PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – March 20, 2013

ATTENDEES:  Nora Smith
            Donna Negaard
            Carolyn Plumb
            Chancey Ringer
            Jeff Littlefield
            Julie Tatarka
            Liz Grant
            Patricia Lane

ABSENT:  Betsey Pitts
         Jeanne Wilkinson

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am in SUB 168.

The minutes from the previous meeting on March 6 were approved.

A brief discussion was held about the success of the PE Social event held on March 6. Approximately 100 attended and everyone considered the event a huge success. If the social is held next year we may have to secure a larger room. The positive ambiance of the Leigh Lounge was noted, and it would be good to be able to replicate that at our next function. A lot of research professionals (post docs) attended and a lot of conversation took place among different departments. The whole group felt that it was really good to reconnect with a lot of individuals we hadn’t seen in a long time. Donna Negaard will be compiling comments from the sticky notes that were placed around the room at the event. Betsey Pitts will update us further at our next meeting, also.

Jeff Littlefield advised the group of the PC officer positions due to expire this year and the need to prepare for elections soon. Terms are ending for three academic positions, one research position and one administration position; and one term is ending in the academic category due to retirement.

Jeff also presented two proposed changes for the categorical distribution of officers. Presently, the largest group of Professional Employees is in the research category, followed by academic, student affairs and administration. One proposal is to add an outreach and engagement category which would include PEs in Extended University, Museum of the Rockies, MSU Extension, Institute on Ecosystems, Montana Manufacturing Extension Center, Western Transportation Institute, Tech Link, etc. The other proposal is to add a member at large category which would include any PE, regardless of professional category or affiliation. A position would be removed from one of the other categories to accommodate the new category.

Discussion was held, as it has been in the past, regarding the determination of what category PEs are in. Previously it was decided that the category an individual is in should be determined by what they do more than by who they report to. Individuals who run for PC offices should/could explain why they fit in the category that they are running for. Definitions will be described on our web site and in the by-laws.
for more clarification of what each category represents. This will be discussed in future PC meetings along with the proposals for a new category.

Chancey Ringer advised the group that he and Liz Grant will be under a different division in Administration effective June 1. This will not change their positions on PC. Carolyn Plumb also mentioned that she will not be doing the surveys in the future. Whoever is in charge of the surveys will have to have access to Survey Monkey. PC will have to investigate to see where we can do this without having to purchase our own subscription.

Nora Smith announced that Kori Vyse will be conducting our professional development event on May 13 and 14. This will be advertised in April. She also updated the group on activities on Planning Council provided by Adam Edelman. Strategic plans are being written by the Dean’s Council and by the Research Council. The Planning Council is also trying to identify a peer group among other universities for benchmarking and for faculty and student recruitment. They are also discussing the metrics of the MSU Strategic Plan.

Chancey announced that the VP for Student Affairs search is now at the phone interview stage. The position is slated to be filled before the end of spring semester. Donna advised the group that the timeline on the search for the Dean of the Graduate School has been pushed back to January 1, 2014 for a hire date.

Nora suggested trying to get Betsy Webb, HR Professional Development Manager, as a speaker for one of our future meetings. Special locations for upcoming meetings are: April 17 – SUB 168 and May 15 – EPS 127.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Lane, PC Secretary