

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: September 13, 2007

PRESENT: Agnes Samples
Sandie Rietz
Audrey ConnerRosberg
Johanna Mitchell
Gershon Bulgatz
Craig McKenzie
James Ellis (student)
Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)

Jeff Sanders
Bruce Brumley
Lorrie Steerey
Keith Edgerton
Mark Hardt
Alicia Esteves (student)
Tasneem Khaleel (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Rakesh Sah – *excused*
David Garloff (ex-officio)
John Cech (ex-officio)
George White (ex-officio)
Stacy Klippenstein (ex-officio)

Gary Young (ex-officio)
Karen Heikel (ex-officio)
Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)

GUEST: Stan Wiatr

PRESIDING: Audrey ConnerRosberg, Chair

Audrey ConnerRosberg called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. in the Beartooth room.

The minutes of April 26, May 4, and August 27 were accepted as presented.

I. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Held over from Spring 2007

Item 32.a BS Major in General Science. New program.

⇒ Motion by Keith Edgerton, seconded by Lorrie Steerey to **accept Item 32.a.**

Stan Wiatr, Chair of Biological & Physical Sciences, stated that this program was put together for students who may start out in pre-medicine or pre-nursing and then find those programs are not for them. The BS in General Science offers a degree completion

option that includes broad areas of science. The well-rounded program is balanced across four areas: biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics. It does not require any new resources; it only re-packages existing courses into a new program. The department is also working on a teacher certification option for this degree.

Dr. Wiatr noted that this program is the different because university programs tend to specialize and this program is broad-based.

⇒ Motion carried with one abstention.

II. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Faculty Morale Survey

Tasneem Khaleel and Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Co-Chairs of the CQI Steering Committee

Drs. Fishbaugh and Khaleel noted that they are here to give a briefing on the morale surveys and answer any questions the Senate may have.

Dr. Khaleel noted that the results of all the morale surveys (faculty, staff, and administrators) are out on the CQI website. The faculty and student engagement (FSSE, NSSE, CCSSE, etc.) survey results just came and will be out on the website soon. Dr. Fishbaugh noted that they are preparing an employer survey to measure satisfaction with our graduates.

Dr. Khaleel stated that the data in the PowerPoint presentation at the Back-to-School conference can be considered the raw data. Dr. Joe Floyd, as part of this post-retirement agreement, has organized the raw data. Only Dr. Floyd and Patty Rukstad have access to the raw data because it must be kept confidential.

It was cited that there is a great deal of mistrust in this survey process because faculty do not believe their responses will be kept anonymous. Dr. Fishbaugh noted that the same concern was heard at the CQI Committee. Dr. Khaleel noted that the 50% return rate of the faculty surveys is higher than the national average. The goal of these surveys is to establish a baseline from which to improve. It was noted that faculty kept receiving reminder emails to complete the survey, and when the survey was completed, the emails stopped coming. That suggests the surveys are not anonymous. Dr. Khaleel stated that they data they received did not have any names attached.

Dr. Fishbaugh noted that action needs to be taken regarding the concerns presented in the survey results, and then re-survey in two years. A cross-constituency group involving faculty, staff, and administrators should be established to fix these problems, because the mean of the results for each group drops across all categories involving feeling valued as a part of the campus.

Dr. Khaleel stated that Dr. Redinger is no longer on the Senate, so the CQI Steering Committee needs a representative from the Senate. The Committee meets twice a month on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.

B. Summer 2008 Schedule

It was noted that the Senate's concern is not necessarily the schedule itself, but the manner in which it was changed. The Senate surveyed current summer school students this past summer, and the Senate has also made recommendations against changing the schedule. However, the Senate's recommendations were ignored.

It was cited that the Chancellor wanted the issue of the Summer 2008 schedule decided before the Fall 2007 activities began. Dr. ConnerRosberg attended a meeting where the 3 weeks/5 weeks/5 weeks schedule was agreed upon. No other Senators were available for the meeting. Faculty have since been told that the 3-5-5 schedule is being implemented.

The question was raised as to why the Summer 2008 schedule has to be changed. It was noted that on-site (not online) summer enrollments have been steadily declining. This is an effort to reverse that decline. It was noted that other options include getting rid of the Summer Session all together and re-investing that money into the regular school year. We don't really know why summer enrollments drop, and we need to find out. Then we can work together to address the issues.

Dr. ConnerRosberg stated that she will get the letter to Provost White and Chancellor Sexton about the Summer 2008 schedule out as soon as possible. The letter will be sent to all Senators for review.

It was noted that the faculty have been consulted on changes to the summer schedule. However, it was cited that all the feedback was negative.

III. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 1 Graduate Committee Report. 2006-2007.

Item 2 RACE Committee Report. 2006-2007.

Item 3 Commencement Committee Report. 2006-2007

⇒ Motion by Keith Edgerton, seconded by Bruce Brumley to **accept Items 1, 2, and 3 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

IV. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

C. eCompanion Required for Instructors of Academic Foundations Courses

⇒ Motion by Lorrie Steerey, seconded by Mark Hardt to **table the eCompanion discussion until Michael Barber, Brent Roberts, and Provost White are present.**

D. Resumption of Academic Senate/Faculty Association Coalition (ASFAC) Meetings

It was stated that the ASFAC meetings should be re-started and meet once a month. The first meeting could be conducted without the administration representatives.

⇒ Motion by Lorrie Steerey, seconded by Keith Edgerton to **re-start the ASFAC meetings.**

⇒ Motion carried.

E. Upcoming Events

The Commissioner's Office will have a listening session sometime in October on campus. Be on the lookout and attend.

The Board of Regents meets next week at MSUB (no Senate meeting next week).

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

rjrm