PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – February 6, 2013

ATTENDEES:  Nora Smith
             Donna Negaard
             Jeanne Wilkinson
             Carolyn Plumb
             Nancy Filbin for Betsey Pitts
             Julie Tatarka
             Liz Grant
             Jeff Littlefield
             Patricia Lane

ABSENT:  Chancey Ringer

GUEST:  Lindsay Murdock, ASMSU

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am in Reid 415.

Minutes from the January 16, 2013 PC meeting were approved. They have been submitted for posting on the PC web site.

Liz Grant addressed the group about how our plans are coming along for having Professional Council info posted to various social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.). Nora Smith interjected that she has been receiving random requests to publish info to our distribution list from various groups. Discussion ensued (as it has many times in the past) as to whether or not we are to be a conduit for miscellaneous info. (Multiple emails via PC’s listserv are not viewed as effective, as employees tend to begin to ignore our emails if they start receiving too many.) It was suggested that most announcements from different groups to MSU employees should come directly from the source and not through PC’s distribution list. Most announcements are made on MSU Today. In the future Liz and Chancey will determine what we should post through our listserv and other social media outlets that has not been posted on MSU Today.

Liz suggested PC send out info at least once a year via letter or postcard to all PEs about what our social media outlets are so each PE can determine how they want to view PC information. She is also looking into revamping our website with the help of Jake Dolan and will check on the logistics of keeping our listserv updated.

Lindsay Murdock, VP of ASMSU spoke to the group about a resolution they are proposing to amend BOR Policy 703. A draft of the resolution was included in the PC agenda. Currently BOR Policy 703, a non-discrimination policy, includes wording related to gender, religion, race and ethnicity but does not address gender identity or sexual preference. ASMSU, aiming to be proactive, created this resolution to ensure the equality of the LGBTQAI community before any gender identity or sexual preference issues arise on campus.

Nora suggested classifying this issue as new business; enabling PC members to review the current policy and the proposed new language so it can be discussed at our next meeting on February 20th. As we are
uncertain about being a “voting” entity, Nora offered to check PC by-laws to see if our group is sanctioned to vote as a body in support of this resolution, or if we would only be able to support it on an individual basis. (For future reference, Jessica Brubaker, staff attorney for BOR, would be the person to send letters or emails of support to. Her email is jbrubaker@montana.edu.)

Jeanne Wilkinson suggested a possible professional development event for consideration. She attended a small group training session recently called “Leadership of You” presented by Kori Vyse, a Bozeman native and HR Director of Nike in Portland. Jeanne was very impressed with this session and thought our PEs would benefit from having one here at MSU. The sessions would consist of two days/two groups of 25 per day. Logistics of getting people to sign up for the training session was discussed. Jeanne will be contacting Kori to try to schedule an event sometime in May after commencement.

Jeanne also announced that the Budget Council heard presentations of the new investment proposals at their last meeting. Those proposals will be prioritized and recommendations will be made at the next meeting.

Nancy Filbin updated the group on CSAC, the Campus Sustainability Advisory Council. They have a Spotlight Event scheduled for Thursday, February 14 from 4 to 6 in the Leigh Lounge. Kristin Blackler, MSU's new Director of Sustainability, will speak about MSU's sustainability efforts and future goals.

Donna Negaard announced that the Outreach & Engagement Council is planning to get more info out to campus about how their plans are evolving by the end of the academic year.

Pat Lane deferred her report on the University Facilities Planning Board to next meeting.

Matt Caires, Dean of Students, will be the featured guest at our meeting on February 20th. He will be presenting on student affairs policies and procedures.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Lane, PC Secretary