



## ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

**DATE:** April 8, 2021

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

Jim Barron  
Jennifer Lynn  
Rakesh Sah  
John Pannell  
Vern Gagnon  
Austin Bennett  
Jana Marcette (ex-officio)

**ABSENT:** Natalie Bohlmann  
Tami Haaland (ex-officio)  
Robert Nava (ex-officio)  
Susan Simmers (ex-officio)  
\* *excused*

Kurt Toenjes (ex-officio)  
Richard Beer (ex-officio)  
Vicki Trier (ex-officio)\*  
Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)

**GUESTS:** Joann Stryker  
Kathleen Thatcher  
Cheri Johannes

Rachel Schaffer  
Stefani Hicswa

**PRESIDING:** Jim Barron, Chair

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

### I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

This will be the last meeting for Vern Gagnon and Keith Edgerton. The Senate thanked them for their service.

Jen Lynn noted that there will be an open forum on HB102 (Generally revise gun laws) on Monday, April 12 at 4:00 p.m. Faculty across the Montana University System are urging the Board of Regents to challenge the new law in court. If not that, they hope to raise a lot of questions regarding policies for the MUS. Chancellor Hicswa noted that the

University Executive Council will also discuss HB102 on Tuesday, April 13. Dr. Lynn noted that OCHE does want everyone to comment to the BOR, and those comments are all being recorded.

## II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 18 were accepted as presented.

## III. PROVOST & CHANCELLOR REPORTS

Chancellor Hicswa thanked all faculty for all the work they have done over this past year.

Provost Balter-Reitz presented a draft Academic Affairs Policies and Procedures, which has been separated from the Student Code of Conduct. Dean Christine Shearer (who resigned this week) and Registrar Cheri Johannes have already done a great deal of work on this draft, which was based on the Bozeman policy. Dr. Balter-Reitz asked for a couple Senators to help her finish up the document before the next Senate meeting, so it can be posted to the Provost website for Fall 2021. Jen Lynn and Heather Thompson-Bahm volunteered.

Dr. Balter-Reitz also stated that the feedback she received on the various initiatives led to the establishment of the Teaching & Learning Center. The center will transition the eLearning group to cover all teaching and learning. She plans to recruit two faculty to be co-directors to work in concert with the head instructional designer.

## IV. OTHER REPORTS

### **University-Wide Faculty Committee Clearinghouse (Provost & Senate Chair)**

Dr. Barron noted the list of committees is still not quite complete. He and the Provost will work on the list this week and have it ready for the last Senate meeting. The Chancellor asked that the Senate put forward recommendations for reducing committees, as she would appreciate that information. Provost Balter-Reitz noted that is vitally important that faculty have a voice in decisions.

### **Faculty Evaluation of Administrator Spring 2021**

The evaluation for Dean Toenjes of CHPS was sent out to the 30 faculty of the college, and 15 responded. The Executive Committee created a summary document that includes a summary of the written comments. Those written comments and the summary were reviewed by Vice Chancellor Susan Simmers as a member of the administration outside the evaluation process. The raw data has been shared with Dean Toenjes and the Senate will publish a summary on the Senate intranet page.

The Executive Committee agreed we should change the last question, which is a text box, to not only ask, "How would you rate the Dean's overall performance?" but also to include a request for any additional comments.

V. ITEM FOR INFORMATION

**Item 22** Applied Behavior Analysis Certificate. Notification of the establishment of a certificate. OCHE Level I Item, for information.

⇒ Motion by Austin Bennett to **take Item 22 up from the table.**

There have been no changes to the proposal and it will be sent to OCHE later this month.

⇒ Item 22 was **approved by unanimous consent.**

VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Group 1		
PHL 271: Indian Philsphies Religions	Edited	3/17/2021
PHL 272: Chinese Philsphies Religions	Edited	3/17/2021
WRIT 201: College Writing II	Edited	3/17/2021
WRIT 220: Business Prof Writing	Edited	3/17/2021
WRIT 221: Intermediate Tech Writing	Edited	3/17/2021

⇒ Motion by Jen Lynn to **approve Group 1.**

Rachel Schaffer, Chair of English, Philosophy and Modern Languages, noted that the three WRIT courses were not appropriate for Gen Ed because they all have WRIT 101 as a prerequisite. At this time, they have no one to teach the two PHL courses. All of the above courses will still exist, but will be removed from the Gen Ed core.

⇒ Motion carried.

Group 2		
MART 208: Multimedia Technology	Deleted	3/17/2021
MART 260: Computer Presen Animation	Deleted	3/17/2021

⇒ Motion by Vern Gagnon to **approve Group 2.**

⇒ Motion carried.

**Item 23** Time Limit for Degree. Updating catalog policy.

⇒ Motion by Keith Edgerton to **approve Item 23.**

Cheri Johannes, Registrar, stated that City College has a time limit that aligns well with accreditation standards. However, the undergraduate catalog's policy was much less clear. This clears up the rules for students with a break in attendance.

⇒ Motion carried.

**Item 23.a** “Regional Accreditation” references in catalog. Updating to align with U.S. Department of Education regulations.

⇒ Motion by Suzette Nynas to **approve Item 23.a.**

Dr. Johannes stated that changes at the federal level for the term “regionally accredited” means we must reflect those changes in the catalog. If the language in the catalog is too broad, we risk accepting transfer credits from *any* institution. The proposed language will list the acceptable accrediting agencies once, and all references throughout the catalog will link back to that list.

Kathleen Thatcher, Director of Assessment & Accreditation, noted that we do have a defined process for students coming in with lots of credits from an institution *not* accredited by these groups.

⇒ Motion carried.

**Item 24** Academic Senate Bylaws. Modification to Article IV Section B. Change membership of the General Education Committee to align with new college structure.

⇒ Motion by Keith Edgerton to **approve Item 24.**

⇒ Motion carried with 1 opposed.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

The question was raised as to the accreditation status of institutions where faculty have earned their degrees. Is this taken into account in the hiring process? It was noted that the description of the job opening can include requirements for degree accreditation, but using the “regionally accredited” language may be problematic.

It was noted that Cabinet is talking about gathering and codifying various campus policies, and faculty degree accreditation may need to be included.

It was also noted that when the Feds removed usage of “regionally accredited,” they also removed the geographic boundaries for the former regional accreditation agencies. It is possible for an institution to pick any agency now, not just the one geographically assigned to the region.

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

rjrm