PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
WEDNESDAY November 17, 2010
Reid 415, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Members Present: Chris Bauer, Carolyn Plumb, Jeanne Wilkinson, Nancy Filbin, Adam Edelman, Julie Tatarka, Pat Lane, Betsey Pitts, Jeff Littlefield

Others Present: Linda LaCrone, Donna Negaard

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

New Business

Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) Update – Linda LaCrone

- PTAC discussed parking increases for next year since rates have been frozen for the last two years. Revenue is needed for operations and maintenance (O&M) for the parking enterprise, a self-supporting entity. The percentage increase is not definitive, but many scenarios were presented with incremental percentage increases ranging from 4% to 12%. It was noted that the S&B parking, which is $159.00 per year, will be the starting point for parking increases. Although the increases are logical to PC members, the issue of no-pay raises for the past two years makes it difficult to accept. Former PTAC member, Adam Edelman, stated that parking increases, now, are more logical, as materials and labor to improve and maintain the parking lots would only increase as time progresses. Most O&M are annual events. Parking attendants and police are also paid through the parking enterprise. Paving more of the “F” lot, near the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, will commence this year. It was noted that paving gravel lots adds more parking spaces.

- Suggestions from a professional to increase parking enterprise revenue included:
  - Reserved spaces might be raised; and
  - Pay-by-hour rate might be raised.

- PC member Plumb would like PTAC to be aware that the drivers waiting to park in the lot across from the SUB often keep their cars running for ten minutes (or longer) while waiting for a space to vacate, thus discharging copious pollutants into the atmosphere. She noted that there are parking spaces further down 7th, in the University Police Parking Lot. Member Edelman suggested putting up signage to alert waiting drivers of those vacant spaces and that they may obtain a day-permit from University Police.

Old Business

Approval of Minutes

- The October 20 and November 3, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved, with proposed changes.

Representative Reports

- ASGL – Julie Tatarka – ASGL decided to meet every other week. Staff Senate will not meet with the BoR; Faculty Senate will have a breakfast with the BoR. Faculty Senate is wordsmithing the Emeritus policy to include research faculty. FS is also crafting a faculty athletic representative policy. ASMSU has not been in attendance for about a month.

- Budget Council – Jeanne Wilkinson – The BC has only met once, so far. President Cruzado continues to emphasize that the BC supports the strategic plan; not the other way around. She would like monthly meetings and a democratic process for electing members of the council. Members of the council are still grappling with their role and need guidelines. A budget orientation for members would be helpful, so members know how governmental accounting works; members from other university units might also attend, so members would understand how different units integrate their budget into the university.
- Planning Council – Adam Edelman – Craig Roloff gave a university budget overview PowerPoint presentation. A subcommittee of the PC is examining other peer university planning committees. The Planning Council is also in the process of crafting bylaws.
- There are no professionals on the Research Council, and PC members discussed taking turns attending the open meetings. Chair Filbin will discuss professional membership with President Cruzado at their next leadership meeting.

Committee/Project Reports

Wellness Table
- A discussion of PC participation in the Wellness Fair ended in the conclusion that we could probably make better use of our time working on other projects; therefore, PC will not participate in the spring Wellness Fair.

Other Business
- Member Tatarka stated that a professional employee has expressed concern about the new format of our benefits drug program. In the past, employees were able to peruse a list of the medications and make comparisons/choices; now, one is required to create an account with a login and password. PC discussed how non-prescription drugs may not be eligible for Flex Plan reimbursements after January 1, 2011 and where information about the new policy may be found. Member Tatarka will ask our benefits rep, Kathy Tanner.
- PC would like the Benefits Committee rep, Kathy Tanner, to speak at a PC meeting.
- Member Pitts would like to follow-up with Staff Senate and find out the status of their participation in the name tag project.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am, as there was no other business.

Signature
Nancy Filbin, Chair

Signature
Gale Gough, Secretary