

**PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
WEDNESDAY April 22, 2009
SUB 232
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM**

Members Present: Mary Beth Green for Nancy Filbin, Sheryl Dettmann, Jeff Butler, Betsey Pitts, John Usher for Julie Tatarka, Carolyn Plumb, Matt Rognlie

Members Absent: Nancy Blake, Stacey Scott, Patty Inskeep

The minutes of April 8, 2009 were unanimously approved.

Departmental Outreach Report – Carolyn Plumb

- Carolyn Plumb, Stacey Scott, Betsey Pitts, Nancy Filbin and John Usher comprised the Professional Council Outreach Group, visiting Engineering, Physics and BTC, collectively. Feedback from discussions with professionals in these departments included:
 - Expressed appreciation of informative emails;
 - Emails should come from the chair of Professional Council;
 - Having the web site more substantive;
 - Assigning a professional council rep from each department;
 - Discussing the professional hourly mechanism to pay employees. This is a topic for Affirmative action and Marj Brown will attend the next PC meeting to discuss.
- PC would like to conduct additional outreach discussions in departments with large populations of professional employees. The College of Agriculture was suggested.

Leadership Meeting with President Gamble – Sheryl Dettmann

- The bargaining contract with the union might take a couple of years to complete, may affect tenure and promotional guidelines.
- Faculty Senate needs to review the role and scope of University Governance Council before adding ASGL language to PC bylaws and constitution.
- The parking garage discussions have resumed.
- At a recent meeting, the MSU building plan to make the temporary chemistry buildings permanent was passed by a vote of the majority of campus constituencies (ASMSU, Professionals, e.g.). The student rep from ASMSU voted in favor of making the buildings permanent, even though ASMSU, collectively, requested that the vote be against. It was surmised if MSU receives the grant to make the buildings permanent and the vote remains as it stands, the buildings would, most likely, either be moved or made permanent. The Master Plan does not call for “green space.” Discussions included leaving the buildings as they are, and if the space is needed for future permanent buildings, then remove them. Another discussion on the fate of the temporary structures will take place on April 28.

Presidential Search Committee – Sheryl Dettmann

- Nominations for the Presidential Search Committee have been sent forward to the OCHE for selection.

BOR Meeting – Sheryl Dettmann

- The next meeting is a work session/discussion, and Chair Dettmann is not planning on attending.

UPBAC – Jeff Butler

- The legislative update, as of April 15:
 - HB13 (pay plan) has been passed and signed by the governor. This plan does two things: For FY10, the increase of employer contributions to employee health insurance is \$53.00 and FY11 is \$54.00. It also provides a \$450 bonus to those state employees making less than \$45,000. Since it includes university employees, 2/3 of the money comes from MSU and is distributed on a ratio of in-state students versus out-of-state students.

- HB2 (appropriations bill), will reduce the campus budget to \$27M from \$31M. For MSU, that means a \$4-5M deficit.
- HB645 (one time stimulus funding) - Students articulated that they favor two modest tuition increases. Freezing tuition would excessively burden future students when tuition hikes are finally implemented.
- Enrollment Report – FTEs were up by 35 from last year. In the spring of 2009, we will graduate 2500; up 100. This leaves fewer students at MSU, however. Applications were up 1128, out-of-state, and 650 in-state, this year. Housing reservations, however, are down and those numbers are probably more of an indication of committed students attending MSU.
- Final 2009 budget showed a deficit of only \$145,000 because the number of students went up. There is a projected deficit of \$1.7M in FY10, and \$1.9M in FY11, based on current information available. Only 1/3 of MSU's revenue is subsidized by the state.

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

Signature

Sheryl Dettmann, Chair

Signature

Gale Gough, Secretary