

ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

DATE: November 14, 2024

PRESENT: Suzette Nynas
Debra Schoenfeld
Kari Dahle-Huff
Paul Pope
Sarah Keller
Kurt Toenjes (ex-officio)
Susan Gilbertz (ex-officio)
Richard Beer (ex-officio)
Leslie Weldon (ex-officio)
Eileen Wright (ex-officio)

Matt Queen
Susan Gregory
John Pannell
Melissa Boehm
Vikash Kumar (student)
Tami Haaland (ex-officio)
Vern Gagnon (ex-officio)
Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)
Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)

ABSENT: Josh Hill*
Heather Thompson-Bahm*
Lamiya Husen (student)
Sam Boerboom (ex-officio)
* *excused*

Jennifer Scroggins*
Austin Bennett*
Melanie Reaves (ex-officio)

GUESTS: Kathleen Thatcher
Scott Jeppesen
Cheri Johannes

Brett Weisz
Jana Marcette

PRESIDING: Suzette Nynas, Chair

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

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Senate bylaw changes have been voted on by all faculty and have been approved. Of 141 faculty, 40 voted.

There is no Gen Ed Committee report today. That item was added to the agenda in error.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 31 were accepted as presented.

III. PROVOST & VICE CHANCELLOR REPORTS

Dr. Richard Beer introduced himself as the new Interim Provost. He previously served MSUB as Interim Dean of the College of Business during the 2020-2021 year. He is retired but currently teaching one course for Sonoma State University, so he will finish that out December 10 and then move to Billings. He will act as interim until the permanent provost is hired next summer.

Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance Leslie Weldon

Ms. Weldon reported that they are still waiting on the architects for the plans of the new Art Building.

The Budget Office is working on budget projections for mid-year FY25. The Budget Advisory Council is almost formed. This group should be *advisory* in nature, giving campus constituents a chance to discuss issues facing MSUB.

Business Services is rolling out a new automated installment plan for students, but will still provide special help to those who need it.

Facilities remains busy. The LA Building 8th floor Asian ladybug infestation is almost resolved. Everyone was notified this week that the LA Building lost power and other utilities, as a result of a water leak. Repairs took Tuesday through part of Thursday to complete.

As part of the notification of the LA outage, we learned that many students using their preferred email did not get the email notices. Many email providers, especially Google, are throttling emails to prevent excessive spam, so our emails arrived a day late. I.T. is working on ways to resolve this issue.

December 5 at 5:15 p.m. will be the Chancellor's holiday kick-off in the clocktower building.

I.T. has rolled out their new service desk. We have also become members of eduroam, which allows all students, faculty, and staff to login to any university's wireless who participates in eduroam, using your NetID. The cybersecurity training completion rate is up to 89%.

The RFPs for food service and pour rights for campus will be going out soon.

Vice Chancellor for Student Access & Success Kim Hayworth

Dr. Hayworth noted that the second Director of University Communications & Marketing candidate was on campus yesterday. The search committee will meet Friday to prepare their findings to forward to the Chancellor.

There is one scholarship committee meeting left. The feedback from the committees has been excellent, and they plan to create scholarship workshops for students with the colleges. They also plan to create an orientation for members of the scholarship committees.

Student Health Services at City College will be changing their service days from Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday to just Tuesday-Thursday. SHS has greater demand at the University campus, so they are moving resources. This change will be in effect through the end of this semester. SHS is also looking into greater promotion of their services at City College.

We are holding events in conjunction with the Sibanye-Stillwater reduction in force. There was an event in Columbus and Sibanye-Stillwater will also be involved in the “College is Possible” event at City College on November 19.

Preview Day was today and it went very well. Thank you to all the faculty who helped host the event. The Military & Veteran’s Success Center also held a veteran’s panel today. The International Food Fair is Friday evening.

IV. OTHER REPORTS

AI Subcommittee Report, John Pannell

Mr. Bennett could not be at today’s meeting, so Mr. Pannell reported that their fact-finding mission continues as they meet with various campus entities. That will conclude soon and they will begin work on their policy recommendations.

Bylaws Subcommittee Report

Dr. Nynas noted that the Honors Council is still working on their bylaws.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Title	Status	Received
ARTH 436: Art and Gender	Edited	10/30/2024

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by John Pannell to **approve the consent agenda.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Group 1		
ALHR 501: Orientation to ALiHR	Deleted	10/25/2024
ALHR 502: Adventure Skills Training	Deleted	10/25/2024
ALHR 503: Cont Iss Hlth/Rec Ther/Adv Ldr	Deleted	10/25/2024
ALHR 530: Hist Pers & Polcy of Outd Adv	Deleted	10/25/2024
ALHR 532: Budg, Fin, & FacI Mgmt Adv Rec	Deleted	10/25/2024
ALHR 533: Risk Mgmt & Comm in Adv Rec	Deleted	10/25/2024
ALTR 520: Therapeutic Recreation Process	Deleted	10/25/2024
ALTR 521: Assmnt, Doc & Admin Rec Therpy	Deleted	10/25/2024
ALTR 522: Therapeutic Rec Modalities	Deleted	10/25/2024
ALTR 523: Therapeutic Rec & Disabilities	Deleted	10/25/2024
ALTR 590: Internship	Deleted	10/25/2024

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by John Pannell to **approve Group 1.**

The Adventure Leadership in Health and Recreation Master’s program never got up and running, so the associated courses are being cleaned out.

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 2		
RD 520: Disciplinary Literacy	Edited	10/25/2024

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Sarah Keller to **approve Item 2.**

⇒ Motion carried with 1 abstention.

Group 3		
BIOB 120: Fund of Bio Plants & People	Added	11/6/2024
GEO 112: Montana Geology	Added	11/6/2024

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Matt Queen to **approve Group 3.**

These are the new 2+1 science courses for Gen Ed. BIOB 120 is 3 credits and has a built-in lab. GEO 112 is 2 credits and those students will take the GEO 102 lab (1 credit).

⇒ Motion carried.

Music Minor - Proposal to Take Out of Moratorium	Added	11/6/2024	Remove from moratorium
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⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Matt Queen to **approve the proposal to take the Music Minor out of moratorium.**

Scott Jeppesen, Music, noted that the Music Minor was placed on moratorium 4 years ago. Thus, the Commissioner’s Office has removed it from the official program listing (the limit is 3 years) so while we are removing the program from moratorium *on campus*, this will be a *new* program proposed to the Board of Regents. There has been a lot of student interest in the minor, but there are plenty of superintendents of schools looking for courses teachers could take so they could manage a school choir. The main intent of the minor for teachers would be keeping music skills fresh, not getting certified to teach in music.

Dr. Jeppesen also noted that the BOR new program paperwork has been prepared and is ready to submit, pending today’s meeting. Their projected enrollment is 5 students per year. Sue Balter-Reitz, Special Assistant to the Provost, noted that if we do not meet our enrollment estimates after 3 years, the program is immediately put into moratorium. OCHE is doing analysis about resources and sustainability of programs, so we will have to justify the resources for this new program. Kathleen Thatcher, Assessment & Accreditation, noted that this new program will also require NWCCU approval.

It was noted that many of our Dual Enrollment students who already have many credits may be interested in this minor. These students were often musicians in high school and would like to continue to be.

The question was raised as to whether this should be a teaching minor, since there is such a shortage of music teachers in Montana. Dr. Jeppesen responded they could investigate making this a teaching minor, or adding a pathway within the minor, in the future. It was noted that by the time BOR approval comes for the minor, it will be too late to update the curriculum of the minor from non-teaching to teaching and get it in the catalog this year.

⇒ Motion carried with 2 opposed.

Emeriti Policy Revised; New Emeriti Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities	Added	11/8/2024	Policy
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Dr. Nynas noted that the Provost’s budget spends a lot on keeping our emeriti faculty set up with computers. Further, the I.T. staff may spend hours trying to give support at a distance to emeriti faculty no longer living in Billings. Software for emeriti faculty has become an increasing cost as well. With those issues in mind, some of the benefits of emeriti have been reduced and removed.

The Senate Executive Committee has separated the policy and the benefits of emeriti status. They are also working on a “Retirement with Distinction” policy for faculty who do not meet the revised eligibility criteria for emeriti status.

It was noted that, given our budget situation, should we not cut all benefits? It was noted that it is minimal cost to supply an office in Cisel Hall, or to use labs. However, time is a cost both in terms of I.T. staff support and lab preparation.

It was noted that 15 years for eligibility seems high, since people don't stay in positions like they used to. It was responded that this policy aims to recognize those faculty who do stay.

It was noted that the BOR also offer an administrator emeriti status, which is done through the Chancellor's Office.

The policy and rights, privileges, and responsibilities will be revised for the next meeting.

Vice Chancellor Evaluation Instrument	Added	11/8/2024	Policy
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Dr. Nynas noted that Provost Beer will be our administrator for the reviews of the Vice Chancellors and Chancellor.

It was noted that the instrument is very similar to the dean and provost instruments, but shorter. The questions pertain to how the vice chancellor's jobs relate to and work with academics.

⇒ Motion by Kari Dahle-Huff, seconded by Paul Pope to **approve the Vice Chancellor Evaluation Instrument.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Dates for Vice Chancellor & Chancellor Evaluations

It was agreed the surveys will be sent December 2 (right after the Thanksgiving weekend) and close December 12, the end of Finals Week.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

rjrm