Professional Council Meeting Minutes

7/13/11, 415 Reid

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy Filbin. Present were Julie Tatarka, Jeff Littlefield, Jeanne Wilkinson, Carolyn Plumb, Erika Swanson, Anne Milkovich, Kelsey Hartzheim, and Barbara Wheeler.

Old Business: Minutes were not available from the previous meeting, 6/15/11. Julie gave an update on ASGL, which met on 6/27/11. At that time they discussed how shared governance should operate, including the possibility of consolidating budgets. It seems to be consensus to keep budgets separate, and for Professional Council to continue to work diligently to protect its identity.

Jeanne reported that Budget Council last met on 6/28/11. They are still working on the process to align priorities with the MSU strategic plan. The tuition increase of 5% will cover the HB2 budget reduction and the reduction due to the MUS reallocation of FTE funding. Tuition will also cover the investment in Human Resources. Funds remaining at the end of FY11 have been moved to reserve accounts and a portion will be used to purchase Degree Works, a degree auditing software program which is a very high priority investment for MSU. Jeanne described working with Terry Leist to improve the communications process so that the council will be well informed prior to items coming up for discussion and a vote.

Nancy gave an update from University Council, which met 7/6/11. The proposed Tobacco-Free Campus policy was discussed. Marvin Lansverk of Faculty Senate proposed that employee groups be given additional time to comment on the policy, and it was agreed that voting on the policy may have to be moved to October. This will push back the education efforts that are being coordinated by Jenny Haubenreiser’s office. Professional Council will work with Faculty and Staff Senates to publicize the proposed policy (http://www.montana.edu/legalcounsel/proposedPolicies.html) and to invite comments and suggestions.

Anne Milkovich gave an update on IT Resource Management Policy, approved by University Council 12/10. The purpose of the policy is to institute a university, four campus-wide methodologies for prioritizing IT requests and projects, and to manage IT resources in alignment with best practices in professional organizations. The policy is already allowing IT to apply a framework to decision-making processes and their implementation. Anne is the central contact for this policy (anne.milkovich@montana.edu). Priorities currently are Degree Works, customer relationship management, and document management workload.

New Business: A Professional Development seminar, Project 2030, will be offered 7/20/22 from 11:30 – 12:30 in 101 Linfield. Professor Myles Watts will be the presenter. This takes a look at demographic information about the ageing of Montana’s population, and the implications for education, government services, and individual households. Classified staff have also been invited.
Projects will be discussed at our planning meeting on 8/17/11. Committees and tasks for 2011-12 will be set up at that meeting. Snacks will be provided!

One suggestion was received, from Ellen Lamm. She proposed that a mentoring program be set up for professionals to work with peers who are also experiencing difficulty balancing research, writing, outside consulting, and their university responsibilities. The suggestion was well-received; we will invite Ellen to a future meeting to expand on her idea.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00.

Nancy Filbin, Chair