PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
WEDNESDAY October 22, 2008
SUB 237
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

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

Members Absent: Julie Tatarka, Carolyn Plumb

Other Present: Erika Swenson

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Chair Sheryl Dettmann. A quorum was present. The October 8, 2008 minutes were unanimously approved via email.

Student Initiatives – Erika Swenson

- First Year Initiatives (FYI) is an on-campus free program that assists students with transition and academic achievement through advising, seminars and surveys. FYI has five (5) part-time advisors. If students are on a D and F list (solicited from professors in early October), FYI may intervene and provide options. Other services FYI provide include, but are not limited to:
  - Time management;
  - Efficient note-taking;
  - How to improve your testing;
  - Listing of resources at students’ disposal;
  - College student inventory (CSI);
  - Printed material distribution such as “Understanding the Difference Between High School and College,” “Resource and Referral Guide;”
  - Mid-Year Retention Intervention;
  - Open communication among students and employees on campus;
  - Office environment conducive to student interaction with employees;
  - Two offices; one in South Hedges, the other in the SUB; and
  - FYI Helpline; and
  - FACEBOOK account.

- Some causes for failure at MSU:
  - Under performing students view MSU as a “ski institution,” attend one year, and then leave;
  - Other students did not do well in high school and it did not prepare them for college; it is viewed as “high school” after high school;
  - Psychological disabilities;
  - Second gate classes are not available and students are frustrated.
  - Pre university students may not be as well prepared for college life.
  - Navigating through the morass of registration, drop/add, paying bills, accessing WebCT, how to get a PIN number to get to your account, etc.

- PC members would like guidance on how to better assist students. FYI will email suggestions to Gale and draft a document for PC to review.

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