

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: March 26, 2015

PRESENT:	Tom Dell	Patricia Vettel-Becker
	A.J. Otjen	Cindy Dell
	Francisco Saldivar	Susan Gilbertz
	James Barron	Debra Johnson
	Kelly Shumway	Paul Pope
	Bruce Brumley	Sonja Choriki (student)
	Diane Duin (ex-officio)	C. Shearer-Cremean (ex-officio)
	Barbara Wheeling (ex-officio)	Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)
	William Shields (ex-officio)	Matt Redinger (ex-officio)

ABSENT:	Andrew Sullivan*	Stephen Coffman*
	Rita Kratky (ex-officio)	Terrie Iverson (ex-officio)
	Joe Oravec (ex-officio)	

* *excused*

GUESTS:	Susan Balter-Reitz	Kevin Nemeth
	Cheri Johannes	Mark Nook

PRESIDING: Bruce Brumley, Chair

Bruce Brumley called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room.

The minutes of March 12 were accepted as presented.

I. CHANCELLOR REPORT

Chancellor Nook stated that today finished up the OneMSU symposium on prior learning assessment. There is policy being developed at the system level for handling prior learning. After that concluded, Dr. Nook met with President Waded Cruzado and about 20 local business leaders, organized by Steve Arveschoug of Big Sky Economic Development. These business people made it clear that they are impressed with MSUB faculty because they are not in it for the money; they are in it for the students. They also

indicated their support for MSUB and that support for what MSUB is doing is needed upstream. Dr. Nook noted that there is a groundswell of support in the community for MSUB, and they want us to grow. We will take advantage of that, as we move toward our 100th anniversary in 2027.

II. PROVOST REPORT

Bill Shields, Interim Provost, stated that he's been here ten days now and he's getting to know the place. He's glad to be here.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Francisco Saldivar stated that he has been reading the AAUP "Red Book" and it is an excellent resource as we begin to discuss the Senate's role in curriculum and budget. AAUP (American Association of University Professors) has been debating these same issues since 1915.

IV. CURRICULUM ITEM – CONSENT

Item 89 BSEd Broadfield Major in Elementary Education. Modification to an existing program.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Cindy Dell to **accept the consent agenda.**

⇒ Motion carried.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 95 MSUB Extended Campus Operations Policy. Revised March 2015.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Francisco Saldivar to **accept Item 95 for information.**

Kevin Nemeth, Director of Extended Campus, noted that the changes are primarily to faculty pay. There are also changes to the revenue sharing percentages to help Extended Campus become self-supported sooner. A small clarification was added to the faculty pay section.

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 94 HHP 364 Research Methods in Health and Human Performance. Change rubric to KIN. Changes due to CCN; for information only.

⇒ Motion by Susan Gilbertz, seconded by Francisco Saldivar to **accept Item 94 for information.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Shared Governance

Mr. Brumley asked the Chancellor to give his thoughts on shared governance. Dr. Nook stated that shared governance varies depending on the environment in which it operates. The purpose of shared governance, generally, is to make sure all parties have input into a decision, not that a decision is made at every level. There are different types of decisions, for the faculty, the administration, and even the students. Everyone needs to be in on the discussion, but the decision is made by only one party. Faculty own the curriculum, but no one faculty member approves the curriculum—the Academic Senate approves the curriculum. So, does the Senate need to discuss whether there is funding and staffing for a new academic program? Faculty should be asking those questions at every level. It is Senate's role to say whether MSUB should offer a given program. If the Senate and administration agree that a program is a good fit for MSUB and the community but we don't have funding for it, that's administration's problem to fix. However, there are not always clear delineations between issues. Ultimately, if something goes wrong with a program, the Chancellor is the person who will be held responsible by the community and the Regents.

B. Spring Break Policy Draft

Mr. Brumley noted that BOR policy 305.2 part c. states that it is up to each university to determine the calendar, including days off. The online learning policy, 303.7, states that all classes, onsite and online, are the same; the only difference is how they are delivered. It appears, according to these policies, we should not be teaching anything during Spring Break. It was noted that we don't have a place where these two BOR policies come together, so it might be advisable to have a policy anyway. That policy should also be flexible to include accelerated courses that do not last the entire semester.

Cheri Johannes, Registrar, noted that there are many rules for the creation of the academic calendar, but one thing is true: Spring Break is not counted in anything, including instructional days, minutes for credit, or financial aid. The question was raised that if Spring Break is not counted at all, how can we do anything class-related during that time?

It was noted that we don't need to re-create a policy, but perhaps a statement from the Senate would be a good idea. We need to ensure that content is not added to make a three credit course into a four credit course. We should probably discourage people from using Spring Break as part of their course time. Dr. Johannes noted that advisors need to

know if a course has an unusual schedule, because students will be asking *before* they register. She suggested that the Academic Standards and Scholastic Standing Committee work up a policy.

⇒ Motion by Susan Gilbertz, seconded by Cindy Dell to **refer the second policy statement (below) to the Academic Standards and Scholastic Standing Committee for their recommendation.**

All regular full semester courses, regardless of delivery mode (online, hybrid, face to face) should abide by the MSUB calendar, including scheduled breaks and holidays. Any deviation from the schedule requires sufficient advanced notice in the syllabus of any assignment due dates or scheduled meetings during breaks and/or holidays.

Francisco Saldivar stated that he would go to the Academic Standards and Scholastic Standing Committee meeting.

⇒ Motion carried.

B. MPA Joint Program Implications

Paul Pope, director of the MPA program, stated that when he was hired, the plan was to separate from Bozeman. Bozeman requested a number of things from us, most likely to buy time, until we finally requested the separation. They gave us a straightforward “no.” Then, Provost Potvin of Bozeman told us the two programs must be identical to avoid the issue of program duplication. We were also told that if we don’t have the resources to offer the program, it will go away.

When the program was proposed in 2003, it was approved by the BOR before it even came to Senate. The Senate voted the program down, and the chancellor at the time approved it anyway.

It was noted that despite the memorandum of understanding, Bozeman refuses to share resources with us. Getting a student graduated is also quite a challenge, since the degree is transcribed dually, the degree paperwork is all signed dually, and Bozeman has said MSUB graduates are low priority.

Further discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

rjrm