

**ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES**

**DATE:** April 18, 2024

**PRESENT:** Jennifer Lynn  
Matt Queen  
Jennifer Scroggins  
Heather Thompson-Bahm  
John Pannell  
Paul Pope  
Sarah Keller  
Tami Haaland (ex-officio)  
Ann Beste-Guldborg (ex-officio)  
Sep Eskandari (ex-officio)  
Jana Marcette (ex-officio)

Suzette Nynas  
Josh Hill  
Debra Schoenfeld  
Susan Gregory  
Austin Bennett  
Melissa Boehm  
Jim Barron (ex-officio)  
Susan Gilbertz (ex-officio)  
Vern Gagnon (ex-officio)  
Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)

**ABSENT:** Kari Dahle-Huff\*  
Leslie Weldon (ex-officio)  
Eileen Wright (ex-officio)

David Russell (student)  
Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)

\* *excused*

**GUESTS:** Melanie Reaves  
Kathleen Thatcher

Joann Stryker  
Cheri Johannes

**PRESIDING:** Jennifer Lynn, Chair

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

Dr. Lynn thanked the Senators for all their work during her term as Chair, and congratulated Suzette Nynas as incoming Chair.

**I. TRANSFER OF CHAIRSHIP**

Dr. Lynn transferred the Chairship to Dr. Nynas, and then departed the meeting.

## II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Paul Pope and Melissa Boehm on their promotion to full Professor.

## III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 21 were accepted as presented.

## IV. WELCOME NEW SENATORS

Matt Queen, CHPS  
Joshua Hill, CLASS  
Jennifer Scroggins, CLASS  
Heather Thompson-Bahm, COB  
Susan Gregory, COE  
Paul Pope, At-Large

## V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025

### A. Three Vice Chairs

Paul Pope and John Pannell volunteered. Paul Pope nominated Austin Bennett for the third position, and he accepted.

### B. Secretary

Melissa Boehm volunteered.

⇒ The officers were elected by unanimous consent.

## VI. PROVOST REPORT

Dr. Eskandari congratulated Dr. Nynas on her new position.

He then asked Cheri Johannes, Registrar, to talk about Commencement. She noted that faculty who ordered regalia can pick it up at the Campus Store now. She also urged faculty to be at the Metra at 9:00 a.m. on May 4 so that there's time to fix issues like lost tassels.

Dr. Johannes stated they have had a lot of late applications for graduation this year, so they are contacting students individually to make sure they can make it to the ceremony with everything they need. The Registrar's Office sends notice to all students who are eligible to graduate, as many of them change their minds at the last moment and want to come to the ceremony. If faculty know of any student accommodations that will be needed, please let her know.

VII. OTHER REPORTS

**AI Subcommittee**

John Pannell, Chair, noted that he has been unable to convene a meeting of the group. Austin Bennett has agreed to take over as chair of the subcommittee.

Mr. Bennett stated the committee would have something for the Senate to review and approve by January 2025. It was agreed any policies developed will live in the catalog and/or Senate webpage.

VIII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Level II - Merger of Health & Human Performance and Health Care Services	Added	4/10/2024	Department Name Changes
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Jim Barron, Associate Dean of CHPS, noted that the Department of Health Care Services is very small. They discussed with the Department of Health & Human Performance about a merger, since they are both health related areas. The College held listening sessions for faculty and students. The new name will be **Health Sciences and Human Performance**. The Request to Plan was approved by the BOR in March and final approval will happen at the May BOR meeting.

⇒ The item was accepted by unanimous consent.

Advanced Studies Option Applied Behavior Analysis Emphasis MSSEd Moratorium	Added	4/12/2024	Place on Moratorium
Applied Behavior Analysis Certificate Moratorium	Added	4/15/2024	Place on Moratorium

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Austin Bennett to **accept the two moratoriums**.

Melanie Reaves, Chair, Educational Theory & Practice, noted that enrollment in the master's program has been going down for the last three years, and they are not hopeful it will rebound. The certificate has always been low enrolled. Accreditation is a concern, given our current resources. Once the moratorium has been approved by Senate, they will begin formally contacting students, but students are already aware.

⇒ Motion carried.

IX. ITEM FOR APPROVAL

Emerita Nomination of Lynette Schwalbe	Added	4/10/2024	Emeriti
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⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Austin Bennett to **approve the emeriti nomination.**

Since this person is not tenured, they fall under the “exemplary candidates” in Part C of the policy for eligibility. There is flexibility in the policy, but scholarship is part of it. It was agreed that accreditation work is part of scholarship for some disciplines. It is important to assure that MSUB is respected across the University System, but MSUB also has a variety of faculty doing a variety of scholarship. Our faculty are very different from Bozeman’s faculty.

Dr. Eskandari noted that the Board of Regents have begun making emeriti nominations a very public affair, with the campus CAO asked to make a short presentation about each candidate. We certainly want to put our best forward.

⇒ Motion carried with 1 opposed and 2 abstentions.

## X. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

### A. Senator Term Limits

It was noted that Dr. Nynas’ term as Senator ends before her term as Chair ends. This is allowed for in the bylaws (Chair Nynas must run again and be elected to retain the Chair position), but Dr. Nynas will also have served three terms as Senator and is therefore term-limited out.

It was suggested the Senate could waive the term limit in this instance. Another suggestion was to change the bylaws to allow the Chair to finish their term regardless of their Senator term. It was also suggested to extend the term limit to four consecutive three-year terms, instead of the current three.

⇒ Motion by Melissa Boehm, seconded by Josh Hill to **change the term limit to four consecutive three-year terms.**

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by John Pannell to **table this motion until the Fall.**

### B. Update Bylaws to use Electronic Voting for Elections

The bylaws currently state that Senator elections must be conducted on paper by campus mail. In the Fall, we will discuss electronic means for this process.

### C. Barnes & Noble First Day Complete

Past Chair Jen Lynn had submitted the request for an extension on implementation of First Day Complete to Fall 2025, and they have agreed. B&N are also working on the list of questions gathered by the Senate.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.  
rjrm