

**ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES**

**DATE:** December 5, 2024

**PRESENT:** Suzette Nynas  
Josh Hill  
Debra Schoenfeld  
Susan Gregory  
John Pannell  
Paul Pope  
Sarah Keller  
Kurt Toenjes (ex-officio)  
Susan Gilbertz (ex-officio)  
Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)  
Sam Boerboom (ex-officio)

Matt Queen  
Jennifer Scroggins  
Heather Thompson-Bahm  
Kari Dahle-Huff  
Austin Bennett  
Melissa Boehm  
Vikash Kumar (student)  
Tami Haaland (ex-officio)  
Vern Gagnon (ex-officio)  
Leslie Weldon (ex-officio)  
Eileen Wright (ex-officio)

**ABSENT:** Richard Beer (ex-officio)\*  
Lamiya Husen (student)  
\* *excused*

Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)\*  
Melanie Reaves (ex-officio)

**GUESTS:** Kathleen Thatcher  
Jacob Thacker  
Mara Pierce  
Bruce Brumley  
Cheri Johannes  
Brent Finger

Jason Comer  
Kameron Nelson  
Jodi Lightner  
Heather Slezak  
Jana Marcette  
Alan Lohof

**PRESIDING:** Suzette Nynas, Chair

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

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Holiday Lighting Ceremony is today after this meeting. The campus Holiday Party is next week, after Senate.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 14 were accepted as presented.

III. PROVOST & VICE CHANCELLOR REPORTS

Interim Provost Beer could not be here today.

Vice Chancellor Kim Hayworth also could not attend, but her brief report is attached to these minutes.

**Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance Leslie Weldon**

Ms. Weldon noted that fee requests are due. The Budget Advisory Council will have their first meeting this Monday.

IV. OTHER REPORTS

**AI Subcommittee Report**

Austin Bennett reported that the committee has completed their investigations, and they will begin defining the problem. That will be finished in January, and then they will begin creating policy. John Pannell, who serves on OCHE's committee for AI, noted that OCHE is very encouraging of AI; we need to embrace it.

**Bylaws Subcommittee Report**

The two changes for term limits and electronic voting for elections passed and the bylaws have been updated. The committee is still working on the Honors Council.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Received</b>
ARTH 321: Renaissance & Baroque Art	Edited	11/13/2024
Biology Bachelor of Arts Degree	Edited	11/13/2024
Biology Bachelor of Science Degree	Edited	11/13/2024
Health and Physical Education (K-12) Teaching Minor	Deleted	11/13/2024
Computer Programming and Application Development Associate of Applied Science Degree	Edited	11/20/2024
ASTR 110: Introduction to Astronomy	Edited	11/20/2024
BIOB 101: Discover Biology	Edited	11/20/2024
PHSX 103: Our Physical World	Edited	11/20/2024
BIOB 315: Animal Development	Edited	11/20/2024
COMT 561: Multicultural Media Studies	Edited	11/21/2024
COMX 438: Multicultural Media Studies	Edited	11/21/2024

⇒ Motion by John Pannell, seconded by Jennifer Scroggins to **approve the consent agenda.**

⇒ Motion carried.

VI. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

Title	Status	Received	Request Type
Emeriti Policy Revised; New Emeriti Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities	Added	11/25/2024	Policy

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Melissa Boehm to **approve the Emeriti Policy and Emeriti Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities.**

It was noted the application process is intended to be similar to a rank advancement. The privileges have been separated so they can be updated more easily. The Senate is also developing a Retirement with Distinction designation for those who do not meet Emeriti eligibility, such as non-tenured faculty.

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 1		
ARTH 439: Amer Frst Ntns Art & Vis Cltr	Edited	11/13/2024

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

Mara Pierce, Art, noted that she has taught this course for two years. The title change is to make more clear what is being taught in the course. It was noted that the Senate has undertaken an initiative to develop acceptable language, but it will be a list, not one single term everyone must use. It was suggested this course should also be offered as a graduate level course.

⇒ Motion carried with 1 opposed and 2 abstentions.

Group 2		
ARTZ 371: Printmaking II	Edited	11/13/2024
ARTZ 470: Advanced Research-Printmaking	Edited	11/13/2024

⇒ Motion by Jennifer Scroggins, seconded by Paul Pope to **approve Group 2.**

Jodi Lightner, Chair, Art, noted that these courses were deleted due to lack of enrollment, but with Art's increased enrollment, and equipment already on hand, the courses are being revived. No new faculty are needed.

⇒ Motion carried.

Group 3		
CHMY 250: Applied Math for the Sciences	Added	11/13/2024
Chemistry Bachelor of Science Degree	Edited	11/13/2024

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Austin Bennett to **approve Group 3.**

Matt Queen, Biological & Physical Sciences, noted that they are adding this applied math methods course, which UM and MSU also offer, to give additional math support especially for Chemistry majors. Other science majors may take the course, as well. Tami Haaland, Dean, CLASS, noted that the Math Department is in support of this course.

⇒ Motion carried.

Group 4		
BIOB 495: Fieldwork	Edited	11/13/2024
ERTH 307: Principles of Geomorphology	Added	11/13/2024
GEO 101: Intro to Physical Geology	Edited	11/13/2024
GEO 211: Earth History & Evolution	Edited	11/13/2024
GEO 212: Earth History & Evolution Lab	Edited	11/13/2024
GEO 309: Sedimentation and Stratigraphy	Edited	11/13/2024
GEO 315: Structural Geology	Edited	11/13/2024
GEO 428: Field Methods	Added	11/13/2024
SCIN 289: Scientific Inquiry	Added	11/13/2024
SCIN 499: Senior Thesis/Capstone	Added	11/13/2024
Broadfield Science Bachelor of Science Degree	Edited	11/13/2024

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Jennifer Scroggins to **approve Group 4.**

Jason Comer, Biological & Physical Sciences, noted that most of these changes are to get more field work into the Broadfield Science major. The new course SCIN 289 is to help students get ready for research or an internship, which they will then bring all together in the capstone course, SCIN 499.

⇒ Motion carried.

Group 5		
ITS 210: Network OS - Desktop	Edited	11/20/2024
Cybersecurity/Computer Systems Associate of Applied Science Degree	Edited	11/20/2024

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by John Pannell to **approve Group 5.**

Bruce Brumley, Computer Technology, noted they lost a faculty member unexpectedly, and have decided to combine their two programs. The programs were very similar and the combined program will make better use of their resources. This change also add the “cybersecurity” term to the title, as that has a lot of student draw.

It was noted that this program name change will require OCHE approval. We must make it clear we are not putting forward a new cybersecurity program.

⇒ Motion carried.

Group 6		
ELCT 241: Electric Motor Controls	Edited	11/20/2024
ETEC 193: Fund Electrical Technicians II	Edited	11/20/2024
PPT 151: Process Plant HSE I	Edited	11/20/2024
PPT 161: Process Plant HSE II	Edited	11/20/2024
PPT 175: Process Plant Sciences	Edited	11/20/2024
PPT 176: Process Plant Sciences Lab	Edited	11/20/2024
PPT 208: Equipment and Operations Lab	Edited	11/20/2024
PPT 210: Equipment and Operations	Edited	11/20/2024
TRID 185: Intro Industrial Power Systems	Edited	11/20/2024
TRID 186: Intro Indstrl Pwr Systms Lab	Edited	11/20/2024
Instrument and Electrical Technician Associate of Applied Science	Edited	11/20/2024
Process Plant Technology Associate of Applied Science Degree	Edited	11/20/2024

⇒ Motion by Josh Hill, seconded by Paul Pope to **approve Group 6.**

Heather Slezak, Instrument and Electrical program, noted that these changes will allow the Instrument and Electrical program to start every year, rather than every other year. Also, the Process Plant Technology program shares much of the same content, so now students will take the same first year for both programs.

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 7		
FIRE 109: Wildland Firefighting Lab	Added	11/20/2024

⇒ Motion by Jennifer Scroggins, seconded by Paul Pope **to approve Item 7.**

Alan Lohof, Fire Science program, noted that FIRE 106 Wildland Firefighting currently has an included lab. This new course would separate the lab for those few students who do not want or need it. The course is a 10-hour field day plus tours and work with local fire departments.

⇒ Motion carried.

Item 8		
Public Relations Master of Science	Edited	11/21/2024

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Austin Bennett to **approve Item 8.**

Sam Boerboom, Chair, Communication, noted this change reduces the number of letters of recommendation required for admission to the program.

⇒ Motion carried.

Group 9		
PSYC 562: Native Am Culture & Psychology	Added	11/21/2024
PSYX 340: Psychological Disorders	Edited	11/21/2024
PSYX 434: Native Am Culture & Psychology	Added	11/21/2024
Psychology Master of Science	Edited	11/21/2024
Psychology Bachelor of Science/Master of Science Accelerated Option (3+2)	Edited	11/21/2024
Psychology Bachelor of Science Degree	Edited	11/21/2024
Psychology Minor	Edited	11/21/2024

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by John Pannell to **approve Group 9.**

Kameron Nelson, Psychology, noted that, system-wide, the title for PSYX 340 is being updated. They are also adding a new course in Native American Culture & Psychology, based on recommendations from an advisory board composed of Native American former MSUB students.

⇒ Motion carried.

Group 10		
CJUS 501: Criminal Justice Perspectives	Added	11/21/2024
CJUS 505: Criminal Justice Policy	Added	11/21/2024
CJUS 510: Multicultural Issues in CJUS	Added	11/21/2024
CJUS 520: Advanced Issues in Corrections	Deleted	11/21/2024
CJUS 521: Ethics and Public Policy	Added	11/21/2024
CJUS 550: Data Analysis and Management	Added	11/21/2024
CJUS 591: Special Topics in CJUS	Edited	11/21/2024
CJUS 598: Graduate Internship	Added	11/21/2024
CJUS 599: Graduate Capstone	Added	11/21/2024
Criminal Justice Master of Science Degree	Added	11/21/2024

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Kari Dahle-Huff to **approve Group 10.**

Jennifer Scroggins, Chair, Social Sciences & Cultural Studies, noted they added several courses last year as a jump start for some students. This new master's will be a hyflex program in three semesters, using 8-week block courses. It is intended for people already working in the criminal justice system. It will be the only criminal justice master's available in Montana.

⇒ Motion carried.

## VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

### A. Draft Retirement with Distinction Policy

To address the concern that emeriti excludes some types of faculty, Retirement with Distinction would be available. The application process would be similar to rank advancement, just like the Emeriti Policy. These will not require BOR approval.

It was noted that 15 years seems high. It was further noted that if associate and full professors and City College Level III and IV are eligible for Retirement with Distinction, can they do *both* Emeriti and Retirement with Distinction? It was agreed application for both should not be allowed. It was also agreed that associate and full professors and City College Level III and IV should not be eligible for Retirement with Distinction. It was noted that many non-tenure-track faculty do not do research/scholarship, so for Retirement with Distinction, it may need to be a two-out-of-three requirement.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There is a concern with instructors not meeting the amount of contact time required for online courses.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

rjrm

## **Vice Chancellor for Student Access & Success Report**

Spring enrollment numbers for current students are running behind spring 2024, budgeted goals, and retention goals. Dr. Johannes shared the latest retention report earlier this week. Please continue to reach out to your advisees as we would like to get eligible students registered before the end of the fall semester.

Montana 10 – OCHE informed participating MUS institutions at the November Board of Regents meeting that there may not be funding to start new cohorts beyond Fall 2024. We will see the current cohorts through to on-time graduation. Because of previous funding allocations, OCHE has asked institutions to go back to fall 2023 to invite non-participants/control group to join MT 10 beginning in spring 2025. For comparison, F'23 MT 10 first-time freshman were retained to F'24 at a 3% higher rate than non-cohort F' 23 first-time freshmen. We are actively reaching out to current FF students back to fall 2023, including those no longer enrolled, in hopes of recruiting them into MT 10.

The FAFSA and the MSUB general scholarship platform opened on Dec. 1st. Please encourage students to apply to both! Financial Aid has offered to co-host financial aid/scholarship workshops with every college.

The Center for Engagement handed out over 80 Thanksgiving Meal boxes to MSUB students this year. This is twice the number we were able to distribute last year thanks to the Center for Engagement finding financial support for the boxes. Thank you for helping promote this to our students.

Cram Jam is scheduled for Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 8-9:30 pm in RimRock Café. This free breakfast is open to all students regardless of meal plan.

Residence Halls remain open during Christmas break. Students can request to stay in the halls but must be registered for spring 2025 or given special permission. There is limited food service with Sodexo closed between Christmas and New Years.