Msu Professional Council Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2004
Montana State University-Bozeman
Bradley Conference Room - Wilson Hall
2:00 - 3:00 PM

Members Present: Glenn Puffer, Sandy Rahn-Gibson, Jim Manning, Jim Mitchell, Schmidt, Gale Gough

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 by Professional Council Chair, Glenn Puffer. A quorum was present. The minutes of the February 18, 2004 meeting were approved.

Commissioner Stearns’ Visit
- Commissioner Stearns was presented with the Professional Council concerns to review, and they were received well.
  - Glenn Puffer would like to compose a memo, similar to the annual update on PC happenings, on the Stearns visit outcome. He would like input from all PC members.
  - Commissioner Stearns and the BOR’s overriding concern is the credibility of the university system in Montana. They are focusing on making Montana “the learning state” and MSU should be linking education with the outlying populations of Montana. We should be concentrating on how we may improve the economic status of the state. Distance learning and outreach programs infiltrating rural communities are some of the vehicles mentioned.
  - This is why Ag extension is so important.
  - Shows you have value to everyone, despite where you live.
  - Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Montana’s contract for the MUS health insurance coverage is almost up and Allegiance Health Care is being considered. Issues regarding Allegiance that have arisen were discussed:
    - If Allegiance covers less than BX/BS of Montana, Craig Roloff told the Commissioner that it would not be plausible to charge employees more to make up the difference. Health care costs are already high.
    - In the RFP (Request for Proposal) Allegiance didn’t indicate it had the doctors in Bozeman signed up. It was brought up that if a request is not binding in the RFP, then the competing vendors do not have to comply with any ancillary requests made of them. This may be why doctors (in Bozeman or outlying areas where MSU-Bozeman employees receive health care) have not said they would sign up. Allegiance said they would compile a list, however. Doctors have until September 29 to sign up.
    - JM stated that if it was not possible to get doctors in Bozeman to sign up with Allegiance, then campus will use up $1M in saved funds and it will cancel out any savings Allegiance may propose.
    - Please share this information with your constituents and if anyone has questions regarding BX/BS or Allegent, Jim Mitchell will help. Email him at jmm@montana.edu
    - A new insurance carrier will be in effect the summer of 2005.

PC Elections
- “Call for Nomination” letter will be sent on April 15, 2004 to professionals in the Administrative and Academic divisions. Becky Ward and Leslie Schmidt are up and may be re-elected. Deadline for nominations will be April 30, and new constituents will be invited to the PC last meeting on May 19, 2004. Jim Manning formulated a way to stagger terms of the different factions of PC (Academic, Administrative, and Student Affairs) and came up with the following scenario:
-Nominations should occur in this manner:
  - Two from Academics
    - 1 for 3-year term (most votes)
    - 1 for 3-year term (comes in second)
  - Two from Administration
    - 1 for 3-year term (most votes)
    - 1 for 2-year term (comes in second)
- Self-nomination is OK.
- Nomination of someone else is acceptable only if they consent.
- The term is two consecutive terms.
- Nominees will be asked to write a blurb on why they would like to serve, how long they have been at the university, what department they work in.

**MAP Update**
- SR-G stated that the MAP Committee would be meeting with CEPAC and PPL to review draft questions prepared.

- **Please note:** The next PC meeting will be on April 21, 2004, in SUB 272. Geoff Gamble will be speaking to Professional Council on April 28, 2004, 10:00 AM - Place is TBA.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

*Glenn Puffer, Chair*

*Gale R. Gough, Secretary*