

FACULTY SENATE
January 13, 2010
346 Leon Johnson
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Bessen, Cherry, Eiger, Eitle, Fischer, Fleck, Frick, Gerlach, Kaiser, Lawrence, Lansverk, Lynch, Marshall for D. Weaver, Meade, Merzdorf, Neumeier, Osborne, Schachman, Sobek, Sowell, Versaevel, Wojtowicz

Members Absent: Bangert, Chen, Fields, Gee, Jacobsen, Livingston, Locke, Mokwa, Mosley Political Science, Rotella, Savoie, Thompson, Wisner, Waller, Zhu

Chair Wes Lynch called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present.

Announcements –Chair Wes Lynch

- BoR Meeting (January 14, 2010) Agenda:
<http://mus.edu/board/meetings/2010/Jan2010/Jan2010.asp>
 - The BoR will grant Geoff Gamble emeritus status.
 - Billings has completed their labor agreement, and it will be approved by the BoR. The memo of understanding signed is between the Commissioner and Chair of the Bargaining Committee. It presents guidelines to bring salaries at UMW up to market/peer levels within the next ten years. Chair Lynch thought our union reps might want to review it as it may have an impact when budget decisions are made.
 - Two new minor approvals at MSU:
 - Astrobiology
 - Land surveying
 - There will be a report for the BoR Workgroup
 - FS leadership would like to bring forward a set of metrics for performance that have been used elsewhere that might be used for their requests, which include, productivity, quality, efficiency, access. They came originally from the University of Illinois and are real, over time.
- President Cruzado is scheduled to attend Faculty Senate on January 27, 2010. She will speak about administration and faculty relationships; there will also be a question and answer period. All faculty are welcome to attend. Chair Lynch stated that he would like to know more about how UPBAC and the UPBAC Workgroup work, especially in light of the budget cuts and how that process will unfold. MSU is lean compared to other universities and all suggestions/feedback for how the university can save money will be publically posted. President Cruzado and Chair Lynch discussed the union and how admin and faculty will work collaboratively. Chair Lynch asked what she believed the larger issues were with admin and faculty, and her responses follow:
 - Work together on student retention
 - The future of distance education – program offerings and if those benefit the people of the state of Montana, we may be able to find a niche.
 - The importance of better communication between the administration, faculty, students and staff. One step is to produce a Monday-morning memo. She plans to answer every email, personally.

President Cruzado is also making some immediate decisions which include, but are not limited to, long-range building plans and begin the search for a new provost; she will be recruiting faculty to be on the search committee.

Old Business – Chair Lynch

- P&T Revisions - The two bytes (definitions, external letters) were approved by FS members to be posted in MSU TODAY for comment until the end of the month. Comments may be sent to lansverk@english.montana.edu once the comments have come back to FS and data are shared, they will be discussed and if it is decided no further changes are necessary, they move forward to be published in the Faculty Handbook once the President has approved. Chair Lynch stated that byte #3, teaching effectiveness, will be discussed at the next meeting.

- Faculty Senate Web Site - Chair Lynch would like to finish making modifications to the Faculty Senate website by the end of spring semester.

New Business – Chair Lynch

- Future Agenda Items
 - Chair Lynch would like to open up all budgets to UPBAC. The only budget UPBAC looks at is the state operations budget, even though there are many other components; facilities, parking, auxiliaries, athletics, etc., and money is moving from the university state operations budget to and from these entities.
 - Human Resources may be reorganized.
 - Discussions at the last BoR meeting about how to deal with the budget shortfall with former President Gamble included the possibility of furloughs for all employees, reviewing employer insurance contributions for part-time employees (prorate insurance benefits so that, for example, a .5 FTE employee would receive 50% coverage).
 - Faculty who have grants may not be able to take any of those funds for extra compensation.
- Research Faculty Representation – A FS member stated that researchers in his department would like some kind of FS representation. Chair Lynch stated that there is a Research Faculty Caucus but how those caucuses are organized and conducted is not articulated.

Union Update – Sandy Osborne

- October Member Assembly ratified AFMSU constitution and elected officers.
- Departmental meetings continued throughout semester for informing faculty and enrolling members.
- Faculty Bargaining Survey was distributed to all faculty (both members and non-members) for input for bargaining priorities.
- In November, members elected Departmental representatives.
- Representative Assembly (the departmental representatives) met in December and elected our Bargaining Team.
- Bargaining Team began meeting in December.
- AFMSU supporting several faculty both tenure track and non-tenure track (adjuncts) with grievances.

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

Signature

Wes Lynch, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary