

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: October 30, 2003

PRESENT: Doug Brown
Paul Bauer
George Madden
Randall Gloege
Connie Landis
John Cech (ex-officio)
Janie Park (ex-officio)

Sandie Rietz
Audrey ConnerRosberg
Keith Edgerton
Alan Davis
Matt Redinger
George White (ex-officio)

ABSENT: St. John Robinson – *excused*
Joe Michels (ex-officio)
George White (ex-officio)
Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)
Tracy Jo Schweigert (ex-officio)

Mark Hardt – *excused*
Randy Rhine (ex-officio)
Dan Zirker (ex-officio)
Curt Kochner (ex-officio)

GUESTS: Sue Hart
Liz Tooley

Lonnie Schrag
Mary Susan Fishbaugh

PRESIDING: Keith Edgerton, Chair

Keith Edgerton called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

The minutes of October 23 were approved as presented.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Senate Initiative: Commencement

Guest – Sue Hart, Chair, Commencement Committee

It was noted that last spring, after commencement, the Senate approached the Chancellor about getting more faculty participation in the ceremony. The Chancellor agreed to pay for the rental of the regalia for all faculty, but the faculty are, as yet, unaware of this agreement.

Professor Sue Hart noted that the first meeting of the Commencement Committee is Monday. The Committee has tried to encourage faculty attendance, and the main excuse is the cost of the robe rental.

It was noted that mandating attendance in the contract may only make things worse. Don't make them go. Get the faculty to go for their students.

It was cited that the Deans have all been very active in trying to get their faculty to attend. It was also noted that commencement would be more interesting if better speakers were hired. Professor Hart noted that her speaker budget is very small.

It was noted that the Senate could set a goal of twice as many faculty as last year.

The question was also raised about the Ivy Guard: Why always women, and why always dressed in white? Professor Hart noted that the Ivy Guard is a tradition started by Carole Saunders who was the Dean of Women many years ago. The women were originally at convocation, but it was then moved to commencement. It has always been very popular, and we always receive compliments that the Guard makes commencement that much more special. It was noted that the Commencement Committee is talking to the ASMSU-B about buying white choir robes for the Ivy Guard members to wear, so they do not have to purchase white clothes. It was cited that no men are involved, but perhaps if the robes were not white, but blue and gold, more men might be interested in participating.

Professor Hart stated that the Senate's initiative to help get faculty motivated is great news.

II. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 5 AAS in Radiologic Technology. New program.

Item 5.a RAD 101 Radiological Technology I. New course.

Item 5.b RAD 102 Clinical Radiology I. New course

Item 5.c RAD 110 Radiation Physics and Biological Principles I. New course.

Item 5.d RAD 151 Radiological Technology II. New course.

Item 5.e RAD 152 Clinical Radiology II. New course.

Item 5.f RAD 201 Radiological Technology III. New course.

Item 5.g RAD 202 Clinical Radiology III. New course.

Item 5.h RAD 204 Principles of Radiographic Exposure. New course.

Item 5.i RAD 205 Clinical Radiology Intersession. New course.

Item 5.j RAD 210 Radiation Physics and Biological Principles II. New course.

Item 5.k RAD 251 Radiological Technology IV. New course.

Item 5.L RAD 252 Clinical Radiology IV. New course.

Dean John Cech, College of Technology, stated that last spring the COT was approached by St. Vincent's Hospital about their school of radiology. The hospital had decided to close the school after the director retired, and they were interesting in the COT running the program. There is also a national push to move radiology programs from certificates

to two-year programs. The COT worked with St. V's and Deaconess, and the two hospitals have committed financially and with equipment and site use. There is already a huge interest in this program, though it has not even been advertised. This program will also prepare students to take the national exam. The hospitals will be doing most of the teaching, and most of the courses will be at the hospitals.

Dr. Park noted that this program probably will not move to the new College of Allied Health Professions, because it still makes sense to keep the two-year programs at the COT. However, this program and others may be affiliated with the new college.

It was noted that there will be one new position, that of a director. Dean Cech stated that the funding for that position will come from the additional FTE generated by the program.

⇒ Motion by Sandie Rietz, seconded by Matt Redinger to **accept Items 5, 5.a, 5.b, 5.c, 5.d, 5.e, 5.f, 5.g, 5.h, 5.i, 5.j, 5.k, and 5.L.**

⇒ Motion carried.

III. ACTION ITEM

A. Flagship Program Resolution

Resolved:

That the MSU-Billings Academic Senate opposes the implementation of “flagship programs” at MSU-Billings.

The Academic Senate believes that flagship programs should not exist at this institution. The Academic Senate acknowledges the importance of joining with the Administration in identifying benchmarks of program excellence. However, the advancement of academic quality should be promoted democratically on an institution-wide basis and not focused narrowly on a small number of programs that enjoy privileged status.

It was noted that the resolution could be combined with the American Democracy Project to take the resolution to a more positive level. It was cited that those two items are unrelated and should not be in the same resolution. It was cited that instituting flagships works at odds with democracy on this campus, so the resolution needs to be passed before the Democracy Project can be pursued.

⇒ Motion by Randall Gloege, seconded by Sandie Rietz to **approve the resolution as amended.**

⇒ Motion carried with one against.

George Madden stated that he would work on a resolution regarding the American Democracy Project.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B. Northwest Accreditation Visit

Dr. Park noted that the last two days NWCCU has been conducting an evaluation. The preliminary exit evaluation was very positive, but the official report will not be issued until the NWCCU Board meets in January.

C. Student Evaluations and the Faculty Association: Update

Guest – Mary Susan Fishbaugh, President, Faculty Association

Dr. Fishbaugh noted that the Association agrees with the Senate that the student evaluation needs to be changed. The need to change it was discussed in the last negotiation session. The Faculty Association will work with the Academic Senate to work out a better tool.

Dr. Fishbaugh also noted that the suggestion to suspend the use of the current instrument is not a good idea. The CBA states that the student evaluations will be used, and we can't suspend part of the contract without putting the whole in danger. We are protected by the contract. However, the letter sent to the DRTC Chairs was very appropriate, because it encourages them to keep an eye out for misuse of the student evaluation.

It was noted that the Senate cannot work alone on something related to working conditions, as that is the realm of the Faculty Association. It was noted that the Senate only wished to recommend to the Faculty Association. It would be up to the Faculty Association what to do with that recommendation. The Faculty Association is very willing to work with the Senate on any issue.

Dr. Fishbaugh also noted that the FACC is an interpretive committee that usually only looks at certain areas to clarify. Any large change is usually referred to the full negotiation body.

⇒ Motion by Matt Redinger, seconded by Sandie Rietz to **NOT recommend to the Faculty Association the current student evaluation process be suspended.**

⇒ Motion carried with one against.

D. MPA Accreditation Update – Dr. Park

Dr. Park stated that Northwest gave us a preliminary read of the Board of Regents MPA Joint Degree Proposal. Their preliminary answer is that the degree will not be acceptable. Northwest requires that the student be able to pick a home campus and the student's degree would be from that school. However, the proposal is that the degree states both schools, no matter where the student goes to classes. It was noted that if the degree is only here, Bozeman will not fund it, and if it is only in Bozeman, we will not fund it. Everything is on hold until Geoff Gamble, President of MSU-Bozeman, and Chancellor Sexton can meet with Northwest and attempt to convince them to let us have a true joint degree. We are currently advertising that line, but it will not be filled if the program is moved to Bozeman.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

rjrm