

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: April 20, 2006

PRESENT:	Agnes Samples	Mark Hardt
	Lorrie Steerey (via phone)	Sandie Rietz
	Susan Balter-Reitz	Keith Edgerton
	Randall Gloege	Bruce Brumley
	Noreen Lee	Matt Redinger
	Lewis Rife (student)	Tasneem Khaleel (ex-officio)
	George White (ex-officio)	

ABSENT:	Paul Bauer – <i>excused</i>	Craig McKenzie – <i>excused</i>
	Audrey ConnerRosberg – <i>excused</i>	
	David Garloff (ex-officio)	Curt Kochner (ex-officio)
	Mary McNally (ex-officio)	Kirk Lacy (ex-officio)
	Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)	John Cech (ex-officio)
	Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)	

GUEST: Kyle Colling

PRESIDING: Keith Edgerton, Chair

Keith Edgerton called the meeting to order at 3:44 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

The minutes of April 6 were accepted as presented.

I. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 77 Graduate Admissions Procedure (catalog text). Elaborated by Grad Committee. For information.

George White, Provost and Director of Graduate Studies, stated that they have been tracking the complaints and problems of graduate students, and are now trying to resolve some issues that keep recurring.

⇒ Motion by Lorrie Steerey, seconded by Noreen Lee to **accept Item 77.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 85 Committee Roster for 2006-2007.

⇒ Motion by Lorrie Steerey, seconded by Bruce Brumley to **accept Item 85.**

It was noted that there has still been no decision on the Academic Computing and Allied Technology Committee: whether it should stay or be removed from the bylaws. Bruce Brumley, Chairperson, noted that the Committee wanted to meet once with the Chief Information Officer before it is disbanded.

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 88 Baccalaureate of Science in Speech-Language-Hearing. New program proposal to the BOR this summer. For information.

⇒ Motion by Lorrie Steerey, seconded by Susan Balter-Reitz to **accept Item 88.**

Kyle Colling, Rehabilitation and Human Services, stated that she was here to represent the College of Allied Health Professions. They are putting forward a proposal for speech-language-hearing because there is a lot of opportunity for this type of program in our area. This item will go to the BOR in July for information, and for approval in September. Initially, the program will require one new faculty line.

Provost White noted that we and Missoula have both indicated interest in this program area, so the BOR told us to partner on a program. Missoula went with graduate programs, so MSU-Billings was going to an undergraduate program to feed into Missoula's. However, there has since been a change in leadership at Missoula, so things may go differently.

Provost White also noted that the budget is not fleshed out for this program yet. This is a notice to the Senate that we are putting the program forward to the BOR. If the new program goes through the curriculum committees first and then the BOR, the BOR could deny approval and all that work is wasted. This way, once the BOR approves, we can bring the curriculum forward in an efficient manner.

It was stated that the Senate is grateful for the notification and for the Provost's openness and communication.

⇒ Motion carried.

II. ITEM – SECOND READING

Item 68 Academic Foundations Committee Report: Approved Courses. 4/17/06

⇒ Motion by Lorrie Steerey, seconded by Sandie Rietz to **approve Item 68 on second reading.**

Mark Hardt, Chairperson of the AFC, noted that they will be bringing forward more regarding assessment next week.

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 79 Academic Senate Recommendation for a System of Evaluation for Transfer Courses. Recommendation #2 (faculty designee)

It was observed that this proposal is to make sure we have timely transfers since the BOR requires they must be completed in 10 days.

It was noted that each department will need to understand the BOR mandate and then find a way to have a faculty member available for consultation on transfer courses. In departments with more than one discipline, more than one faculty designee will probably be needed.

The question was raised as to what will happen if we don't meet the 10 day rule. Provost White stated that it will go into the report we will send to the BOR, and they may take issue with it. The question was raised as to what happens when the 10 days run out: Will the administration make the decision to make sure the 10 day rule is met? Dean Tasneem Khaleel noted that most likely the Advising Center would make the call.

It was noted that the BOR and the Legislature are obsessed with the transfer system. This issue probably won't go away any time soon. It was noted that the real problem comes when a student transfers from another region of the country, and the BOR can't control transfers from out-of-state. Transfers from inside Montana are much easier to deal with.

⇒ Motion by Lorrie Steerey, seconded by Mark Hardt to **approve Item 79 and ask the Academic Senate Chair to send a memo to all departments informing them of what they need to do to meet the BOR mandate.**

⇒ Motion carried.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. In-Class Courses that are Really Online (Academic Senate Initiative #4)

It was noted that Dean Mary McNally brought up this issue in January because students have signed up for courses thinking they were on-site, only to learn that most, if not all of

the course is done online through email and other means. It was cited that besides the fact that we are not being truthful in our advertising, some students may sign up for an on-site course because they do not have the technology at home to take an online course. It was observed that this is also a way to avoid the \$40 per credit fee from eCollege. It was stated that the Senate does not want to discourage hybrid courses that are both on-site and online, but we do have to clearly tell the students exactly what kind of delivery a course will use.

Provost White noted that eCollege is also there for tech support. If students are taking a course by another means and have a technology problem, they will have no where to turn. Part of the \$40 eCollege fee is for that tech support. Dr. White also noted that Dr. McNally has passed this task to Dean Kirk Lacy, so the Senate may want to consult with him.

B. Retention Survey Report: Further Discussion

Lorrie Steerey asked that a few Senators get together and write a summary of this report (distributed a few weeks ago). Sandie Rietz volunteered to help. Dr. Steerey and Dr. Rietz will put together the report before school is over and email it to Senators for editing. It will then go to the Chancellor.

It was noted that Curt Kochner, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, has conducted a satisfaction survey of the students, and it had many of the same questions. It is available to the Senate.

C. Student Evaluation Recommendation: Keith Edgerton

Dr. Edgerton noted that he emailed all the faculty and got a few responses. He will write up a recommendation for next week's meeting.

It was noted that most faculty don't like the evaluation, but they don't want to do anything about it either.

Provost White cited that we have had several web conferences on campus on this topic, and the research shows that the time in the semester the evaluation is given does not make an impact on the evaluation results. The same is true with the difficulty of the course—it seems to have no impact on the results.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

rjrm