

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: August 30, 2012

PRESENT: Stephen Eliason
Sandie Rietz
Susan Gilbertz
David Gurchiek
Doug Brown
Bruce Brumley
Mark Pagano (ex-officio)

Don Larsen
Barb Pedula
Craig McKenzie
A.J. Otjen
Mark Hardt
Patricia Vettel-Becker

GUEST: Rolf Groseth

PRESIDING: Bruce Brumley, Chair

Bruce Brumley called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. in the Alumni House.

I. PROVOST & CHANCELLOR DISCUSSION

Provost Mark Pagano stated that the draft strategic plan will be going up tomorrow with an email announcing it. Mr. Brumley is co-chairing the committee and Dr. Rietz and Ms. Pedula are also serving. The strategic plan also includes several ideas for new graduate programs, so please be aware those are in there.

This year Dr. Pagano is tackling the issue of the Academic Support Center staff, who teach many credits but are not considered faculty. The Academic Senate will also need to join the discussion of the academic home of the courses taught by ASC staff.

The two searches for Vice Provosts ended last year. The Vice Provost for Accreditation and Undergraduate Learning search failed to hire a candidate. The main issue for the candidates was that the position was not tenurable. We were also asked to suspend the search for the Vice Provost of Graduate Studies and Sponsored Programs.

Dr. Pagano stated we now have Matt Redinger serving in an interim capacity as the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs—a more general title because he many have many of the duties of the two positions which were not filled. Dr. Redinger is appointed through the

end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2013. It has been suggested that rather than hiring two Vice Provosts, we could have a Director of Sponsored Programs and Grad Studies. We also have in progress the search for a permanent Director of International Studies. Very soon a press release will be published, announcing John Walsh as Interim Director of MSUB Extended Campus. The search for that position will be expanded this fall.

Chancellor Rolf Groseth thanked the Senators for the time and energy put into Senate work. This year our enrollment is down a bit, but we have hired many new faculty and added some funding to departmental budgets. We are moving toward 50% of our budget in instruction, and we have made progress. We are now at 47.5%. We are working on the renovation and expansion of the Science Building, rolling out the City College concept, and maintaining our role as a leader in online education in Montana. Dr. Pagano noted that with the name change for the COT to City College, we are also implementing the community college concept and with that will come changes to how we administer Gen Ed and other programs.

Provost Pagano also noted that the Common Course Numbering initiative continues and we have built a SharePoint which will hold all of our syllabi and a database of our courses.

Dr. Pagano will be initiating Provost Forums this fall: the third Monday of the month at 8:00 a.m. (to conflict with as few classes as possible). These forums will share updates on what the Provost' Office has been doing and include discussion of any topic.

The issue of CARE grants and the end of the fiscal year was raised. Dr. Pagano noted that some of that issue was addressed through the professional development funds. However, if we are going to have a continuing CARE budget, we could plan on holding some of the funds over to the next year for faculty whose projects span the summer.

II. ELECTION OF CHAIR ELECT

⇒ Susan Gilbertz nominated A.J. Otjen, and Craig McKenzie seconded.

There were no other nominations.

⇒ Motion to elect A.J. Otjen as Chair Elect carried unanimously.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Topics for Discussion with President Cruzado

The concern from last spring was the fact that MSUB faculty evaluations are now being processed by MSU-Bozeman. We need to ensure that data can only be pulled by appropriate people at MSUB, and that Bozeman faculty and staff have no access to the data.

We also wanted more detail from President Cruzado about her “One University” initiative. To us, it seems to mean more collaborative work with faculty in Bozeman, Great Falls, and Havre, but so far that has not been the case. President Cruzado stopped our efforts to end the languishing M.P.A. program partnership we have with Bozeman, but no progress has been made on fixing the partnership.

B. Reassigned (Release) Time Report from the Provost

This report does give us the information we needed, but there are a few errors and a need for more information on some items. Senators will take the report back to their colleges for verification.

C. Bylaws Review

It was cited that our bylaws currently require that 25% of the faculty must sign a petition to call a general faculty meeting to bring the Senate to task for any reason. Twenty-five percent seems excessive. It was agreed this should be reduced to 10 contract faculty members.

Our bylaws currently do not have term limits for faculty members to serve on Senate. It was agreed that faculty members should be limited to three consecutive three-year terms on the Senate.

It was noted that after these changes are drafted, we should send them out to the general faculty.

It was cited that the Academic Standards and Scholastic Standing Committee does not currently designate which members vote, and the Committee has no quorum rule. It was proposed that only the faculty and student members of the Committee should vote, and the quorum should be at least three faculty and three students. Cheri Johannes, Registrar and Chair of the Committee, will be asked to join the Senate for discussion of these changes.

D. Lack of Internal Control over Online Offerings

We currently have no process to determine the student signed up for an online class is the one actually taking it. The recent College Opportunity and Affordability Act requires all accredited universities to verify their online students’ identities, and MSUB may be open to civil suits because we are not meeting the requirement.

Doug Brown agreed to draft a recommendation for the Senate regarding this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

rjrm