PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
WEDNESDAY November 1, 2006
STRAND UNION 271
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Members Present: Diane Allen, Kim Rehm, Doralyn Rossmann, Rita Rozier, Jeralyn Brodowy for Stacey Scott, Matt Rognlie, Patty Inskeep

Members Absent: Jeff Butler

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Chair Kim Rehm. A quorum was present. The minutes of October 11, 2006 were approved with changes.

UPBAC – Member Doralyn Rossmann
- UPBAC met October 10, 2006, and member Rossmann reported on the 2007 budget. Out-of-state enrolment was up, in-state was down, and the budget was only $300,000 off from the spring draft due to commitments for summer students/classes. The FY08 budget is, in a large part, contingent on what Governor Schweitzer has proposed, namely a biennium base infusion of $52M to all campuses to cap tuition for in-state students.

Environmental Leadership (EL) – Rita Rozier
- Rita Rozier announced that the film, An Inconvenient Truth, will be shown in the Procrastinator Theatre November 16, 17. Whether coupons would be distributed for seating or not is still uncertain. The EL committee will ask the president’s office to finance the film, otherwise it will cost viewers $2 per ticket. In conjunction with EL’s philosophy, an “environmentally aware tip of the week”, would be placed on a web site weekly. Suggestions included giving recycling on campus and the new bus system more visibility.
- Rita Rozier would like to conduct a conference call with U of M to discuss how they, through their environmental activities, advocate reducing energy use, and what is working and what is affordable.

PC Research Employees – Chair Rehm
- Faculty Council and PC decided how research professional should be represented. Any employee with the title of “professor” or a teaching component in their job description would be under the FC research employee realm. All others would be represented by PC.
- Post docs and research professors are non-tenured and fall under faculty.
- Dawn Watkins perused the professional employee list and found that anyone who was not classified a 4C position number would be reclassified as either a 4C (professional) or a 4A (faculty). Additionally, these corrections would place the professional in the appropriate category for Banner and list servs.
- Professionals would vote on changing the constitution to remove “non-research”.
- Chair Rehm will compose a statement about why PC is changing the constitution. It will then be sent to via the professional list serv. According to the PC Constitution, Article Four: Ratification – “This constitution, and any changes and/or amendments made thereto, shall be ratified by a simple majority of affirmative votes, provided that at least forty percent (40%) of the eligible professional employees vote in the ratification process.”
- Doralyn Rossmann stated that last year, before the professional contracts were signed off by the COHE, professional salaries were public information and posted in the BOR minutes.

BOR Meeting in November – Chair Rehm
- Chair Rehm is unable to attend. Stacey Scott volunteered.

Professional Handbook – Chair Kim Rehm
- Leslie Taylor, Susan Alt, Marj Brown, Diane Letendre, and Kim Rehm will meet December 1, 2006 to revisit the original idea of a professional handbook.

Employee Recognition – Chair Kim Rehm
PC members Kim Rehm, Diane Allen, and Stacey Scott met with Dawn Watkins and Janelle Barber on Oct. 13 to discuss ways to improve the selection process. Subsequently, CEPAC volunteered, in conjunction with PC, to revamp the employee recognition process since it focuses on classified and professional employees. This year’s course of action would be difficult to change. In 2008, however, Human Resources would be able to incorporate more of the ideas that CEPAC and PC suggested. Uniformity and standardization of candidate submission forms were some of the criteria for improving the process. Also, longevity would now be a recognized component.

Leadership Meeting with President Gamble – Chair Rehm

Chair Rehm asked President Gamble if PC could give a short presentation of accomplishments to the BOR since professionals do not have anything, specific to discuss. President Gamble stated that PC would have to ask to be placed on the agenda, since there is no designated spot for professionals to speak. Since there is no opportunity to do so for this meeting, Chair Rehm suggested presenting something at the January BOR meeting.

Chair Rehm and Vice Chair Rognlie spoke about compensation for PC chair due to the increased amount of time and commitment to the position since its inception.

President Gamble would like to talk about shared governance, specifically what is working and what is not.

Shared Governance – PC Members

How does shared governance (SG) happen within departments? Does it trickle down from department head to classified staff? What did President Gamble put into the governance system? Does he only subscribes to shared governance, or is it a university-wide policy? Discussions ensued:

- One member stated that SG does not formally happen in departments, unless information is shared amongst employees in meetings.
- Another member stated that there are different classifications of professionals; student affairs, academic affairs, administration. There are many divisions of salaries and sometimes those divisions create hierarchies. In hierarchies, shared governance cannot flourish.
- A way to encourage the trickle down concept would be to announce on the professional listserv that there are public PC meetings and that PC members are representatives for professional employee venues, i.e., an elected body representing the PC citizenry.
- Chair Rehm stated that allocation of last year’s raise was predicated on PC input and in that vein, SG makes a difference.
- Chair Rehm would like to post to the professional listserv, information about PC activities. She will distribute her blurb amongst PC members for review. Vice Chair Rognlie stated that he is currently working on a web based collaboration document that allows simultaneous input from all involved instead of individuals emailing input/changes to a document.

Next Professional Council Meeting

The next Professional Council meeting will take place on November 8, 2006 with President Gamble. The PC meeting before Thanksgiving, November 22, has been cancelled. The next meeting will be December 13, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM, as there was no other business.

Signature

Kim Rehm
Chair, Professional Council

Signature

Gale R. Gough
Secretary