

**PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
WEDNESDAY October 12, 2009
Reid Hall Room 415
11:00 am – Noon**

Members Present: Erika Swanson, Betsey Pitts, Stacey Scott, Carolyn Plumb, Chris Bauer, Adam Edelman, Nancy Filbin, Sheryl Dettmann

Others present: Pat Lane, Susan Hansen

Chair Pitts called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. The minutes of September 14 and September 28, 2009 will be approved via email.

How can we clarify PC's mission to professional employees?

- PC's new email strategy is beginning to garner attention from professionals. To continue this momentum and to encourage more professional responsiveness, verbiage about what PC is could be added at the beginning of an email or at the end, on the signature line.
- Regarding queries from professional employees sent to the PC mailbox, rather than delaying someone's email response by discussing with all PC members, PC favored having the Chair and Chair-elect answer questions. PC members will be included in the communication string, however.
- PC reviewed its charge and PC member, Nancy Filbin, will distill the language and bring a revision back to the council for discussion.

Accreditation meetings – summaries

- Commendations and recommendations were presented by the accreditation team:
 - Commendations:
 - 1) Commended the institution for its achievement as a highest ranking Carnegie Foundation institution; as a high research category as a reflection of its productivity, primarily because of its faculty.
 - 2) Commended MSU on the breadth and depth of our teaching and research activities and how we engage all elements of those activities across the institution.
 - 3) Commended MSU in the demonstration of a "culture of collaboration" among all different constituencies on the campus in addressing issues of importance to the institution.
 - 4) Commended MSU on the facilities condition inventory list that was established 15 years ago. We have done a very good job in monitoring and assessing our facilities and issues that feed into the long range building program and priority lists of repair and maintenance.
 - Recommendations:
 - 1) Adequacy of resources and allocation of them to areas that support the fundamental mission of the institution. We need to look long and hard at potential reallocation to support the things that we say are important to this institution, specifically with regards to supporting the research mission of the institution and in terms of its graduate education mission.
 - 2) We need to address the relationship between MSU and affiliated campuses e.g., efficiency of operations and better alignment of resources (e.g., purchasing – to class scheduling).
 - 3) Work from a policy and practice prospective of appropriate compensation policies for faculty, staff and administrators that will serve to recruit and retain the quality of individuals that we seek to have at this institution.
 - 4) Need to improve, substantially, the consistency of our educational assessment process and student learning outcomes. There is significant inconsistency at the level by which this is undertaken across the educational units of the institution, including its assessment of CORE 2.0 program.
- During the accreditation meeting with MSU Professional and Classified Staff, a professional employee complimented Professional Council's communication to constituents. Another professional employee noted that professionals have no advocate on campus.

University Committee Reps/Visits from Reps

- Professionals are needed for the following university committees:
 - Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee –Adam Edelman may be re-elected but believes someone else should have an opportunity to serve.
 - Parking Appeals Board – Two new professionals are needed.
 - Nominating Committee – FS is resurrecting and it will need a professional member on the committee.
 - TIP – This committee is being re-invigorated and it needs a professional.
- Chair Pitts and Chair-elect Scott will send out an email asking for professional volunteers.
- Chair Pitts will ask members to attend PC meetings and report committee findings.

Other Business

- F&A – At the September 23, 2009 FS meeting, Tom McCoy, VP for Research, explained the necessity of the new procedures for central fund investments and distribution of recovered F&A funds. He noted that this is not a new "policy." PC members noted that the VPR Faculty Advisory Committee does not have professional representation. Leadership will remind admin that continued communication is a necessary component of shared governance.
- Chair-elect Scott and member Dettmann discussed a PC luncheon venue for career development.
- PC is not sure how they will interact with the BoR in November, yet.

The meeting adjourned at noon, as there was no other business.

Signature
Betsey Pitts, Chair

Signature
Gale Gough, Secretary