PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
WEDNESDAY June 21, 2006
STRAND UNION 272
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Members Present: Diane Allen, Jim Mitchell, Kim Rehm, Doralyn Rossmann, Rita Rozier, Stacey Scott

Members Absent: Sandy Rahn-Gibson, Jeff Butler

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 PM by Chair, Doralyn Rossmann. A quorum was present.

Professional Research Classifications – Chair Rossmann

- Professional Council has not been able to get a definitive list of professional research employee classification. Therefore, PC would like to invite Susan Alt to a meeting to discuss how they are identified. Once identified, Professional Council would then ask research professionals if they would like representation on the council. If they want representation, the Professional Council bylaws would need to be changed. According to the bylaws, the majority of 40% of eligible voting professionals at MSU-Bozeman would be required.
- Tom McCoy asked Faculty Council to identify research employees for grant writing purposes. Chair Taylor would like to include this group of employees as voting members in Faculty Council.

BOR Meeting in Havre - Chair Rossmann, Chair Elect Rehm

- The BOR meeting in Havre was uneventful. Chair Rossmann and Vice Chair Rehm toured Northern campus. They noted that the auto mechanic and hydraulics programs have expanded and that a new two-year plumbing degree is being offered.
- PC presence was noted by the COHE and Kevin McRae.
- There is speculation that many changes may occur now that Regent Mercer is gone. Lynn Hamilton has taken his place as the new chair. Regent Barrett is supportive of higher education.

Other

- Leslie Taylor has hired a second legal counsel, and Chair Rossmann would like to meet with them to discuss the Professional Council handbook.
- Corky Bush is leaving and her job may be revamped and reclassified.
- It has been discussed amongst administration that faculty hiring may fall under the Provost and contractual/professional hiring may be placed under Human Resources.
- Gale will send out a call for nominations for the university committee vacancies in Traffic and Appeals, Employee Benefits and Personnel Board.
- Jim Mitchell stated that Corky put out a provision manual for hiring professional employees that may be viewed online. He surmised that the document may be a follow up to the BOR meeting, and the document included definitions because of that meeting. He suggested PC members read it.
- A new mobile communications devices (i.e., cell phones) policy was posted online about a month ago for comment. The new policy is now in place and may be viewed on the web.
their discretion, supervisors may present two options to employees: the employee receives a certain amount of money added to their paycheck as taxable income; or, the employee may keep track of their MSU calls and receive reimbursement, which will also be taxable. The proposed policy stated that there is an exception for research employees and that they would be paid out of grant funds.

Next Meeting with President Gamble – Chair Rossmann, Chair Elect Rehm
- Last time Chair Rossmann and Vice Chair Rehm met, they discussed the BOR meeting and potential issues that may come up.
- Stacey Scott stated that she did not receive guidance from administration on how (or if) they were to receive a .5% raise for her professional employees, who receive money through grants, designated and ear marked funds. Chair Rossmann noted that President Gamble was contrite about not foreseeing how letters of appointment employees were dealt with.
  - Jim Mitchell stated that it was his understanding that each department decides who receives raises on letters of appointment. He also stated that many letters of appointment employees, who used to be on soft money, might now be switched to a state contract. The distinction is unclear and whoever takes over Corky Bush’s position needs to articulate this policy.

Chair Rossmann will send out a request to all PC members asking which dates in August work for the next meeting. It was noted that a new Chair Elect will be selected at the September meeting when all PC members are present.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM, as there was no other business.

Signature

Doralyn Rossmann
Chair, Professional Council

Signature

Gale R. Gough
Secretary