

FACULTY SENATE
April 29, 2009
REID HALL 104
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Becker, Cherry, Eitle, Fields, Fischer, , Gerlach, Jacobsen, Lansverk, Lynch, Mokwa, Neumeier, Prawdzienski, Rossmann for Wojtowicz, Simpson, Sowell, G. Poole for D. Weaver, T. Weaver, Varricchio, Versaevel, Yoo for Zhu

Members Absent: Amin, Bangert, Bennett, Chem-Biochem, Fleck, Gee, Igo, Jacobs, Jackson, Larson, Lei, Livingston, Longcope, Maskiell, Osborne, Political Science, Watson, Wisner

Others Present: Joe Fedock, S. Taylor

Chair Wes Lynch called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present. The minutes of April 1, 2009 and April 8,, 2009 were unanimously approved.

Announcements –Chair Lynch

- Presidential Search – OCHE and the BOR have hired a search firm: Academic Search. Clayton Christian is the chair of the presidential search committee. Chair Lynch announced to the BOR that shared governance should be a top priority in choosing candidates. Emphasis was also placed on our land grant heritage.

Faculty Senate Effectiveness – Chair Lynch

- Chair Lynch highlighted results of the effectiveness survey crafted by FS member Priscilla Wisner and to which FS members responded.
 - FS members would like a dedicated meeting location, conducive to discussions. Schedule of FS meetings: Frequency and length of meetings may need to be adjusted.
 - The importance of what FS does and content of meetings;
 - Members felt there was little substantive meeting content;
 - FS rarely discuss and decide what they want; and
 - The role of administration should be more closely considered.
 - Less time should be given to information presentations at meetings and more to action items.
 - FS learns about too many things after decisions have been made. FS role in decision-making is important but members believe it is too reactive. How do we determine what is substantive and important? How far in advance do they need to be announced and may they be announced?
 - FS members will submit topics they would like addressed during the year in order to be proactive.
 - FS is reactive because we are not consulted; FS should take on the role of consultants. Managing university committees with a reporting method is necessary and should be a point of focus.
 - Sometimes the purview of a university committee is not the purview of FS.
 - Some faculty are not interested in things that affect them even though information is sent to them.
 - FS members communicate with faculty, but direct communication with all faculty might be a preferred method or an alternative in certain instances.
 - How do we get more people to participate? It was suggested that FS member subcommittees be formed with regular reporting to FS. Chair Lynch also asked FS members to communicate directly with him about issues that are of concern.
 - Name tags and introduction of members was suggested.
 - Some perceptions FS members have, such as FS effectiveness with the BoR, are incorrect.
 - Better links between senate and all faculty should be instituted.
 - FS should have an active web presence, such as a blog. This may require professional maintenance.

- FS should have a forward-looking agenda.
 - FS members on university committees should report back to FS on a regular basis.
- Vice chair Lansverk reminded FS members that they administer and oversee changes to the Faculty Handbook. Chair Lynch and Vice chair Lansverk meet regularly with administration; a direct and valuable relationship.
- Chair Lynch believes FS will remain effective. Its domain of action with respect to salaries, benefits and working conditions will, however, most likely fall under the auspices of the union.

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

Signature

Wes Lynch, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary