

**PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
WEDNESDAY October 22, 2008
SUB 237
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM**

Members Present: Nancy Blake, Jeff Butler, Sheryl Dettmann, Patty Inskip, Nancy Filbin, Betsey Pitts, Matt Rognlie, Stacey Scott

Members Absent: Julie Tatarka, Carolyn Plumb

Other Present: Erika Swenson

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Chair Sheryl Dettmann. A quorum was present. The October 8, 2008 minutes were unanimously approved via email.

Student Initiatives – Erika Swenson

- First Year Initiatives (FYI) is an on-campus free program that assists students with transition and academic achievement through advising, seminars and surveys. FYI has five (5) part-time advisors. If students are on a D and F list (solicited from professors in early October), FYI may intervene and provide options. Other services FYI provide include, but are not limited to:
 - Time management;
 - Efficient note-taking;
 - How to improve your testing;
 - Listing of resources at students' disposal;
 - College student inventory (CSI);
 - Printed material distribution such as "Understanding the Difference Between High School and College," "Resource and Referral Guide;"
 - Mid-Year Retention Intervention;
 - Open communication among students and employees on campus;
 - Office environment conducive to student interaction with employees;
 - Two offices; one in South Hedges, the other in the SUB; and
 - FYI Helpline; and
 - FACEBOOK account.
- Some causes for failure at MSU:
 - Under performing students view MSU as a "ski institution," attend one year, and then leave;
 - Other students did not do well in high school and it did not prepare them for college; it is viewed as "high school" after high school;
 - Psychological disabilities;
 - Second gate classes are not available and students are frustrated.
 - Pre university students may not be as well prepared for college life.
 - Navigating through the morass of registration, drop/add, paying bills, accessing WebCT, how to get a PIN number to get to your account, etc.
- PC members would like guidance on how to better assist students. FYI will email suggestions to Gale and draft a document for PC to review.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM, as there was no other business.

Signature

Sheryl Dettmann
Chair, Professional Council

Signature

Gale Gough
Secretary, Professional Council