• **Special Guest – Sylvia Sparkman, Staff Senate Chair**
  o Wanted to discuss working closer together and working more on the same page than in 2 different groups
  o Always wanted to engage Professionals in a new scholarship opportunity that Staff Senate has been working with President Cruzado on for MSU Bozeman and Gallatin College employees and their dependents to be eligible for a scholarship each year. A few details:
    ▪ The scholarships would be given out yearly and they would aim for $1,000 per person and give out 5-10 per year with the hope that they could give more out depending on how much money was raised.
    ▪ They are working with the Alumni Foundation and have already received verbal commitments from President Cruzado who will donate $1,000 personally, CIO, and other departments.
    ▪ They are planning to launch and start actively recruiting for the scholarship funds in January when the Alumni Foundation starts their annual drive.
    ▪ They are working out a Payroll Deduction option for staff that want to contribute to the fund.
    ▪ They are still finalizing criteria for the scholarship, but wanted to get Professional Council involvement if we were interested.
  o We are also planning a joint lunch with President Cruzado on December 9th with more details to come.
  o We also agreed to share information when we have special guest speakers coming so that we could share the information with our membership and if we were interested in attending we could do so.

• **PC Position Reports**
  o None

• **Old Business**
  o **PC Committee Representatives Update**
    ▪ There are 2 committees that still need a liaison attached to them:
      ▪ Planning Council
      ▪ University Facilities Planning Board
    ▪ Both committees were claimed by Brian Rossmann and Jenny Lavey
  o **PC Positions Update**
    ▪ When James Tobin was announced Chair-Elect, the Secretary position opened up so the three open positions are:
      ▪ Secretary
      ▪ Treasurer
      ▪ Membership Liaison
    ▪ Jenny Lavey took the Secretary position
    ▪ Tobin was going to follow-up with Gini and Brad on their interest in any of the positions that we still had left.

• **New Business**
  o None

• **Announcements**
o A few ideas or interest in future topics of discussion and/or presentations were brought up around:
  - Ombudsperson or someone that could be a neutral 3rd party to help mediate conflict between employees.
  - Looking into a dependent and spousal credit fee waiver for grad school and grad classes.

o Upcoming Presenters
  - September 28 – Chris Murray
  - October 12 – Samantha Beebout
  - October 26 – Cathy Hasenpflug and Sara King
  - November 9 – Betsy Asserson
  - December 14 – Tracy Ellig

o Julie Clay also discussed the Diversity Meeting/Forum that she attended on behalf of Professional Council
  - This is the beginning of a yearlong conversation about diversity on our campus
  - The President has asked that we have on-going conversations and dialogue on our campus on how we can help make people succeed
  - We must integrate this into the total fabric of the institution.
  - Diversity drives discovery
  - Take diversity from mechanic to organic
  - The question that we should be asking that’s right in front of us is how do we allow people to embrace their personal identity on our campus
  - Acknowledge a lack of diversity awareness in the greater Bozeman community and we have to work within that community
  - University Council is working on a campus-wide diversity plan looking at various pieces from the classroom, recruitment, orientation, students, non-traditional and transfer student orientation etc.

o Julie also announced that she would like to present her national conference presentation on soft skills in today’s professionals to the campus community