Professional Council
May 16, 2012
415 Reid Hall
Montana State University

Present: Nora Smith, Jeff Littlefield, Julie Tatarka, Jeanne Wilkinson, Chancey Ringer, Pat Lane, Adam Edelman, Erika Swanson, Kathy Osen for Carolyn Plumb

Others present: Donna Negaard, Nancy Filbin, Doug Steele, Elizabeth Greenfield

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am. Meeting minutes from 5/2/2012 were approved.

BoR - Wilkinson

- Chair Wilkinson will be traveling to Havre for the BoR meeting, Wednesday and Thursday, May 23 - 24, 2012.

Doug Steele, VP for External Relations – Wilkinson, Steele

- Chair Wilkinson presented Dr. Steele with a brief background of Professional Council, professional employee statistics about who professional employees are and what they do, illustrated how professionals engage in student/staff interaction, and communicated about the various contributions professionals make to student success via recent survey results. The discussion moved to how PC endeavors to communicate with both internal and external audiences. A video about the positive MSU experiences students have through interactions with staff was shown. Wilkinson closed with asking Steele how PC might assist in communications about MSU.

- Steele talked about his evolution into his current position, emphasizing that MSU employees are here because of the students and that we have a three-fold mission: teaching, research and outreach. He cited some statistics about MSU:
  - MSU has three agencies that are separate state line items: MSU, MAES, Extension. Out of 56 state counties, the MUS has a physical presence in 54. We have offices in five out of seven reservations.

- Steele stated that because of his history of working with legislators, as Director of Extension, he was asked to become the Vice President for External Relations. Some highlights for the 2013 Legislative Session include: House Bill 2 (State General Fund that funds most of what we do), HB13 (Pay plan). HB 2 funds 40% of higher education, but Montana is 49th in country per student/support. MSU also tracts HB 5, the Long Range Building Plan (LRBP). MSU works closely with OCHE to put our priority list together and Romney Hall is our first priority for $22M.

- Other funding priorities were discussed as well.

- Cruzado has formed a committee on leadership, outreach and engagement to support, more proactively, our outreach role. PC may elect a member to be on that committee. Steele believes that PC could be an integral member of the committee.

- Steele is working on a website with a hot link for biweekly, accurate 2013 legislative reporting.
Announcements

Adam Edelman reported that Planning Council met. The MSU Draft Strategic Plan includes metrics that many staff members may not be aware of. PC discussed inviting Chris Fastnow, Director of Planning and Analysis and Chair of Planning Council, to the next meeting to discuss how PC can help get the word out. Nora Smith will contact Fastnow.

As there was no other business, the meeting ended at 11:00 am.

Gale R. Gough
Administrative Associate
Professional Council