MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
February 23, 2005  
Montana State University-Bozeman  
Strand Union 271  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Members Present: Diane Allen, Jim Mitchell, Glenn Puffer, Sandy Rahn-Gibson, Kim Rehm, Doralyn Rossmann

Members Absent: Jeff Butler, Jim Manning

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM. A quorum was present. The minutes from January 19, 2005 were approved.

Legislative Update – President Geoff Gamble
- The pay plan has essentially passed. It called for salary increases of 3.5% in 2006, and 4% in 2007 with an adjustment in the base level of lower paid employees with an increase of up to 13% to bring the salary to threshold. Effective October 1, 2005.
- President Gamble gave testimony to help get plan approved.
- Testimony on hearings on our operational budget went well, and they will fund our fixed increases at 80%. The issue was made that salaries should also be funded at a higher level, 80%.
- TRS/TIAA CREF bill was in front of state, but the price tag scared them ($84M). President Gamble said he will keep trying to get this resolved.

Capital Construction Projects – President Geoff Gamble
- We had many items in the cash plan with respect to deferred maintenance. Sue Dickinson from Great Falls carried a bonded program that would have the state sell $60M in bonds where proceeds would be used for capital construction. Governor requested three projects that he wanted addressed and Sue proposed a project for $21.5M Great Falls, Billings $9M, project from Helena at $8M; all colleges of technology. These amounts have been reduced, however.
- President Gamble argued for Gaines and got $3M for its renovation.
- Legislature is $70M over cap and may have to reduce all the promises they made by this amount. Conference Committee (both houses) may meet during the last week to make this decision.
  - President Gamble doesn’t think they would kick out play plan, as it would not be good politics.
- Operating budgets go before full appropriations committee
- Governor asked for scholarship money that got approved - $3M, and it is now called “Governor’s Post Secondary Scholarship.”
- Legislature is only about 60% through, so a lot could happen. Cathy Conover is keeping up to date on all the issues.
- Chemistry building is beginning to take shape. Some trees will be cut down, but will be a permanent “fixtures” as the lumber will be used for features in the building.
- Gamble asked for “authority” (state doesn’t give us money) for three buildings; animal bioscience, MOR remodel, and Native American student complex. State will pick up O&M on all three buildings.
- Parking garage - where, when and how will depend on funding issues.
  - Romney Gym is being closed and the space will be used for other purposes.
    - President Gamble asked for three proposals/possibilities to accommodate larger lockers, a divider between faculty and students’ dressing rooms and/or other issues that were of concern.

OTHER – President Geoff Gamble
- Scholarship program has raised about $19.3M.
  - Two large requests pending that could raise it to $21M.
- Capital Campaign is to raise our entire endowment. President Gamble’s vision is $100M. We need to raise $1.25M a month and we are accomplishing it already.
- Campus security issues being addressed.
- PC member asked about the plan the Employee Benefits Committee proposed. The committee is looking for a way to provide benefits for low paid employees. One way is to have a pilot program
where employees who earn under $30,000 and who have children would have their children’s benefits picked up by the program. President Gamble is not aware of this proposal.

- Professional development proposal is being reviewed.

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW REVIEW**

- PC members discuss constitution and bylaws modifications in general, and will continue to work individually on suggested changes between now and the next meeting.
  - Gale to make minor changes on web.

**OTHER**

- Professional Council put forth 3 names for the Employee Recognition Committee, and 2 were selected.
- Update on Supervisor’s Survey – just under 200 respondents; hoping to get at least 225 with a final reminder that went on Thursday, February 17, 2005.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM as there was no other business.

Signature

Sandy Rahn-Gibson
Chair, Professional Council

Signature

Gale R. Gough
Secretary