PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
WEDNESDAY May 24, 2010
Reid Hall Room 415, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

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

Others Present: Pat Lane, Jeanne Wilkinson (new PC member), Elizabeth Brock, Jeff Littlefield (new PC member), Donna Negaard

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

Announcements

- New PC members asked how PC communicates with other campus constituents. Chair Pitts described the ASGL, a communication forum for representatives from Faculty Senate, Professional Council, Staff Senate, and ASMSU (shared governance leaders) to effectively discuss issues relevant to the Association as well as other MSU governing bodies. ASGL exists to: strengthen campus communication throughout the university as a whole; promote the wide-spread and consistent practice of shared governance at MSU; collaborate regularly in the consideration of issues of mutual interest, problem-solving, and pursuing common goals; and provide an opportunity for one organization to solicit input on a matter unique to them from the Association’s collective experience and knowledge. Issues and points of discussion are raised by Association members and examined from the perspective of each constituent group. Communication with administration is conducted when PC meets with President Cruzado once a month.
- Chair Pitts suggested promoting Move In Day to recruit more professional volunteers.

Sustainable Landscaping – Elizabeth Brock

- PC has been actively involved in suggesting ways MSU might be engaged in practicing sustainability. Some suggestions focused on traditional landscaping practices (e.g., watering plants mid-day during a rainstorm, planting annuals that need copious watering) and how they might be improved.
- Suggestions from the subcommittees of UPBAC to UPBAC for landscaping savings were routinely turned down without explanation.
- Traditional thoughts about how a campus should look with regards to landscaping need to change. Students are noticing whether campuses are subscribing to sustainability practices or not and decisions to attend a university or not are often based on such practices. Schools are graded on their involvement.
- MSU is able to make an impact because of the students and our location.
- MSU could be proactive, progressive, a leader in this area, by taking advantage of native plants, Native American culture, edible landscaping, etc.
- Food composting is taking place, now, because students have voiced their concern about waste.
- The Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee (CSAC) is the current vehicle for initiatives. There is no landscaping subcommittee.
- PC might post, in the Twitter box, university committee reports from reps beginning with CSAC.

Meeting Times for PC – Betsey Pitts

- Reid 415 has been reserved for the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, 11-noon, for the ad hoc PC summer meetings.
- The fall meeting schedule will be scheduled later.

Working Group Updates

- Budget Working Group – The group decided that the chair would be someone of position e.g., Provost. The number of people on the final budget committee will be about 12; one rep per council plus student representation. The role and scope has not yet been determined.
- Planning Working Group – How to strategically plan for 10-15 year vision with inclusion of Ag and Extension. The group’s composition and charge were also discussed.
- Research Working Group – Original proposal does not include professional or classified members; six faculty represent this group. The group would be an advisory to VP McCoy. How does the Ag Extension and Outreach fit? The group’s composition is also being examined.
- Governance Group – The group’s mission and charge are still being examined.
**PC Goals Past and Present – Betsey Pitts**

- **Tasks outlined for this year that PC accomplished:**
  - Set up the ability to reach professionals via email; what is breakdown of group?
  - Coordinate an MSU/PC reception with the BoR.
  - Coordinate a professional development seminar opportunity.
  - Refine the list of 10 things that professionals employees could do to affect student retention.
  - Professional Council web site update and refinement.
  - Conducted surveys which indicated that there has been an increase in professional employee participation.

- **What are PC’s goals for the coming year? Some were often requests from constituents.**
  - Continuation of instilling collegiality via staff name tags.
  - Professional development series.
  - PC should become more pro-active in their communication through the annual picnic or other existing channels to alert constituents about what PC does.
  - PC employee classification/category clarification.
  - Professional staff award availability.
  - Sabbaticals for professionals.
  - A “Did you know…” announcement posted in Twitter box.
  - Email announcement for professional involvement in student activities.
  - **Other suggestions:**
    - Staff a table at the Wellness Fair.
    - Incentive for professional to vote by awarding a gift bag.
    - Continue to clarify the role of PC as issues arise.
    - Professional Handbook (since 2006).
    - Professional leadership compensation (since 2006).
    - Professional sabbatical and leave (since 2006).
    - PC will present a budget to President Cruzado for PC activities and travel.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm, as there was no other business.

_Signature_
Betsey Pitts, Chair

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Gale Gough, Secretary