

FACULTY SENATE
September 10, 2008
REID HALL 101
4:10 AM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Cherry, Dodd for Wisner, Eitle, Fields, Fischer, Gee, Gipp for Sowell, Hanson, Igo, Jacobs, Lansverk, Lynch, Maskiell, C. McClure, G. McNeely, Mokwa, Prawdzienski, Snider for Becker, Versaevel, Walker, Watson, D. Weaver, Wojtowicz, Yoo for Zhu

Members Absent: Amin, Architecture, Ashley, Bangert, Bennett, Catoira, Fleck, Gerlach, HHD, Jackson, Larson, Lei, Neumeier, Political Science, T. Weaver

Others Present: Jeff Adams, Joseph Fedock

Chair Wes Lynch called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present. The minutes from September 3, 2008 were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENT – Chair Lynch

- A new learning management system will take the place of WebCT. This will be discussed at the next FS meeting on September 17, 2008.

MSU STUDENT EMAIL OUTSOURCING – Gwen Jacobs

- Google will be on campus to discuss the MSU student email outsourcing. Meetings with Google will take place Thursday and Friday of next week. Exact places and times will be posted on MSU TODAY. Questions and concerns should be directed to Gwen Jacobs.

TRANSFERABILITY – Wes Lynch, Russ Walker

- History - The legislature gave the COHE \$1.5M to address transferability. The BOR passed and adopted an equivalency policy (section 301.5.5 “Equivalent Course Identification and Numbering”) in December 2007. The BOR request that faculty determine what undergraduate courses are equivalent across the university system, assign common course numbers, prefixes and names.
- Timelines - Chair Lynch, a member on the Psychology transfer counsel, so-named the Faculty Learning Outcomes Counsel (FLOC) (There are 16 FLOCS, each representing a discipline.), met in August in Helena with other FLOC groups (Chemistry, e.g.) to determine their course equivalents. ARRAYS (changing course numbers so all were equivalent) of all FLOCS were sent forward to be reviewed.
- Since the August meeting, deadlines from the BOR have been given to all FLOC groups.
 - End of September 2008 – agree on all equivalent courses, titles and numbers;
 - End of October 30, 2008 – decide on common course outcomes for 12 -16 disciplines;
 - December 5, 2008 – other agreements completed; and
 - January 5, 2009 – present to the BOR as a done deal.
- A matrix may be found on the computerized FLOC bulletin board that shows all courses in all disciplines at all campuses (21 public), including tribal colleges and private institutions (3), that have been renumbered and given new prefixes. This matrix is the BOR’s preliminary incentive for all disciplines to move forward with new course numbering, new course titles, and course equivalency.
- The TACC (Transfer Articulation Coordinating Counsel), chaired by Russ Walker, will review the progress of matrices across all disciplines by the end of this month.
- Faculty Roles – It was noted that not all courses with the same numbers are equivalent. MSU will present some of its own numbers in all 16 disciplines.
- Students registering in March for April will see new numbered courses. (These students will also be switching to a new CORE at the same time.) By January 5, twelve disciplines will have course equivalencies and will be presented in the catalog in the fall of 2009.
- Faculty are creating new numbers and changing existing numbers, as well. The next deadline, at the end of September, requests the FLOCS to examine ARRAYS to determine if there are any missing courses, to decide whether the new numbering makes sense, and whether the equivalencies match correctly. Final ARRAYS will then be presented with recommendations.

- Each discipline from each public campus has a representative. Those representatives are the FLOC members who were sent ARRAYS for their departments to examine.
- Some faculty were not aware of the BOR timeline and have not received information about it. Russ Walker suggested going to the COHE website→transfer initiative→discussion board→ you can find the ARRAYS that have been completed in EXCEL spreadsheets. You will be able to view migration of old to new numbers.
- Faculty are concerned that many courses at the 300 level may be assigned a 200 course level. A suggested solution is to rename the 200 levels to “introduction to” for the two-year campuses and keep the 300 level at the four-year campuses.
- New numbers may be formulated because some courses may be unique and have no equivalency. MSU offers many new courses, with no equivalents, that have been assigned new numbers.
- The 400 level courses used to have a special meaning at MSU; they will now be system-wide and have no special meaning. Spartan descriptions of outcomes do not adequately describe courses to make equivalencies.
- Four digit course numbering would make identifying the course easier. Converting course numbers to four digits, however, is not feasible as BANNER cannot accommodate 4 fields.
- Faculty expressed concern that with equivalent course numbering, a student transferring from one campus to another may not be able to progress to the next course, successfully. Also, prerequisites for courses are not the same on every campus and this has not been adequately addressed.
- Advising will be challenging because interdepartmental equivalency changes may not be understood and courses, albeit “equivalent,” on one campus may not be the same as on another.
- There will be new rubric. As an example, MATH is currently used on MSU’s campus. This will no longer be the case.
- Some new courses may have old course numbers and vice versa. (Two years ago, the Registrar’s Office had to record the new CORE courses by hand. There is concern that with this new equivalency numbering MSU may have to hire a full-time individual to do it by hand.)
- FLOCS will need to decide on course descriptions to be placed online, and it has been anticipated that at least 12 disciplines will go live January 5, 2009.

The Faculty Senate meeting ended at 5:00 PM, as there was no further business.

Signature

Wes Lynch, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary