Members Present:  Adam Edelman, Chris Bauer, Carolyn Plumb, Erika Swanson, Julie Tatarka, Nancy Filbin, Sheryl Dettmann, Betsey Pitts, Stacey Scott

Members Absent:  Woody Cranston

Others present:  Pat Lane

Chair Pitts called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. There was a quorum.

Nancy Filbin gave a report of the Professional Council Hospitality Room at the Board of Regents meeting. A number of professionals stopped through and were able to have a round table discussion of a number of items. The safety of pedestrian crossing from Marsh Lab to the main MSU Campus (across 19th) was discussed. Nancy Filbin will get more information for our next meeting. PC may then discuss with the PC rep on UFPUB or PTAC. Another concern that was raised was the difference in schedules between classified and professional staff. In some cases, schedules are causing internal conflicts. It was discussed that it was the responsibility of the leadership in the Department to effectively communicate about such issues. That conversation led to a discussion on the need for more professional development for department leaders and supervisors. Also there were questions about new employee orientation. Is it required for professional employees? Could PC have a few minutes to talk about professionals if it is? Stacey will contact Jo Oudshoorn for more information. Inconsistencies in job searches, and Professional Council’s role in the Board of Regent’s Reformation/Reinvention Workgroup were also mentioned as issues for PC to address.

The group discussed the Board of Regents meeting. During President Gambles presentation of MSU’s planning for budget reductions he discussed consolidating IT services across MSU’s 4 campuses, furloughs as opposed to layoffs, and changing from ½ time to ¾ time for benefits eligibility as some cost saving measures being considered. President Denison presented UM’s planning which included budget reallocations from other campuses to UM since their enrollment has increased, a tuition increase, changing full time tuition from 12 credits to 9, and savings from personnel vacancies. There was a presentation of the 2-year college in Bozeman becoming part of MSU rather than MSU-Great Falls College of Technology. There was a lot of community support but there are a few Regents that have some reservations. There will be a vote at the next BOR meeting.

There is a movement on campus to go smoke &/or tobacco free. President Gamble has asked PC for feedback on the issue. Jenny Haubenriser from MSU Health Promotions asked PC to allow her to provide us more information before we take a position. Betsey will contact Jenny and ask her to provide information we can share with all professionals either through a listening session or via email. ASMSU has asked for a plan from the administration before they can take a position.

Betsey and Stacey shared that they had visited with Cathy Conover about internal communications at MSU. PC will make an effort to get more professionals to read MSU Today but we will also continue to provide Communications and Public Affairs suggestions for improving that communication mechanism. It does not appear to be well used currently.

Chris Bauer shared that she attended a Suicide Prevention seminar given by Counseling and Psychological Services. She felt the information should be shared more widely among staff on campus and that the presentation could provide more tools to staff.

Stacey Scott