

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: February 21, 2019

PRESENT: Suzette Nynas
Scott Butterfield
Kelly McCoy
Heather Thompson-Bahm
Vern Gagnon
Jennifer Lynn
Halle Keltner (student)
Mary Susan Fishbaugh (ex-officio)
Melinda Arnold (ex-officio)

Jim Barron
Cindy Dell
Keith Edgerton
Sarah Keller
Paul Pope
Rachael Waller
Joy Honea (ex-officio)
Vicki Trier (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Kelly Shumway*
Ed Garding (ex-officio)*
Darlene Hert (ex-officio)
Trudy Collins (ex-officio)

John Dorr (ex-officio)*
Christine Shearer (ex-officio)
Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)*

* *excused*

GUESTS: Mara Pierce
Matt Queen

Donna Bulatowicz

PRESIDING: Jim Barron, Chair

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

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 7 were accepted as presented.

III. PROVOST REPORT

Tonight we celebrate Faculty Excellence!

Yesterday, Dr. Arnold held an Academic Affairs Town Hall, where she discussed the outstanding Dean searches (COB and CAHP), the 12 or so faculty searches currently in progress, the strategic alignment process resulting in 50 programs being phased out or integrated, additional professional development for faculty, and a new fellows program with the Provost for faculty who wish to try work in higher education administration.

The program alignment phase outs and integrations have not yet been started. Provost Arnold intends to meet with each department to plan out how the changes will happen. She wants the faculty to tell her how this moves forward, not the other way around. The list of programs will also need to go to the Commissioner.

IV. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Item 52 Emeritus Nomination: Mary Susan Fishbaugh, College of Education. For information.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Cindy Dell to **accept Item 52.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 53 Certificate of AS in Pharmacy Technician. Placing program on moratorium. For information only.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Jennifer Lynn to **accept Item 53.**

⇒ Motion carried.

V. ITEMS – FIRST READING

Item 54 New Course Form, Change/Delete Course Form, Modification of Existing Program Form, Deletion of Program Form, New Program Forms, Gen Ed Course Form. Change signature line for Dean to include “agree/disagree.”

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Cindy Dell to **approve Item 54 on first reading.**

The point of this change is to give Deans an opportunity to share comments, but not stop curriculum from moving forward. If a conflict arises, it can be aired at a Senate meeting.

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Cindy Dell to **waive second reading of Item 54.**

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 36 CHMY 361 Elements of Physical Chemistry. New course.

Item 36.a CHMY 362 Elements of Physical Chemistry Laboratory. New course.

Item 36.b BS Major in Chemistry. Modification to an existing program.

⇒ Motion by Cindy Dell, seconded by Paul Pope to **approve Items 36 through 36.b on first reading.**

This Fall, the Department will delete the courses no longer used.

⇒ Motion carried.

⇒ Motion by Cindy Dell, seconded by Paul Pope to **waive second reading of Items 36 through 36.b.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Faculty Diversity Committee: Discuss moving under purview of Senate

Guest: Mara Pierce, Art Department

Dr. Pierce noted that the Committee is interested in offering workshops and other resources to faculty to increase awareness of diversity issues worldwide, but especially in the classroom and with a focus on pedagogy. They would also like to know what the faculty know right now. The Committee currently does not have a home, but they have six faculty serving. It was noted that a Diversity Committee should encompass more than faculty and should include resources across campus such as the Diversity Center. Provost Arnold noted that there are some overlapping objectives in the strategic plan that speak to diversity.

⇒ Motion by Sarah Keller, seconded by Kelly McCoy to **move the Diversity Committee under the Academic Senate.**

It was noted that a clear mission/purpose needs to be articulated before the Senate votes on subsuming the Committee. It was further noted that making the committee a faculty committee might discourage non-faculty from getting involved with the group. However, the Committee intends to focus tightly on diversity in the classroom. Perhaps a narrower name than just “Diversity Committee” should be considered.

It was agreed that the motion is tabled and the Diversity Committee will put together a proposal with a clear mission and vision of where they are headed for a future Senate meeting.

B. Discussion of Inclusivity and Hate Speech

Another round of white supremacist flyers have been found recently on campus, and there was a book left on the LA Building 8th floor. The History Department sent a letter to the administration and the student government about this continuing issue. The problem is, these groups interpret a lack of response as a win for them. There is now a diversity link on the main MSUB webpage, which goes to the Diversity Center, but we need to do more. Many campuses have met this problem with a rally *for diversity*, rather than a rally against something. It would not be meant to confront these people, but rather to celebrate and support our diverse students. Basically, this would bring all our student groups together for a party, which is a great idea.

Provost Arnold noted that we are working on a new posting policy for flyers. However, it would be difficult for this group to *properly* post a flyer on campus, as each one must be reviewed. There is no penalty for posting flyers against policy, other than removal of the flyers.

Halle Keltner, ASMSUB President, noted that the ASMSUB will be issuing a statement at their next meeting.

It was noted that some faculty feel that the administration's response to the initial flyers being found was not strong enough, that it was a "non-response." Since then, two or three press releases have been issued.

The Montana Human Rights Network thinks the group here in Billings is likely pretty small.

Jennifer Lynn, Heather Thompson-Bahm, and Halle Keltner agreed to put together a proposal for a rally to present to the Chancellor.

C. Mid-Term Statement

While the Senate will not impose mandatory mid-term grading, we can send out a statement encouraging faculty to keep their students posted on grades. It was noted that eLearning will be sending out a "tip of the week" about using the D2L gradebook, which automatically totals grades and is available to students at any time.

It was noted that the statement should include that students ought to get their grade before the last day to withdraw from a course without instructor permission. We should also include reminders about the early alert system. Jim Barron will revise the statement and get it out next week to all faculty.

D. Recommendations from A&SC 111 Committee

The first recommendation on this homeless course is to move it to the COE, just like RD 101 and LSCI 125. It was noted that the COE is not trying to amass FTE, but rather just to give these courses an academic home.

The next phase would be requiring the course of all students. The third phase would be adding one credit (A&SC 111 is currently two credits) which would be team-taught by faculty. The sections would be divided up by major or college, and the faculty would connect with freshmen students in the discipline, which is a proven retention strategy.

The Committee agreed to work with Vice Provost Sue Balter-Reitz to move forward on all three phases of the proposal.

⇒ Motion by Vern Gagnon, seconded by Sarah Keller to recommend to the **Provost that A&SC 111 be moved to the Department of Educational Theory & Practice.**

⇒ Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

rjrm