

**PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
WEDNESDAY February 25, 2009
Reid 415
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM**

Members Present: Betsey Pitts, Matt Rognlie, Stacey Scott, Patty Inskeep, Carolyn Plumb, Nancy Filbin, Jeff Butler, John Usher for Julie Tatarka

Members Absent: Nancy Blake

Others Present: Linda LaCrone for Sheryl Dettmann, Sara France

Minutes from the January 28 and February 11 meetings will be approved via email.

Discussion about raises

- Current state pay plan has no raises but possible increased funding towards benefits. Insurance costs for employee increasing? Ask Kathy Tanner, Professional Council rep on university benefits committee to come

Upcoming Meetings—no visitors scheduled in March and April

- What would the group like to focus on for the upcoming meetings or who would you like to invite to present?
- Evaluate goals from retreat
- Consensus is that we are still interested in communicating with constituents, which may mean simply finding out what professional employees are concerned about.

Matt Rognlie provided update on meeting with President Gamble

- Discussed upcoming Board of Regents meeting, agenda

Matt Rognlie provided update on Faculty Senate Union Forum

(Matt agreed to be the moderator for this forum)

- 50-55 faculty attended
- Decided on two votes for unionization; one for tenure-track faculty half-time or greater and one for non-tenure track faculty half-time or greater - the exclusions to groups (i.e. adjuncts, have not yet been settled)
- Vote will happen after spring break; simple majority will carry ballot, no quorum is necessary
- One professor asked the Union rep to give 5 examples of how the unionization would specifically benefit MSU employees – the question could not be answered.

Discussion on the Accreditation Survey

- High percent of return, very similar results between different employee classes

Jeff Butler provided update on UPBAC meeting

- Cathy Conover presented a legislative update
- 11,400 students for 2009
- Graduate student tuition shortfall
- MSU committed \$85,000/yr for the next three years to support the Streamline bus

Signature

Betsey Pitts, Chair-Elect of Professional Council

Signature

Gale Gough, Secretary