

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: April 21, 2022

PRESENT: Suzette Nynas
Scott Butterfield
Rachael Waller
Paul Pope
Heather Thompson-Bahm
Tami Haaland (ex-officio)
Cheri Johannes (ex-officio)
Sep Eskandari (ex-officio)
Jana Marcette (ex-officio)

Jennifer Lynn
Susan Gregory
Austin Bennett
Melissa Boehm
Kurt Toenjes (ex-officio)
Susan Gilbertz (ex-officio)
Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)
Darlene Hert (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Matt Queen*
Rakesh Sah
Vicki Trier (ex-officio)*
Susan Simmers (ex-officio)
* *excused*

Mara Pierce*
John Pannell
Ed Garding (ex-officio)
Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)

GUESTS: Joann Stryker
Melinda Tilton
Kathleen Thatcher

Darin Metcalfe
Sarah Keller

PRESIDING: Jennifer Lynn, Chair

Jennifer Lynn called the meeting to order at 3:42 p.m. in Library 148, with some members attending via webex.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Research & Creativity Symposium is Friday.

Today and Friday, the Atomic Circus is happening on campus. Dean Kurt Toenjes stated that there will be 1300 5th graders from School District 2 visiting for STEM experiences, tours, and the Circus. There are also public shows on Friday at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

The Academic Senate welcomed returning Senators Austin Bennett and Heather Thompson-Bahm and new Senator Melissa Boehm. Dr. Lynn also thanked Sam Boerboom for his service on Senate.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

Three Vice Chairs & Secretary

Paul Pope volunteered for Secretary.

Suzette Nynas, Austin Bennett, and Heather Thompson-Bahm volunteered for Vice Chairs.

There were no other volunteers.

⇒ The officers were approved by unanimous consent.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 31 were accepted as presented.

IV. PROVOST REPORT

Provost Eskandari stated he's had a terrific first year here at MSUB, and he is impressed by the work the faculty do.

For next year, they will be doing more planning of our cyclic processes, such as evaluations. His office will be sending out advance notice on upcoming evaluations, as well as eligibility for tenure and rank advancement. He will also ask that the DRTCs and URTC be constituted now, rather than waiting for the Fall.

There are many internal funding opportunities, including CARE and Pre-Tenure Scholarship Enhancement (PTSE). Contact the Grants Office for information.

The dean search for CLASS will be inviting finalists to campus soon. Dean Toenjes noted they will have candidates on campus May 3, 5, and 6, and there will be an open forum at 1:00 with each. Members of Senate are invited to contact Dean Toenjes' office if they would like to join the candidate breakfasts and dinners.

Dr. Eskandari noted that we will hold Commencement on May 7. Cheri Johannes, Registrar, noted that some of the pandemic changes will stay, such as the much smaller group on the platform. Also, faculty have been moved to the back of the seating and students to the front. There are students still asking to walk at Commencement at this time (the deadline to apply was November 19), and the Registrar's Office is doing their best to include all students in the ceremony.

V. OTHER REPORTS

Interstate Passport

Melinda Tilton, GEC Co-Chair

Ms. Tilton thanked the GEC for their work mapping courses to our 9 Gen Ed Learning Outcomes, so those 9 outcomes could then be mapped to Interstate Passport's 63 learning outcomes. The goal was to determine congruency, which they were able to do, and they have established the Passport Block of courses. There is complete alignment between our Gen Ed purpose and Interstate Passport's purpose. The block of courses will be posted to the MSUB website.

Dr. Johannes stated that Interstate Passport is noted in the catalog as well. The Interstate Passport Block will be similar to the MUS Core and will be on a student's transcript. She will be working with the Advising Center for training.

Ms. Tilton noted that our hard work on this has made us a leader and an example for other universities. Other units of the Montana University System have already contacted us on this project.

VI. INFORMATION ITEM

Item 19 Adventure Leadership in Health and Recreation Recreation Therapy Option Master of Science, Adventure Leadership in Health and Recreation Adventure Leadership Option Master of Science, and the Outdoor Adventure Leadership Bachelor of Science/Adventure Leadership in Health and Recreation M.S. 3+2 Options. Terminate programs. For information.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Austin Bennett to **accept Item 19 for information.**

This program was cut as part of SPA. There have also never really been students in the program, as the faculty member who started it left.

Sue Balter-Reitz, Associate Provost, noted that OCHE has a new process for new programs. After three years, we must report our enrollment. Dr. Eskandari noted there will be three levels of evaluation for these enrollment reports. We will be assessed based on whether the enrollment targets (1) have been met or are at least 70% met, (2) 70% to 50% met, or (3) under 50%. An action plan will then be created.

⇒ Motion carried.

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Watermark CES Information and Request for Feedback

Sarah Keller and John Pannell

Dr. Keller noted that she and Mr. Pannell sit on the advisory committee for this project. There are three main points for faculty:

- Previous evaluations must be downloaded from Campus Labs by June 25.
- Do we want to allow departments, colleges, administrators, or individual faculty members to add additional questions to faculty evaluations?
- Decide if the results of the evaluations should be automatically exported into DigitalMeasures.

It was noted that Watermark CES is able to exclude results if too few students do the evaluation. However, “too few” needs to be defined. Students can also be held from finishing a course until they have completed the evaluation.

Provost Eskandari noted that the DRTCs should decide what additional questions they want, and those additional questions should be codified in their DRTC Guidelines.

The question was raised as to what will happen (because it will happen) if a faculty member neglects to download their previous evaluations. It was responded that the data will ultimately be lost, but Institutional Research is looking into downloading a summary of the data. This data will be hard to use and will be considered a very last resort. It was also noted that there will be multiple reminders to faculty to download their data before June 25.

They do not need a decision on the additional questions until the rollout for Fall. The unions should discuss with administration before any decisions are made.

B. Fall Retreat: Date, Topics

If Senators have a topic for discussion at the Fall Retreat, email them to the Chair.

It was agreed to keep the Retreat on a Thursday at noon, the first week faculty are back in August.

The process campus for new programs was suggested as a topic.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

rjrm