

## ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

**DATE:** November 6, 2014

**PRESENT:** Tom Dell Patricia Vettel-Becker  
A.J. Otjen Cindy Dell  
Francisco Saldivar James Barron  
Andrew Sullivan Debra Johnson  
Kelly Shumway Paul Pope  
Bruce Brumley Stephen Coffman  
Diane Duin (ex-officio) Barbara Wheeling (ex-officio)  
Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio) Rita Kratky (ex-officio)  
Mark Pagano (ex-officio) Matt Redinger (ex-officio)

**ABSENT:** Susan Gilbertz\* Daniel Barnhart (student)\*  
C. Shearer-Cremean (ex-officio) Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)  
Joe Oravec (ex-officio)

\* *excused*

**GUESTS:** Mark Nook Kevin Nemeth  
Cheri Johannes George Harper

**PRESIDING:** Bruce Brumley, Chair

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Bruce Brumley called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. in Health Science South Conference Room at City College.

The minutes of October 23 were accepted as presented.

### I WELCOME NEW SENATOR

The Senate welcomed new at-large Senator, Stephen Coffman, who fills the last open at-large position.

## II. CHANCELLOR REPORT

Mark Nook stated that the Vice Chancellors have been working with the recommendations of the University Budget Committee and we have cut about \$900,000 from this year's budget. We will not know the exact amount of the deficit until our Spring enrollment is finalized. About half of the cuts will be from the enrollment reserve. Through the budget cutting process, we have raised the instructional budget to 49%. Much of the cuts came from salary salvage from open positions. Once the Vice Chancellors have discussed the cuts with their directors and chairs, the information will be posted to the Budget Office website. After all that is done, we can begin to think about our enrollment and budget for next year, 2015-2016.

Dr. Nook also noted that, in conjunction with the Big Huddle group (promoting the return of football to MSU Billings), he traveled to Colorado State University to visit a campus which returned football to their athletics program after a 15 year absence. The field and building at CSU were paid for with private donations (mostly one individual) and are leased to the university. One big difference between Billings and Pueblo, Colorado, is the unemployment rate. Theirs is about 10%, while ours is sitting at 3%. Dr. Nook stated that he made it clear to the Big Huddle members that football is not going to be his priority for the next couple years. The Science Building and upgrading our current Athletics facilities both come first.

## III. PROVOST REPORT

Mark Pagano stated that the Chancellor's Student Success initiative will have six faculty in the group. That group should be rolling soon.

At the upcoming November BOR meeting, MSUB will have the name change for the MS in Rehab. That passed the CAOs conference call easily, so the BOR should have no problems. At the meeting, the Chancellor has 10 minutes to talk about our mission review, and Dr. Pagano and Dean Diane Duin will have 5 minutes to talk about APC. The Center for Women's and Gender Studies will have its second reading. The BOR will not be accepting any academic items for the January 2015 meeting, so if there are any new programs to be approved this year, we must get them in for the March 2015 meeting. The deadline for that meeting will be in January.

## IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Patricia Vettel-Becker stated that the Strategic Plan Committee began meeting, and the members are charged with asking their groups for feedback. We need to know if the challenges in the Strategic Plan are in process, have been met, or have not been started. Mr. Brumley noted that the Senate has two tasks, and one, General Education, has already been met. The second was, "In conjunction with the faculty, develop expectations and/or other guidelines for courses/teaching," which is problematically vague.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

**Item 35** Certificate of Technical Study in Welding and Fabrication 1.

⇒ Motion by Francisco Saldivar, seconded by Paul Pope to **accept Item 35 for information.**

George Harper, Welding Program, stated that there is no budget or staffing impact from this new Certificate. The question was raised regarding grant-funded academic programs and whether they get reviewed after the grant ends. Rita Kratky, Dean of City College, noted that these programs are intended to go on after the grant ends. It was noted that the SWAMMEI grant programs are intended to be stackable and make for seamless transfers across Montana.

⇒ Motion carried.

**Item 62** eLearning Development Grants Draft Applications. For information only.

⇒ Motion by Cindy Dell, seconded by Francisco Saldivar to **accept Item 62 for information.**

Provost Pagano noted that this document will help establish specific times of the year when faculty can request funding for eLearning development. They wanted to make the Senate aware before it goes out to all faculty.

⇒ Motion carried.

VI. ITEM – SECOND READING

**Item 21** 589 as the designated number for professional development credit non-degree courses offered by Extended Campus.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Jim Barron to **approve Item 21 on second reading.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VII. ITEMS – FIRST READING

**Item 27** COMT 582 Women, Media and Health (crosslisted with COMX 482, HHP 582, and HADM 582). Change title to Women, Media and Society; change corequisite; and change course description. Also, no longer crosslisted with HHP 582 and HADM 582.

⇒ Motion by Francisco Saldivar, seconded by Patricia Vettel-Becker to **approve Item 27 on first reading.**

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Cindy Dell, seconded by Steve Coffman to **waive second reading of Item 27.**

⇒ Motion carried.

**Item 36** Resolution regarding the COMPASS test for placement only.

⇒ Motion by Francisco Saldivar, seconded by Paul Pope to **approve Item 36 on first reading.**

It was noted that the ASMSUB passed a resolution on Monday that they, too, oppose the use of the COMPASS test as a challenge exam (attached to these minutes). Dr. Nook noted that he was present at that ASMSUB meeting and while the students did not have data, they did have anecdotal evidence of problems students have experienced as a result of having a “P” grade in WRIT 101. Cheri Johannes, Registrar, noted that if we implement this resolution, we need time to plan out options for our students so none are disadvantaged. We also need to give the English Department time to come up with a challenge exam for WRIT 101.

It was suggested that the Senate could pass the resolution and ask the Provost to work with appropriate parties on an implementation timeline. Dr. Pagano noted that he could report back in January.

⇒ Motion carried with 1 abstention.

The data which was requested on students who challenge WRIT 101 though the COMPASS exam will be distributed before second reading on this resolution.

The question was raised as to why we are not making use of students’ reading scores from the COMPASS exam. It was noted that the Welding program is the only one with a score requirement for reading. It was responded that we ultimately do not have the courses in place to support these students who are at a low reading level. If we do set requirements for reading scores from COMPASS, we must have a process/action to be taken for students who do not meet the requirement. Chancellor Nook noted that this is an excellent issue for the Student Success Committee to take on. He volunteered to pass this concern on to the Committee.

## VIII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

### **A. Prior Learning Assessment**

Guest: Matt Redinger, Vice Provost

Dr. Redinger noted that the Chancellor already covered this topic at the last meeting. He has nothing to report at this time, but will later after he attends a conference.

### **B. Continued Report from Subcommittee on Form Signature Issues and Issues with Seminars/Workshops**

The Committee recommends the formalizing of the “three times” rule as: “If a seminar/workshop is offered more than three times under the same name over a five-year period, the course must be submitted as a new course to be approved through the normal process of curriculum review.” This process will be self-monitored by departments.

The Committee also recommends that the policies of the Senate be organized and provided to each Senator.

### **C. ETS Exam and General Education Assessment**

We need to come up with a plan to get the tests done this spring.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

rjrm