

**FACULTY SENATE
SEPTEMBER 2, 2015
346 LEON JOHNSON
4:10 PM – 5:00 PM
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Minutes**

Members Present: Adams (Art), Arnold (Ag Ed), Babbitt (Chair), Babcock (Chair-elect), Berry (CE), Branch (English), Brown (JJCBE), Cantalupo (Ext), Greenwood (Math), Gannon (Chem Eng), Hendrikx (Earth Sci), Herbeck (Ed), Herman (NAS), Hostetler (GC), Larson (MIE), Martin (Mod Lang), Meyer (Hist & Phil), Olson for Mosley (Animal & Range), O'Neill (Arch), Prashant (Ag Research Cntrs), Repalsky (ECE), Running (Nursing), Scott (Psych), A. Smith (HHD), V. Smith for Brester (Ag Econ), Sterman (Library), Swinford (Soc/Anthro), Vorontsov for Qiu (Physics), Wiedenheft (MBI), Wilmer (Poli Sci), Zabinski (LRES)

Others Present: Ilse-Mari Lee, Martha Potvin, Kellie Peterson, Chris Kearns, Ron Larsen, Chris Fastnow, David Singel, Patrick Widhalm, Rene Reijo-Pera, Matt Caires, Jerry Sheehan, Charles Boyer

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

The August 26, 2015 Faculty Senate minutes were unanimously approved.

Announcements

- Courses/Programs – Chair-elect Babcock
 - Babcock will be presenting courses/programs for consideration to senators at the next meeting..
- University Council – Chair Babbitt
 - Synopsis of the 9/2/2015 meeting:
 - Fiscal Misconduct Policy was tabled until the next UC meeting. A new version of the policy will be online soon.
 - President's Commission of Substance Abuse Prevention was presented and will be further discussed with on and off campus constituencies.
 - Student Bill of Rights was moved to the next UC meeting.
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President's Commission of Substance Abuse Prevention – Steve Swinford

- Cruzado formed a commission (fall 12) to examine issues re: substance use/abuse on campus with the charge to investigate the reduction of harm and improve the health and safety of the community around substance use/abuse issues. After input, the draft will be finalized and presented to the President; she will make the final determination on what to implement in the

- recommendations report.
- Exact policies to enact changes was not the intent; rather, the commission was to make a list for further discussion and to have the commission decide whether the issues were worthy of further investigation.
 - Composition of commission: 10 members consisting of community members; administrators; faculty members (Swinford, Branch); and students.
 - Investigations were conducted to determine if MSU existing policies were consistent with alcohol/substance abuse prevention, or if there are practices that need further investigation.
 - Committee members spoke with the following community/campus groups:
 - health professionals on campus re: alcohol program students enroll in, in order to begin their registration at MSU;
 - perceptions of local law enforcement on substance abuse in the community and on campus;
 - interviewed a student who throws frequent house parties and what role that plays in his college life;
 - observed drinking culture in Bozeman (common theme among students interviewed was lack of transportation at the end of the evening);
 - perceptions of tavern owners re: alcohol consumption in the community;
 - tailgate participants and what role alcohol plays during football games, campus culture; what issues they see and what could improve;
 - sorority and fraternity reps and what they do to monitor drinking age and consumption levels;
 - Bozeman neighbors.
 - On campus programs are available to students e.g., educating students to new responsibilities when they move from on- to off-campus living facilities.
 - Current status of PCSAP
 - Speaking to several groups e.g., University Council, Faculty Senate, Bozeman City Commission, Bozeman Public School Board, ASMSU, Staff Senate, and asking for input on how to move forward in reference to the 10 point list in the draft recommendation.
 - Comments may be directed to vpssuccess@montana.edu which is located on the web site: <http://www.montana.edu/studentsuccess/pcsap/>

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

- The PLA proposal will be brought to the September BoR with comments.
- Presented last year by Larsen and is posted on the FS web site, PLA Policy Recommendations 04.15.2015
- Babbitt compared the draft proposal, which the BoR will vote on in September, to the senate leadership memo generated in July 2015 as a response to senator comments. All comments were incorporated into the current PLA draft, except #5:
 - (1) Assessment of PLA will be done by faculty with appropriate

expertise. No portfolio evaluations will be done by groups outside of MUS faculty.

- (2) PLA credits will be clearly identified as PLA on transcripts.
 - NWCCU - No more than 25% of credits may come from prior experiential learning.
 - Larsen: Those who support PLA are negotiating with NWCCU about what “experiential” learning means.
 - DegreeWorks will notate PLA so it can be clearly distinguished from non-PLA credits.
- (3) PLA credits may transfer throughout the MUS as credit towards degrees, but the faculty responsible for specific curricula should determine whether PLA credits meet specific degree requirements.
 - Faculty will be comparing students’ knowledge against the course learning outcomes, and therefore MSU’s outcomes should be examined to determine if they articulate what the students should know when MSU course work is completed.
- (4) References to credit for “life experience” (e.g., p.1, ¶ 2) were removed throughout the document.
- (5) Language stressing that the learning goals of students should be taken into consideration were not removed from the document as suggested.
 - Larsen stated that this policy was an attempt to address excess credits. A student may have a maximum of 30 credits of PLA. For veterans, who have taken many courses/credits while in the military. After MSU evaluates these transcripts, if all credits are placed on an MSU transcript, this could result in an excess credit problem with financial aid. Larsen believes that this is a challenge that should not be addressed by the PLA.
 - Scenario – 27 PLA credits in leadership but student wants to pursue chemical engineering. Only 3 credits may be captured for chemical engineering.
 - Wilmer – Perhaps language referring to “educational goals” was mis-translated into “learning goals;” “degree objectives” would be a more accurate description. MSU faculty might understand this language in the context of our discussions, but other faculty might not.
 - Meyer - If the reason behind this language to prevent students from having too many credits and going down the wrong path, why not just say it here?
 - Babbitt will send Wilmer’s and Meyer’s language suggestion to the PLA Task Force, prior to the BoR meeting.
- Discussions ensued:
 - PLA fees are not credit based but based on the operational cost for administering the program. Currently, if you challenge a course, you

are charged \$30. How is MSU to going to integrate all components into one equitable fee structure? Larsen stated that we are awaiting OCHE's response and until that time, MSU will continue to use the structure it currently has.

- Fees to review the portfolios will have a tabled structure and a committee is working on that. Faculty conducting the portfolio reviews will be compensated. The PLA fee structure must be self-supporting.

Open Discussion of Faculty Senate Priorities – Chair Babbitt

- Babbitt revisited the senate priorities for 2015-2016:
 - Maintaining and improving the quality of our programs while educating more students.
 - New Faculty Handbook Completion
 - Tool for recruiting good faculty
 - Faculty will participate in its finalization.
 - Implementation of the Prioritization Document
 - Working with the foundation for funding of endowments & chairs, student scholarships;
 - Ensure departments have stable, viable budgets;
 - Fostering the quality and quantity of research and creativity on campus.
 - Improving funding for research;
 - Shared governance whereby chairs and co-chairs on university councils would be filled by faculty.
 - Improve communications with our constituencies.
 - As we grow and develop new programs, we continue to deliver quality education to our students.
- Discussions ensued:
 - Wilmer – Likes objectives as they give senate direction.
 - Repasky – Identify top three items that would help us to maintain and improve some programs. My classrooms are unable to accommodate all students I teach.
 - Babbitt – (1) I would like to see an increase in instructional budget proportional to increase in the money we are bringing in from the increased tuition dollars with increased student population. If, with the increase in tuition dollars we have seen, we cannot pay to educate all our students, then perhaps we have increased too much. There may be a point at which we cannot handle the influx of more students. Many believe we may have exceeded that point. If, however, there is a way by utilizing our revenue to provide all of our students with a quality education, I will fight for that. (2) We have great NTT faculty on campus, however the pool of non-tenure track faculty (NTT) is not infinite and many depts. have reached their limit. We need to

hire more TT faculty to maintain the quality of our programs.

(3) More planning so each dept knows their trajectory and can plan for hiring when faculty leave or are not retained.

- Reijo-Pera – Most priorities are directed towards education programs and are not balanced with research and creativity; concerned that increasing faculty numbers in response to student enrollment without considering programmatic directions MSU would like to pursue is problematic.
 - Babbitt considers research and education as integral parts of our university. The Faculty Senate’s priority of hiring more faculty is aligned with maintaining and improving the quality of both instruction and research at MSU.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Randy Babbitt, Chair

Michael Babcock, Chair-elect