

FACULTY SENATE
January 20, 2010
346 Leon Johnson
4:10 AM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes

Members Present: Bessen, Caton, Cherry, Eitle, Eiger, Fischer, Fleck, Gerlach, Jacobsen, Kaiser, Lansverk, Lawrence, Locke, Lynch, Marshall for D. Weaver, Meade, Moreaux, Neumeier, Sobek, Sowell, Starkey for Zhu, Waller, Thompson, T. Weaver, Wojtowicz

Members Absent: Bangert, Chen, Fields, Frick, Gee, Livingston, Mokwa, Mosley, Osborne, Political Science, Schachman, van Collier, Versaevel, Zhu

Others Present: Joe Fedock

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

Announcements – Chair Lynch

- UPBAC – For about the past 6 months an UPBAC subcommittee has been analyzing cost saving suggestions submitted by people across campus in an attempt to address the reduction in funding being experienced by MSU as a result of the current economic situation. UPBAC reviewed around 200 ideas that were submitted and is in the process of moving forward with some of those ideas at the next UPBAC meeting, next Tuesday 1-5 pm. Chair Lynch is a member of the workgroup.
 - Provost Fedock discussed a program review with deans under the context of this UPBAC working group, even though programs are reviewed every seven years per the BoR.
- In the weekly Leadership Meeting with the President and FS, Chair Lynch reported that President Cruzado would like to improve communications; FS is one important channel to accomplish that.
 - Although President Cruzado planned to be at FS next week, her schedule will not allow her to be in attendance. Therefore, she will be broadcast via METNET from the BTC and the FS meeting will take place in EPS 128.
 - President Cruzado is forming a four-campus committee (Billings, Northern, Havre, Great Falls), the goal of which is to provide her with guidance, new opportunities and challenges (e.g., the budget).
- January 14, 2010 BoR Meeting Update
 - Regarding the budget, Regent Barrett mentioned that the state budget is not a crisis and a plan for cutting costs will be formulated, if necessary. Additionally, although the MUS budget is fixed for the biennium, the BoR will assist in the 5% cuts that the governor is calling for. FS will be involved in the development process for that plan. The BoR will submit an impact analysis for the system which will go to the governor and to the legislative budget committee.
 - The Top Ten Higher Education State Policy Issues for Montana (on the back of handout) does not seem to represent the pressing issues in higher education, as faculty know it.
 - A FS member noted that the system has a dichotomy of how many students to enroll versus the quality of education, and we should question whether the funding model is correct. Chair Lynch stated that BoR are aware of that dilemma. Performance-based funding was on the BoR agenda, and they are currently discussing metrics with respect to quality and quantity of students.
 - The BoR has established three workgroups for the MUS Reinvention challenge; Chair-elect Lansverk is on the Strategic Decision Making and Management Practices Subgroup which will examine the BoR's performance and how it may be more effective.
 - Budget Challenges
 - 1/29/2010 – A budget reduction proposal due to OBPP in the governor's office.
 - 2/19/2010 - Recommendations to Revenue and Taxation Committee in the legislature.
 - 3/4/2010 - Meeting of the Legislative Finance Committee

- Discussions on MUS's projected a cut of \$7.5M (by the end of FY11), and this depends on stimulus money. MSU's portion is about \$2.50M. Stimulus (\$20M) was built into the base budget of the higher education system.
- Current Agenda - Approvals
 - Revisions to the MT Family Education Savings Plan (529 Plans)
 - New Vanguard stock and mutual fund options.
- Consent Agenda
 - Level II submission memorandums:
 - MSU Astrobiology and Land Surveying minors/certificates
 - MUS Athletic reports: 2010 expenditures ~ \$42M (The MSU campuses are required by the BoR to report on an annual basis, a yearly report about expenditures and income.)
- Regents' Reform Workgroup Report
 - Making Opportunity Affordable (MOA): "Integrated research, education, and community involvement"
 - Integrated Information System
 - Serving Adult Learners
- Performance-Based Budget - No substantive discussions transpired
- Virtual Academy - Only mentioned fleetingly
- Reports on Research and Tech Transfer
 - MSU (more detail on BoR website)
 - McCoy (VPR): Earmarks (principles, process, priorities) - Total research ~\$98M (3-4% from ear marks).
 - Trevor Douglas, Director of Center for Bio-inspired Nano Materials spoke about his research, teaching, tech transfer, outreach.
 - Ligocyte Pharmaceuticals is a spin-off company that brought into Montana, \$28M in venture capital.
 - UM
 - McQuire (VPR) - UM-Missoula ~\$67M (3% earmarks), Butte ~\$8M (\$3M earmarks).
 - Rich Bridges, Center for Structural and Functional Neuroscience
- Dual Credit Discussion
 - The BoR would like high school students to be able to take courses in college and get credit, in addition to their high school courses. The Board of Public Instruction, however, has criteria (background checks, finger printing, test taking, etc.) that college professors must meet in order to teach high school students.

New Business – Chair Wes Lynch

- If President Cruzado cannot meet next week, then FS will review P&T, Bite #3: Assessment of Teaching.
- President Cruzado has formed a four-campus committee and is still attending "listening and learning" sessions. Chair Lynch encouraged all FS members to attend those meetings.
- Chair Lynch encouraged Fs members to talk with their colleagues about Bites #1, #2 and send comments forward to Chair-elect Lansverk lansverk@english.montana.edu

Union Update – Denbeigh Starkey

- Members of the bargaining team are posted on the web.
- Negotiations have begun.
- All other units have signed contracts.

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

Signature

Wes Lynch, Chair

Signature

Gale R. Gough, Secretary

