I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by chair, Kevin Thane. Guest, Ron Ramsfield, attended the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes of November 16 and December 21, 2011

The minutes of November 16, 2011 were approved with grammatical corrections. The minutes of December 21, 2011 were approved.

III. Committee Reports

A. Association of Shared Governance Leaders – did not meet per Kevin. Reports available at http://www.montana.edu/staffsenate/CommitteeReports/ctteerep-asgl.html.


D. Facilities Services Advisory – did not meet per Kevin. Kevin noted the topic of hiring an external consultant will be discussed at their next meeting. Senators held a discussion regarding the intent and expectation of hiring an external consultant. Senators requested Kevin get clarification then email the results prior to the FSA meeting; Senators will then be able to share their thoughts with him via email. Minutes of the OFS meetings at https://www.facilities.montana.edu/committees/of SAC/display.html.

E. Fitness Center Oversight Committee & Recreation Sports Advisory Board – met per Eric. They are working on removing the North Gym Fire Shutter, a safety hazard for individuals using the North Gym. The plan is to have the fire shutter and window removed and filled in. A proposal was made to make an obstacle course behind the stadium and track and field area. The obstacle course would be available to gym members and ROTC and could be used for “mudder” type races which include obstacles and mud pits. Discussion was also held regarding allowing outside coaches to teach courses to MSU students while using gym space. The Fitness Center Oversight Committee also met and discussed room usage issues and repurposing an additional two racquetball courts; one to convert into an Olympic Weightlifting area and the other to expand the climbing wall.

F. International Program – met per Estela. The group is taking part in a national program sponsored by the American Council on Education called the Internationalization Laboratory. Participation in the Lab is to assure that we are providing our students with international skills and knowledge. And preparing our graduates for the "borderless careers" they will enter.

G. MSU Benefits & IUBC – met 1/13 per Shari. John Holte, individual retirement consultant from TIAA-CREFF, was a guest at the Benefits meeting; he will be living in Bozeman and serving the MUS system. He can provide active individuals and groups and retirees education. He uses tools/programs to calculate how much money (60% to 80% of current expenses) a member will need upon retirement based upon different scenarios (inflation, etc.) and a person’s personality. Reports available at http://www.montana.edu/staffsenate/CommitteeReports/ctteerep-benefits.html.


I. Planning Council – met per Raechell. The Strategic Planning Committee is planning an open forum or charrette for February 8 from noon to 6 p.m. Topics will include: Mission, Vision, Themes and Goals (Integration, Stewardship, Engagement, and Access). For more information on the work of the Strategic

J. Pure Gold Selection Committee – per Donna they are receiving 5-8 nominations per week.


L. University Facilities Planning – no report. Beth reported Jim Dolan has approached the university regarding a sculpture. Minutes of the UFPB meetings at https://www.facilities.montana.edu/committees/ufpb/display.html.

M. University Council – met 1/4 per Joan. Four new items were placed on the web for review. The proposed policies are; Freedom of Expression, Non-Discrimination, Annual Inventory, and Property Management Procedure Manual. Bill reported he made a presentation to the Council on OpenMSU. He reported President Waded Cruzado has said she and others have asked questions like, “Why are we doing this in this manner? Why are we filling out these forms? Why is the college adjacent to mine doing it differently?” To answer these questions she formed the OpenMSU Committee that would investigate how the Bozeman campus operates and how its support services could operate better. She has stated she would rather than imposing top-down solutions, she wants to empower MSU employees and give them the tools to make changes. OpenMSU won’t be looking at what goes on inside classrooms but rather at everything that supports academic work. That could include finance and accounting, grants and contracts, Web development and content management, human resources, information technology and procurement. The goals are to empower the staff to do their jobs well, more enjoyable and more efficiently. OpenMSUs’ first action will be to conduct surveys (the first is estimated to be distributed around the end of January), hold listening sessions and set up an online suggestion box. Then it will make recommendations, and in future years check to make sure things are improving. Minutes of the University Council meetings at http://www.montana.edu/aircj/coms/councils/ucouncil/ucouncil_min.html.

N. University Marketing – did not meet per Shana. Reports available at http://www.montana.edu/staffsenate/CommitteeReports/ctteerep-marketing.html.

O. Other Committee Reports

IV. Old Business

A. Training Task Force – Co-Chairs, Neil and Justin. The Task Force has put together a listing of professional development and training opportunities around campus. Suggestions made during discussion included arranging the list by topic, providing button links for input from viewers regarding adding other opportunities and suggest training. Bill noted the OpenMSU survey will include questions regarding training needs and wants. Justin noted he was going to initiate further work on the Senators training survey to try to determine a training topic or theme for the campus-wide training.

B. Public Relations Task Force – Chair, Shana. The January, 2012 newsletter has been distributed. Senators reported the color scheme makes it has to read via email. Discussion on future content included “did you know” section on Tuition Waiver, VEBA, or other topics.

V. Information Items

A. MUSSA meets with the Board of Regents in Helena on Thursday January 19 at 11:30 a.m.

VI. Updates

A. Senators discussed the selection of Clayton Christian as the new Commissioner of Higher Education. The selection process was a bit unusual but the group felt Commissioner Christian was a good choice. The Senators, however, expressed concerned regarding the pay increase.

VII. Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:56 a.m.

Next meeting, February 15, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in SUB 232