

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: October 6, 2022

PRESENT: Suzette Nynas
Jennifer Lynn
Rakesh Sah
Rachael Waller
Austin Bennett
Melissa Boehm
Jim Barron (ex-officio)
Vicki Trier (ex-officio)
Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)

Matt Queen
Scott Butterfield
Susan Gregory
John Pannell
Paul Pope
Heather Thompson-Bahm
Tami Haaland (ex-officio)
Sep Eskandari (ex-officio)
Darlene Hert (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Mara Pierce*
Susan Gilbertz (ex-officio)
Susan Simmers (ex-officio)
Jana Marcette (ex-officio)

David Russell (student)
Tom Manthey (ex-officio)
Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)

* *excused*

GUESTS: Joann Stryker
Kathleen Thatcher

Mark Jacobson

PRESIDING: Jennifer Lynn, Chair

Jennifer Lynn called the meeting to order at 3:41 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The nameplates for Senators have arrived!

The ResearchFest will be next Thursday, October 13 at Craft Local.

The Administrator Evaluation process has started. Emails for the Provost review went out on Tuesday.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 15 were accepted as presented.

III. PROVOST REPORT

Dr. Eskandari noted that we are still organizing the faculty committees for sabbaticals and faculty professional development funds. He encourages Senators and all faculty to participate, and it's important to have representation from each college so every application is evaluated appropriately.

He is excited about the ResearchFest next week, as is the Chancellor. The display of faculty research at the BOR meeting brought a lot of comments about how much faculty research was happening at MSUB. He is looking into a regular display at the Library.

He and the Deans are finalizing decisions on tenure-track searches.

The Provost thanked the faculty for continuing to use the Early Alerts. They are very impactful. The team of Cheri Johannes, Becky Lyons, and Katie Moffat receive the alerts and assign them. More than 400 have come in and 300 have been resolved.

Finally, he noted that they have created a process to bring a program out of moratorium, which we will see today.

IV. OTHER REPORTS

Institutional Assessment: Rotation Change and Positive Influences

Joann Stryker, Director, Institutional Research

Ms. Stryker noted they have changed the rotation of student satisfaction and engagement surveys to four years, rather than three (see attached report). This allows a year for administering the survey and then a year to use the data. This also opens up capacity for the Institutional Research staff to take on other projects, which includes the Positive Influences Project. This survey will reach out to students before they graduate to ask them who has most influenced and helped them, be it faculty or staff. It's a chance to find out what is really important to students in a different way. This data will be useful in recruiting students and even talking to parents of students. The Positive Influences Project will launch October 17.

V. ITEM FOR APPROVAL

Math Major (Proposal to Take a Program out of Moratorium)	Added	9/29/2022
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⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Matt Queen to **approve the Math Major item.**

Mark Jacobson, Chair, Math, noted they were the pilot for the new “Proposal to Take a Program out of Moratorium” form. He thanked the Provost for supporting the return of Math major. Dr. Jacobson noted they used the Math major they had proposed before the SPA process began as a template for the updated program. It would call for two new courses, one in data science and one in finance. These two areas will be the concentration areas of the updated degree program.

Dr. Jacobson noted that we are the only four-year institution in Montana that does not offer a Math major. Adding the applied emphases to the program makes it more marketable, and makes graduates better able to find a job. It was noted that City College programming students do not have a place to go at MSUB for a four-year degree, but this Math program will fit.

It was cited that keeping the math courses enrolled also helps the Math Teaching major stay enrolled.

⇒ Motion carried.

It was noted that we do not need OCHE approval to remove a program from moratorium. It’s only a notification, so as of now, the Math major is off moratorium.

VI. ITEM – FIRST READING

Academic Senate Statement on Academic Freedom	Added	9/30/2022
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⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Matt Queen to **approve the Academic Freedom Statement on first reading.**

This statement reaffirms the AAUP statement, which BOR policy is based on.

It was noted that our statement should clearly show we are quoting AAUP. A revised version will be presented at the next Senate.

⇒ Motion carried.

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Incomplete Policy: Ad Hoc Committee Review

Dr. Lynn noted that, at the Provost Retreat, we realized the language in our Incomplete Policy does not work with our current teaching modalities. An ad hoc committee could be formed to revise the language. It was noted that some sort of reminder to both the student and the faculty member is essential to the process. It was agreed that the committee should discuss both the policy and procedure. Registrar Cheri Johannes should be included as well.

Jen Lynn, Scott Butterfield, Rachael Waller, Paul Pope, Austin Bennett, and Matt Queen volunteered to be on the ad hoc committee. The group should have a rough draft ready for the December 1 Senate meeting.

B. Senator Roles & Responsibilities

Dr. Lynn noted that we are moving away from crisis mode as a Senate, and can now take on some good and important projects. We need to create a culture of engagement and emphasize shared governance among the faculty.

It was stated that the role of the Senator is to be an influencer to other faculty and encourage junior faculty. Senators bring forward concerns and ideas from their college, and also recruit faculty to committees so we all have a voice at the table. It's both a privilege and a responsibility. It is also the Senator's role to fight for the integrity of academic programs.

It was agreed that a role description for Senators should be created and added to the policies and bylaws.

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

rjrm



Institutional Assessment Rotation – National Instruments

MSUB has adjusted our external institutional assessment from a three year cycle to a four year cycle as follows:

YEAR	Administration	Use of Results
2021-22	ENGAGEMENT	
2022-23		ENGAGEMENT
2023-24	SATISFACTION	
2024-25		SATISFACTION
2025-26	ENGAGEMENT	
2026-27		ENGAGEMENT
2027-28	SATISFACTION	

This change is a result of an evaluation of IR operations for Strategic Resource Reallocation and an assessment of IR's 2021-22 goals and setting goals for 2022-23.

This schedule adjustment:

- allows for a rotation of IR effort from administration to use of results;
- frees up IR FTE to focus on topical analyses of institutional initiatives and topics of priority (for example the Positive Influences Project detailed on back); and
- results in a reduction of expenditures on national assessment instruments over time.



Positive Influences Project

This project is a celebration of the positives at MSUB, an opportunity for our student successes (our completers) to say thank you to those who played a role in their journey to graduation.

Students who have filed an intent to graduate will be asked to name up to three people at MSUB who helped make their experience a successful one. This information collection will occur mid-semester for each semester of the 2022-23 fiscal year. A Qualtrics survey will be used to collect this information. A survey invitation email will be sent to students' preferred email address. The following is an excerpt from the invitation email sent this summer:

Congratulations! With your application to graduate in Summer 2022, you have been identified as one of MSUB's success stories.

Please take a few minutes to say "Thank You!" to the people who have had a positive influence on your MSUB experience by completing the three question survey below. All responses will be gathered and compiled over the coming year; then shared back to the named individuals as a way to let them know what they do matters.

Comments will be edited to remove any negative references, collated, and distributed to named employees just prior to the start of fall 2023 semester. Aggregated comments will be analyzed to identify themes and areas of best practice from our graduating students' perspectives.

We will be launching the fall 2022 invitation to participate October 17th.

This project is an opportunity to recognize and thank individuals at MSUB who make a difference in our students lives. Please encourage our graduating students to participate.