

**PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
WEDNESDAY November 26, 2008  
SUB 237  
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Nancy Blake, Sheryl Dettmann, Patty Inskip, Nancy Filbin, Betsy Pitts, Carolyn Plumb, Matt Rognlie, Stacey Scott, Julie Tatarka

**Members Absent:** Jeff Butler

**Other Present:** Diane Eagleson, professional representative on the university Strategic Planning Committee, Diane Letendre, Affirmative Action

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Chair Sheryl Dettmann. A quorum was present. The November 12, 2008 minutes were unanimously approved.

***Announcements – Chair Dettmann***

- Sara France, a classified employee and administrative associate for Staff Senate, is changing jobs and will become a professional employee.
- There is a Faculty Advisory Committee that advises Tom McCoy on F&A investment strategies. Faculty requested representation on the committee. Professional employees are influenced by F&A distribution and PC believes they should either have representation on the committee or be involved in the decision making process of how F&A's are distributed. Chair Dettmann will discuss with President Gamble.
- The BoR announced that student tuition will go up to cover the governor's \$11M budgetary shortfall. How this will affect salaries is not known. There was a proposal to increase the state's health care contribution by 8.5%. There are no long-range building plans (no bonds) in the next biennium.
- President Gamble is canceling his holiday party and in lieu, he and Mrs. Gamble are making a personal contribution to the Bozeman Food Bank.

***Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) – Diane Eagleson***

- Diane Eagleson, the professional representative on the SPC, is the fiscal and operations manager for the Big Sky Institute.
- There have been three SPC meetings this AY, and the committee's main focus is: Where will MSU be in five years?
- It is not certain whether the historical data from the previous five-year vision has helped to guide the present document, or if the new document a stand-alone.
- Twelve members of the SPC have been broken out into groups to gather criteria from departments to assist in developing a vision document. Data include (but are not limited to):
  - Departmental input on faculty salaries;
  - Measurable data such as the projected 13,000-student population by 2010;
  - Accreditation data;
  - Our competitive status as compared to our Carnegie comparators; and
  - Should there be so many universities in the state?
- The SPC is recruiting input from other constituents on campus.
- The SPC is re-examining the mission statement of MSU.

***Professional Council Budget - Chair Dettmann***

- Professional Council does not have an official budget. Bills have been paid by separate, individual requests.
- Chair Dettmann would like to ask President Gamble for a dedicated PC budget to legitimize the council.
- Professionals do not officially meet with the BoR however, President Gamble believes PC presence is important. Discussions about professional representation at the BoR meeting ensued.
  - Are MSU-Bozeman professionals the only professionals who attend the BoR meetings?
  - How are other professionals on other campuses organized?
  - Should MSU-Bozeman professionals contact other campus professionals and meet? If so, should all professionals organize themselves?

***Committee Reports – Julie Tatarka, Nancy Filbin***

- ASGL discussed a proposed 15% parking tag increase next year. Kurt Blunck, manager of parking services, attended the meeting and spoke about why parking increases: There is no fund for long-term maintenance and parking fees help to subsidize it. Also, there are no plans to construct a parking garage.
- The Sustainability Committee meets once a month. The mission statement and charge are still being formulated. The student sustainability fee was passed at the BOR. It was noted that one of the factors students consider before deciding to attend a college/university or not, is its role in sustainability. The committee envisions investigating sustainability issues on campus and making recommendations to President Gamble.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM, as there was no other business.

*Signature*

Sheryl Dettmann  
Chair, Professional Council

*Signature*

Gale Gough  
Secretary, Professional Council