



## ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

**DATE:** December 3, 2020

**PRESENT:** Suzette Nynas  
Keith Edgerton  
Scott Butterfield  
Rachael Waller  
Heather Thompson-Bahm  
Darlene Hert (ex-officio)

Jim Barron  
Jennifer Lynn  
Natalie Bohlmann  
John Pannell  
Sam Boerboom

**ABSENT:** Don Larsen\*  
Austin Bennett\*  
Kurt Toenjes (ex-officio)  
Richard Beer (ex-officio)  
Vicki Trier (ex-officio)  
Susan Simmers (ex-officio)  
Jana Marcette (ex-officio)

Vern Gagnon\*  
Naomi Norris (student)\*  
Christine Shearer (ex-officio)  
Robert Nava (ex-officio)  
Melinda Arnold (ex-officio)\*  
Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)

*\* excused*

**GUESTS:** Cheri Johannes  
Mark Jacobson  
Sydney Donaldson  
Susan Gilbertz  
Susan Gregory

Stefani Hicswa  
Kathleen Thatcher  
Melinda Tilton  
Joseph Hoover

**PRESIDING:** Jim Barron, Chair

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Jim Barron called the meeting to order at 3:41 p.m. via Webex.

### I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chancellor-Elect Hicswa was welcomed to the meeting.

### II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 19 were accepted as presented.

### III. PROVOST/CHANCELLOR REPORTS

The Provost & Interim Chancellor are attending the Budget Advisory Committee meeting. Chancellor Hicswa noted that she is in a strange place right now—a lame duck at her current institution and not yet started at MSU Billings. She is aware of the big issues MSUB is facing right now, including: budget issues, enrollment, COVID, and the multiple water line issues. Her transition to Chancellor will not bring about huge changes; the strategic plan is good enough. She plans to listen and get to know MSU Billings.

### IV. OTHER REPORTS

None

### V. CONSENT AGENDA

Title	Status	Received
COMX 231: Intro to New Media Skills	Deleted	11/25/2020
COMX 232: Intro to Visual Stroytelling	Deleted	11/25/2020
COMX 280: Intro to Health Communication	Deleted	11/25/2020
THTR 120: Introduction to Acting I	Deleted	11/25/2020

⇒ Motion by Keith Edgerton to **accept the consent agenda.**

⇒ Motion carried.

### VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Group 1		
Advanced Studies Option Applied Behavior Analysis Emphasis Master of Science in Special Education	Edited	11/20/2020

⇒ Motion by Rachael Waller to **approve Group 1.**

Susan Gregory, Educational Theory & Practice, noted that the program is moving from internships to a thesis because of changes from the national accrediting body.

⇒ Motion carried.

Group 2		
Teaching Licensure Option Secondary Majors - Professional Core	Edited	11/25/2020

⇒ Motion by Sam Boerboom to **approve Group 2.**

Natalie Bohlmann stated the College of Education is very thankful for all the help and cooperation in bringing about change to the Professional Core. The English major has already come through, the Health & Human Performance major is on today's agenda, and the other five majors are on their way.

⇒ Motion carried.

Group 3		
Environmental Studies Bachelor of Arts Degree	Edited	11/25/2020

⇒ Motion by Jennifer Lynn to **approve Group 3.**

Susan Gilbertz, Social Sciences & Cultural Studies, noted that this change fixes an error with the required economics course, as well as adds BIOE 202 Intro to Environmental Ecology back into the program. The Department of Biological & Physical Sciences has moved BIOE 202 to an online format and enrollment has improved.

⇒ Motion carried.

Group 4		
Communication Arts Minor	Edited	11/25/2020

⇒ Motion by Keith Edgerton to **approve Group 4.**

Sam Boerboom, Communication, stated that as a result of SPA 2, they are reducing their minors from two to one. The minor's name change is also an extension of the Departmental name change to just "Communication."

⇒ Motion carried.

It was noted that there was a numbering error on the agenda. There are no Groups 5 or 6.

Group 7		
M 329: Modern Geometry	Edited	11/25/2020
Mathematics Teaching Minor	Edited	11/25/2020

⇒ Motion by John Pannell to **approve Group 7.**

Mark Jacobson, Math, stated that they are updating their programs since Math has lost 50% of their faculty in the last year. The teaching major will be on the next agenda.

⇒ Motion carried.

Group 8		
Health and Human Performance Teacher Licensure Option (Health and Physical Education K-12) Bachelor of Science Degree	Edited	11/25/2020

⇒ Motion by Sam Boerboom to **approve Group 8.**

Suzette Nynas, Health & Human Performance, noted that these updates are to align with the new Professional Core and clean up the program.

⇒ Motion carried.

#### VII. ITEM – SECOND READING

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

⇒ Motion by Sam Boerboom to **approve Item 10 on second reading.**

⇒ Motion carried.

#### VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Barron noted that he received an email from Paula McMahon of the Graduate Committee. The Grad Committee needed a chairperson, but all the members are so busy with other committees, they could not commit to serving as chair. Their discussion produced a request of the Senate to work with the faculty unions and compile a list of all the faculty positions on campus committees. Dr. Barron stated that all academic and non-academic departments will need to be asked how many committees they have, and how many faculty positions are on each committee. This should probably not include search committees. It was noted that faculty are feeling very overloaded, especially with the additional strain brought on by COVID, and they are beginning to say no to the many requests they receive.

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

rjrm