

## ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

**DATE:** September 26, 2024

**PRESENT:** Suzette Nynas  
Josh Hill  
Debra Schoenfeld  
Susan Gregory  
John Pannell  
Melissa Boehm  
Lamiya Husen (student)  
Kurt Toenjes (ex-officio)  
Vern Gagnon (ex-officio)  
Sue Balter-Reitz (ex-officio)  
Kim Hayworth (ex-officio)  
Eileen Wright (ex-officio)

Matt Queen  
Jennifer Scroggins  
Heather Thompson-Bahm  
Kari Dahle-Huff  
Paul Pope  
Sarah Keller  
Vikash Kumar (student)  
Tami Haaland (ex-officio)  
Sep Eskandari (ex-officio)  
Leslie Weldon (ex-officio)  
Sam Boerboom (ex-officio)

**ABSENT:** Austin Bennett\*  
Melanie Reaves (ex-officio)  
\* *excused*

Susan Gilbertz (ex-officio)

**GUESTS:** Melinda Tilton  
Joann Stryker  
Cheri Johannes

Stefani Hicswa  
Kathleen Thatcher

**PRESIDING:** Suzette Nynas, Chair

---

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

### I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Academic Senate on October 10 will be moved from City College to University campus, with a shortened agenda, in order for everyone to attend ResearchFest and allow presenters time to prepare for their presentation.

## II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 12 were accepted as presented.

## III. CHANCELLOR, PROVOST, & VICE CHANCELLOR REPORTS

### **Provost Report**

Dr. Eskandari thanked the faculty for their work and support from everyone.

- Faculty searches have been finalized for advertising.
- Many City College positions are shifting to tenure-track.
- Faculty positions approved to advertise during the AY 24-25 cycle:
  - 6 in City College (5 tenure-track)
  - 3 in College of Education (2 tenure-track)
  - 5 in College of Health Professions and Science
  - 8 in College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (4 tenure-track)

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

- The Montana Board of Regents approved FY25 Budget.
- Jacket success training by Business Services will offer a variety of training modules.
- IT: Local Administrative Computer Rights are changing to help with cybersecurity. The faculty's computers will be the last ones affected as many use a variety of software that require Local Administrative Computer Rights.
- Construction continues around campus, mainly around McMullen Hall. Cisel Hall also sustained leaks during the recent rainstorm.
- The surplus sale is returning and is scheduled for October 9-11.
- The payroll issues are unacceptable (missed union dues and other issues) and they are working toward resolution.
- The previous Title IX rules are still in place.

### **Vice Chancellor for Student Access & Success Kim Hayworth**

- Fall 2024 Census occurred on Tuesday (9/24): 4,129 students. Headcount increased by 37 students; undergraduate headcount increased by 116 students. 1,145 of those students are from Dual Enrollment. Graduate student headcount decreased by 79 students. Overall, FTE is down by 47 students, 6 from undergraduate and 41 from graduate.
- Financial Aid and Scholarships: meetings with the college scholarship committees are being scheduled to discuss process changes.
- Emergency Placards: The project has taken 2 years to update the emergency information in classrooms, due to transitions in University Communications. Installation of the signs is in progress.
- ASMSUB: Elections are happening today, with more nominations than seats available.
- Student Engagement: Pick One initiative promoted and encourages each student to be involved in at least one student organization, including work study.

### **Chancellor Report**

Chancellor Hicswa stated Provost Eskandari announced his resignation earlier in the week and his last day at MSUB will be November 1, 2024. The Chancellor expressed appreciation for Dr. Eskandari and the work he has done in the last three-plus years. Cheri Johannes, Registrar, will chair the Provost Search Committee. The national search will begin soon and the hope is for a new Provost to begin July 1, 2025, or sooner.

The need for an Interim Provost for the remainder of this academic year was discussed. The Chancellor explained that she had approached individuals to serve as Interim Provost but the individuals were not interested. She then asked Kurt Toenjes, Dean of CHPS, to serve as Interim Provost but he said he could not take on all of the duties required of an Interim Provost; therefore, Chancellor Hicswa decided to split the duties between Dr. Toenjes and Dr. Hayworth. Neither Dr. Toenjes nor Dr. Hayworth intend to apply for the permanent Provost position.

The Chancellor asked for feedback on a proposed organizational chart that included moving some departments under the Office of Academic Success and the split arrangement between Dr. Toenjes and Dr. Hayworth. Concerns were raised about Dr. Hayworth overseeing any academic functions due to a lack of academic experience and a perception that she is not faculty friendly. Additionally, Senate raised concerns about the faculty evaluation process, issues with Watermark, overall workload for the interim Provost, and decision-making authority for the interim Provost.

It was suggested that Dr. Toenjes serve as Interim Provost and an individual or individuals from academic affairs serve as Interim Vice Provost. Dr. Toenjes stated he is not opposed to that option, if it makes more sense.

Questions arose about another option for filling the Interim Provost position, which is The Registry. The Chancellor said it can be expensive and the outcome can be “hit or miss.” The Provost concurred. The Chancellor said that she would find out the possible cost of using The Registry.

The Chancellor thanked the Senate for their input and said she would take the suggestions and comments into account as she seeks to fill the Interim Provost position. Chair Nynas said Senate should stay apprised of the process since it directly affects faculty. Chancellor Hicswa offered to provide updates as appropriate.

#### **IV. OTHER REPORTS**

##### **Gen Ed Committee: The College Experience Course Melinda Tilton, Chair, GEC**

With the Provost’s support, the subcommittee created the course. The course description has been provided and was displayed for Senators to read and discuss. The CTL will be sending out a call for nominations for faculty to teach three sections of the one credit course: 2 faculty members from CLASS, 2 faculty members from CHPS, 1 faculty member from COE, 1 faculty member from COB, and 1 faculty member from City

College. All of the sections will be in person, with only one offered online. Each college will offer sections based on enrollment with the option of adding additional sections. The displacement of credits will need to be discussed with the Dean and Provost. The proposed plan would allow the faculty to not have to take on extra work as they would with the overload option.

It was noted this could be hard to find people to teach without pushing courses to other faculty. How do we balance this issue? It is now a required course and is a completely different scenario from the previous freshman course that was offered. The expectation is for the faculty to teach the course instead of staff, which is what had occurred with the previous elective freshman course.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Request Type</b>
Reducing Natural Sciences General Education Requirement to six credits	Added	9/9/2024	Policy
Academic Standards and Scholastic Standing Committee 2023-2024	Added	9/13/2024	Report

⇒ The items were accepted by consensus.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Received</b>
BMGT 210: Small Business Entrepreneurship	Edited	9/11/2024

⇒ The item was accepted by consensus.

VII. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Received</b>
<b>Group 1</b>		
LIT 210: American Literature I	Added	9/11/2024
LIT 211: American Literature II	Added	9/11/2024
LIT 223: British Literature I	Added	9/11/2024
LIT 224: British Literature II	Added	9/11/2024
LIT 285: Mythologies	Added	9/11/2024
LIT 308: Multicultural Literature	Added	9/11/2024
English Bachelor of Arts Degree	Edited	9/11/2024
<b>Group 2</b>		
Outdoor Adventure Leadership - 2+2 Track – Fire Science Bachelor of Science Degree	Deleted	9/11/2024

Outdoor Adventure Leadership Minor	Deleted	9/11/2024
------------------------------------	---------	-----------

It has been requested that Group 1 be postponed.

⇒ Motion by Paul Pope, seconded by Matt Queen to **approve Group 2.**

⇒ Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by Morgan Fradenburgh.