

FACULTY COUNCIL
February 14, 2007
STRAND UNION 275
4:10 AM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Becker, Cherry, Christopher, Croy, Gesink-Law for M. McClure, Gipp, Idzerda, Jones, Levy, Livingston, Locke for Ashley, Lynch, , Merzdorf for Jacobs, Neeley, Pinet, Prawdzienski, K.A. Scott, Seymour, Starkey for Zhu, Taylor, D. Weaver

Members Absent: Ag Econ, Ag/ED/AOT, Amin, Bailey, Chem/Biochem, Dyer, English, Ecology, Erickson, Jackson, Johnson, Lei, Nursing On-Campus, Peed, Political Science, Watson

Others Present: Dooley, Fedock, Lansverk

Chair Shannon Taylor called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. A quorum was present. The minutes from February 7, 2007 were unanimously approved.

OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PLAN RESOLUTION – Chair Taylor

- Following FC approval on January 31, Chair Taylor sent a letter to Montana state legislators about the inequity of the TIAA-CREF optional retirement plan. Governor Schweitzer replied, without commitment to the ORP disparity correction.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW – Chair Shannon Taylor

- The Faculty Handbook, as voted on by Faculty Council, states that administrative review is a legitimate faculty endeavor and results will be used as guidelines on how faculty input is to be used in Department Head, Dean, VP and Provost evaluations. (Reference Handbook Section 840.00).
- 275 out of 650+ surveys have been completed and returned since the review was distributed 6 days ago. Another reminder will go out Monday, February 19, 2007 and the review will be closed on February 22, 2007 at 11:00 AM.
- Before they were aware of the FC survey, L&S sent out their own. Dean Tuthill asked L&S to take the FC Administrative Review. Data from both will be evaluated.
- The return rate for a department must be at least three for results to be meaningful.
- Chair Taylor will send out a reminder next week, and the end date will be February 22, 2007, 11:00 AM.

PLAGIARISM – Chair Shannon Taylor

- The College of Business and English would like to purchase the plagiarism software FC has been discussing the past year and a half, to be beta testers. One department subscription would be approximately \$2,000, and a campus wide subscription for this would be approximately \$8,000 per year. A funding source has not been determined. Plagiarism software compares student papers that are electronically input into the subscribed database and when future papers are entered, results for sentence structure, position, are compared for similarity. Faculty stated that structuring written assignments have become challenging and this tool may help to deter plagiarism.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM H525 – Vice Chair Warren Jones

- Two documents were distributed that provide rationale to refute HB525. Vice Chair Jones composed one, MUSFAR members composed the other. Vice Chair Jones asked for an endorsement of one or the other to bring forward to legislature. Faculty Council members

reviewed the documents and made suggested modifications. A motion was made to allow Vice Chair Jones to rewrite the document with Faculty Council changes and pass on to MUSFAR to be presented by Larry Strizich (from Northern) to the legislature → seconded → all in favor → passed.

- Some FC members believe HB525 was more about political correctness than intellectual diversity. Other FC members believe the philosophy behind HB525 may be more about hiring practices whereby conservative candidates are discriminated against.
- It was noted that David Horowitz's data sets (and subsequent studies) on which they have drawn their conclusions were taken solely from those disciplines in the humanities; none from the engineering, medicine, or business colleges.
- ASMSU Senate objects to the bill because of its characterization that the students need protection, and that academia needs an extra layer of review.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM, as there was no other business.

Signature

Shannon Taylor, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary