Members Present: Nancy Blake, Jeff Butler, Sheryl Dettmann, Julie Tatarka, Patty Inskeep, Nancy Filbin, Carolyn Plumb, Betsey Pitts, Matt Rognlie, Stacey Scott

Other Present: Pat Lane, University Studies

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Chair Sheryl Dettmann. A quorum was present. The September 10, 2008 minutes will be emailed to all PC members for approval.

Committee Reports – Julie Tatarka

- President Gamble supports the Association of Shared Governance Leadership document. Since the shared governance philosophy is fairly new on the MSU campus, there may be challenges in placement of the document. President Gamble suggested having each represented group ratify the document, include a statement on how the campus culture subscribes to shared governance on their web page, and have a link to the President’s Shared Governance web site where the complete document would be posted.
- President Gamble stated that shared governance constituents should have been communicated/consulted with on the F&A distribution when the issue first arose. Uncertainty about long-term implications (and short-term if it becomes retroactive July 1) are disturbing to employees. President Gamble stated that permanent position contracts should not be funded on soft money; they should be base funded. If they are not base funded, then our expenditures, relative to other institutions, are lower and in stressful times you are not monetarily able to respond. Larger institutions have larger reserves and are able to carry over in crisis; MSU only has about $10M in reserve.

Announcements – Chair Dettmann

- Tom McCoy will speak about redistribution of F&A at the Faculty Senate meeting tomorrow. Matt Rognlie will attend. PC members would like Dr. McCoy to also attend a Professional Council meeting. Chair Dettmann will schedule that meeting.
- $1M shortfall – One major reason for the shortfall in the $130 million budget is that tuition fell $437,000 short of expectations. MSU-Bozeman has a record fall enrollment of 12,369 students, nearly 200 more than last year, yet many of those students attend part-time. When converted to the full-time equivalent, the number used to determine budgets, MSU’s enrollment increased by only 40 students, from 10,292 to 10,332. Students are taking fewer courses, either because they have to work more to earn money to get through college, or they are taking on-line classes from other universities. Another reason for the budget shortfall is that MSU departments have committed to spending $525,000 more than budgeted on employee benefits. Many departments, struggling to hire employees when salaries are low, have found ways to embellish jobs by offering benefits instead. Previously, employees had to be ¾ time to receive benefits; employees working at least half-time are now eligible for benefits. From now on, MSU will have to take a stricter approach and require that every time $1 is added for salaries, there must be 30 cents added to the pool that pays benefits. Individual departments have been responsible for keeping their salaries within budget, but not benefits, which have been handled at the central offices and that may have to change. MSU departments have also been making more offers of free tuition to graduate students than called for in the budget, as they strive to compete with other universities for bright grad students. MSU has seen a slight increase in graduate student enrollment, but a huge increase in tuition fee waivers.
- Paul Bogumill, Director of MUS Benefits, will speak at the October 15, 2008 Faculty Senate meeting, 4:10 – 5:00 PM, Reid Hall room 101.
- Overuse of the professional listserv (sending similar message 5-6 times) from the Professional Council office is not appropriate. PC believes blanket emails should be sent from the office where they originate from.
- Professional Council would like to invite university committee reps to report once a semester or once a year.
- Salary updates should be available after the November pay is distributed.

BOR – Chair Dettmann

- Montana Green Campus: http://mtgreen.mus.edu/ is a new portal (created by MSU) to other universities/colleges showcasing online courses and programs without driving to a campus (one aspect of the web site’s “green” philosophies). If one searches for MSU, you are linked to extended university courses. There are careers in energy-related fields, degrees and programs; reclamation, renewable energy, energy research, etc.
- Two-year education topics discussed:
  o Should be affordable and accessible;
  o Funding for campuses;
  o President Gamble stated that Bozeman needs a two-year campus;
  o All two-year colleges are in the midst of revamping, and many projects involving them are suspended.
The 2009 MSU budget was approved and implemented July 1, 2008. It is approximately $132,000,000, with an increase of 3.52%.

**Professional Goals 2008-2009 – Chair Dettmann**
- Chair Dettmann will craft a memo inviting VP’s to PC meetings on a regular basis.
- Improve communication with our constituents through:
  - Outreach,
  - Targeted meetings with colleges/departments,
  - Networking with committees
  - Cross pollinating meetings
  - Reinforce “open” invite
  - Opt-in email
  - 4 piece listservs
  - Student recruitment and retention
    - Meet with stakeholders

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM, as there was no other business.

*Signature*
Sheryl Dettmann
Chair, Professional Council

*Signature*
Gale Gough
Secretary, Professional Council