may be expecting more than is appropriate.

If the issue with instructors requiring students to attend class even when sick is limited to just a few instructors (who may be part-time), that should be handled on a much smaller scale in the department. A resolution is not necessary. Ms. Norris stated that she saw a need for such a resolution, because students are having problems.

It was suggested that the Senate send out a statement promoting student success. It was agreed that Dr. Barron and Ms. Norris work on a short joint statement from the Academic Senate and ASMSUB, reinforcing all the parts of the COVID policy and faculty

agreements, and supporting student success. The statement could even include a call for faculty to put accommodations on the syllabus, which will protect faculty and give students a guideline.

V. ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Item 13 Programs to be placed on moratorium as a result of Strategic Program

Alignment Round 2:

- Mathematics Bachelor of Science Degree
- Mathematics Minor
- Reading Bachelor of Science (which includes the Elementary Education/Reading Double Major K-8 Bachelor of Science in Education Degree, K-12 Reading Endorsement and Secondary Education/Reading Double Major 5-12 Bachelor of Science in Education Degree, K-12 Reading Endorsement)
- Spanish (K-12) Teaching Minor
- Spanish Teaching Licensure Option Bachelor of Arts Degree
- Spanish Bachelor of Arts Degree

⇒ Motion by John Pannell to **accept Item 13 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VI. ITEM FOR APPROVAL

Title	Status	Received
GEO 315: Structural Geology	Edited	10/27/2020

Dr. Barron noted that this is not an edit, but rather a new course. We had this course several years ago and it was deleted. However, because of Common Course Numbering and CourseLeaf, we will re-use the same number to reactivate the course. It will be taught in-load by current faculty.

⇒ Motion by Austin Bennett to **approve GEO 315.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VII. ITEMS – FIRST READING

Item 12 Dual Credit Policy. New policy.

⇒ Motion by Austin Bennett to **approve Item 12 on first reading.**

Last year the Senate learned that the University of Montana had put together a dual credit policy, and it would be a good idea for us to have one as well. The ad hoc committee of Austin Bennett, Emily Arendt, and Sydney Donaldson (Director of Dual Enrollment) worked to write this policy, and it has already been reviewed by the Executive Committee.

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Austin Bennett to **waive second reading of Item 12.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 10 Academic Senate Bylaws. Modification to Article III. Organization of the Academic Senate to include a process to remove the Chair.

⇒ Motion by Austin Bennett to **approve Item 10 on first reading.**

It was noted that we did vote last week to create a process to remove the chair. We can rescind that if we want to.

Former Senate Chair Bruce Brumley found the following in Robert's Rules:

Except as the bylaws may provide otherwise, any regularly elected officer of a permanent society can be removed from office by the society's assembly as follows:

If the bylaws provide that officers shall serve "for ___ years or until their successors are elected," the officer in question can be removed from office by adoption of a motion to do so. The vote required for adoption of such a motion is (a) a two-thirds vote, (b) a majority vote when previous notice (as defined on p. 121) has been given, or (c) a vote of a majority of the entire membership—any one of which will suffice. A motion to remove an officer from office is a question of privilege (19) affecting the organization of the assembly, and so also is the filling of any vacancy created by the adoption of such a motion.

If, however, the bylaws provide that officers shall serve only a fixed term, such as "for two years" (which is not a recommended wording; see p. 573, l. 33 to p. 574, l. 3), or if they provide that officers shall serve "for ___ years and until their successors are elected," an officer can be removed from office only for cause—that is, neglect of duty in office or misconduct—in accordance with the procedures described in 63; that is, an investigating committee must be appointed, charges must be preferred, and a formal trial must be held.

The Senate can either direct the bylaws to this section of Robert's Rules, or we can adopt the language proposed last week by approving the motion.

⇒ Motion carried with 1 opposed and 4 abstentions.

Item 14 Senate Philosophy on Chair Rotation. New policy.

The right of first refusal has been added to the policy.

⇒ Motion by Austin Bennett to **approve Item 14 on first reading.**

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by John Pannell to **waive second reading of Item 14.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Since the start of the Spring 2021 semester is entirely online, it would be a good idea to remind students. Many students don't know about the online start.

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

rjrm