

FACULTY SENATE  
SEPT 26, 2012  
LEON JOHNSON 346  
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA  
Minutes

**Members Present:** Bolte for Harney (Music), Burrows (Ext), Cantalupo (Ext), Dougher (PSPP), Engel (LRES), Greenwood (Math), Herbeck (Ed), Igo (Ag Ed), Kaiser (E&CE), Karczewska (Architecture), Lansverk (Eng), Lawrence (Chem/Biochem), Letiecq (HHD), Lynch (Psych), Martin (Mod. Lang), Merzdorf (C&NS), Mokwa (CE), Moreaux (A&RS), Neumeier (Physics), Newhouse (Art), Ricciardelli (Film & Photo), Rossmann (Libraries), Sofie for Larson (M&IE), Swinford (Soc/Anthro), Wiedenheft (IMID), Zhu (CS)

**Others Present:** Martha Potvin, Richard Smith, Lisa Buss, Hugo Schmidt

Chair John Neumeier called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm, and a quorum was present.

Course Approval Process – Chair Neumeier, Chair-elect Mokwa

- Chair Neumeier recapped the structure and function of the new Curriculum & Programs Committee which was formed for faculty to consider, review and approve all academic courses/programs. C&PC conducts in-depth review and subsequently, Faculty Senate votes for final approval. If courses overlap, or other discrepancies are noted, they may be pulled and brought back to C&CP for further review. As this is the first time Faculty Senate has engaged in this process, Chair Neumeier and Chair-elect Mokwa solicited input on how to improve it.
- Faculty Senate members discussed:
  - Option 1: Faculty Senate reviews courses/programs after the C&PC has reviewed them.
  - Option 2: FS would review courses/programs before C&PC vets them, giving faculty the opportunity to make further inquiries of their department/college.
- FS Steering Committee will discuss benefits of both options at their next meeting.
- Greenwood requested that EIND457: Regression and Applied Multivariate Analysis for Engineers be tabled for further discussion in the Math Department. It will be brought back for approval at the next FS meeting. BIOH 309: Human Neuroscience and the Pre-Veterinary Certificate proposal were tabled for the next FS meeting, as well.
- A paper ballot was distributed for FS members to vote to approve (or not) the remaining courses/programs.

Discussion of the Optional Retirement Program – Chair Neumeier

- In 1996, the ORP was established. The philosophy driving the process was that the faculty investment return would be 8% annually, with an annual salary increase of 6.5% per year. To further establish this system, faculty would pull out of TIAA-CREF, leaving an unfunded liability whereupon the state agreed to contribute 4.7% to TRS, to keep it afloat. As mandated by state law, faculty contribute 7.044%, but they will not receive a payout

from TRS. The MUS contributes 4.96% and another percentage (agreed to four years ago), making the total contribution 13.3%.

- Three calculations based on a salary of \$55,000, after 30 years of service, were done by Neumeier. The results, as yielded by a variety of calculations and numbers, provided a snapshot of how faculty will fare after retirement. This document was distributed among the BoR during the September meeting for their review and as an information tool in hopes of enacting an RFP for other investment vendor participation. It was noted that any sort of legislation decreasing TIAA-CREF and increasing the ORP contribution is not likely to happen.
- Discussions with the union about this topic were productive.
- While TIAA-CREF has varying management fees, they have, overall, a higher expense ratio for managing the funds you invest in; Vanguard charges less. Adjusting such expense ratios could save faculty \$30,000-\$40,000 per year.
- The table in the handout is not complete. FS members Kaiser and Wiedenheft will research other institutions and provide an updated table to distribute to FS, CoHE and the BoR, at their next meeting.

Faculty Senate Structure/Goals FY 2012-2013 – Chair Neumeier, Chair-elect Mokwa

- A flow chart of the Faculty Senate structure, and how the different university entities interact with it, was projected and discussed.
- Chair Neumeier encouraged FS members to bring issues to FS that they would like addressed. There is a “Suggestion Box” located on the FS website, and in the Twitter Box on the MSU splash page.
- Regarding guest speakers at FS, members would like documentation on issues being discussed to be provided before such meetings.
- If agenda items listed are not addressed at FS meetings due to time constraints, Chair Neumeier and Chair-elect Mokwa welcome after-meeting discussions with FS members.
- FS members would like to know how the university engages with the legislators and how FS might build relationships with them.
- Residual issues: Faculty Handbook needs to be revised/updated; processes of how things get from FS to the handbook should be streamlined; resolution of how caucus’s and subgroups are represented through Faculty Senate; address faculty salaries.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Signature

*John Neumeier, Chair*

Signature

*Robert Mokwa, Chair-elect*

*Minutes were transcribed by Gale R. Gough, Administrative Associate, Faculty Senate.*