Staff Senate Minutes  
Wednesday, June 15, 2011  
9:00 – 11:00 am  
Wilson Hall, Bradley Conference Room, 2-257

Attendance Code Key: X = Attended  A = Apologies for Absence  

X Molly Anderson, PTAC  
A Irene Decker, Parking Appeals  
A Deb Harrison  
X Wendy McCarty  
X Carol Shannon, MSU Benefits  
X Deb Wilke  

A Steve Beasley  
X Debbie Drews, CSAC  
X Neil Jorgensen  
X Sharon McIlhatten, Budget Council  
X Kevin Thane, Facilities  
A Eric Wold, Rec Sports  
X Ron Brekke, Benefits  
A Roger Dunn  
A Donna Kelly, Parking Appeals  
X Raechell Nielsen, Planning Council  
X Justin van Almeelo  
A Shana Wold, Marketing  
X Shari Curtis, Benefits  
A Mandy Hansen, UFPB  
X Beth Littlefield, Provost Lunch  
A Merry Paceley, Personnel  
X Bill Van Horn, Space & University Council

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by chair, Bill Van Horn. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda. Guests included incoming elected members Julie Heard and Linda McDonald. The Senate welcomed appointed classified representative, Debbie Drews, Campus Sustainability Advisory Council.

II. Approval of Minutes of May 18, 2011

The minutes were approved with one correction.

III. Committee Reports


C. Campus Sustainability Advisory Council – Debbie Drews reported they met 6/14. Topics of discussion included MSU’s climate action plan available on the MSU website, WTI car sharing system, loaner bicycles, changes to the Streamline bus schedule, and energy performance contract and energy audits. Reports available at http://www.montana.edu/staffsenate/CommitteeReports/ctteerep-csac.html.

D. Facilities Services Advisory – Kevin reported they met 5/26. The committee discussed contamination of the irrigation pond. Deb Drews clarified that during construction they found three barrels containing petroleum based product, Facilities worked with the DEQ to remove and dispose of the materials. Minutes of the OFS meetings at https://www.facilities.montana.edu/committees/ofac/display.html.

E. International Program – does not meet through summer.

F. MSU Benefits & IUBC – did not meet. Ron distributed two handouts to clarify previous benefit discussion: Consumer Driven Health Plans and Healthy Montana Kids Program. During discussion it was requested the HMK criteria page clarify the dependent age criteria. Next IUBC meeting is 8/17. Reports available at http://www.montana.edu/staffsenate/CommitteeReports/ctteerep-benefits.html.

G. Planning Council – Raechell was unable to attend the 6/14 meeting. Minutes of the Planning Council meetings at http://www.montana.edu/opa/coms/councils/pccouncil/pccouncil_min.html.

H. Space Management – Bill reported they met 6/3. The committee discussed usage of Linfield and Romney. They are considering three potential tenants for Romney, which is not ADA compliant, they are temporary training facilities for faculty, display space for College of Art, and the ROTC program. Romney has a number of issues and the committee is concerned regarding Romney in the long term. Reports available at http://www.montana.edu/staffsenate/CommitteeReports/ctteerep-smc.html.

I. University Facilities Planning – met 5/24 in an email report from Mandy. They approved the revised sculpture for the Iris Garden, near Danforth Chapel, per the recommendation of the Public Arts Committee. The revised design took concern about wear and tear (weather, vandalism, etc.) into account by changing material from fused glass to a resin acrylic. At the same meeting, UFPB also approved a temporary solution for a venue for a student bonfire pit. The pit will be located in the south Fieldhouse lot. The proposed pit will consist of a steel ring recessed into the gravel and will take four parking spaces.
when not in use. The approval will sunset after four years, at which time ASMSU must come forward with a permanent solution for a location. 


K. University Council – Bill reported they met 6/1. A proposed Honorary Degree Policy was approved. The proposed Free Speech Policy, President/Chancellor/CEO Transition Audit Policy, and Environment, Health and Safety Committee were discussed and moved forward for approval at next meeting. The US Department of Education Dear Colleague Letter Regarding Sexual Violence was discussed, it creates a list of things MSU must do. Minutes of the University Council meetings at http://www.montana.edu/aircj/coms/councils/ucouncil/ucouncil_min.html.

IV. Old Items

A. Bylaws Committee – co-chairs Molly and Shari showed a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of the intent and areas under discussion for change. Discussion was held. Section 9, Officers, a suggestion to clarify the language was made and section 9, Term, it was suggest to remove “with the intent of filling the Chair when it becomes vacant” language. It was noted that historically the elections for elected membership ran sometime in February, going back to the old timing will ease the job of both the nominating committee and new members. Proposed changes will be circulated via email to all Senators prior to the July meeting.

B. Training Task Force – co-chairs Justin and Neil are working on what their research discovered about training and plan to develop a tangible objective for professional development. Discussion was held regarding CPR training and a request to investigate and report back at next meeting.

C. Public Relations Task Force – Bill reported the Kudos employee recognition program has expanded beyond a classified initiative and has transitioned to the University Communications department for development into a campus-wide, Presidential initiative.

V. New Items

VI. Information Items

A. Joan reported that MUSSA met 5/20 in Kalispell. Present at that meeting were classified staff representatives from MSU Havre, Billings, and Bozeman and UM Missoula. In the spirit of shared governance, UM Missoula, agreed to chair MUSSA and begin re-defining and re-structuring the MUSSA group. To that effort the group did some brain storming. The following ideas were discussed about what was lacking and needed to be defined: Purpose, vision, concept, mission, areas of responsibility, what is MUSSA and what does it do? Who are the members? Who should be included? Establish an annual retreat, and gather and aggregate data and statistics from each campus, to be used in a report to the Regents. The main focus of the Board of Regents meeting was in response to the State Legislature funding of higher education and tuition increases. Minutes of the Board of Regents meeting are at http://mus.edu/board/meetings/minutes.asp.

B. Three public employee unions filed an unfair labor practice complaint over the 2011 Legislature's refusal to pass the pay raises for state workers they had negotiated with Gov. Brian Schweitzer. The state Department of Administration filed the agency's response to the complaint on 6/14, stating “It fulfilled its obligation to the unions when it submitted HB 13 to the Legislature”. The state Board of Personnel Appeals will hear case. The complaint will most likely not affect University employees.

VII. Updates

VIII. Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn at 10:40 was made by Raechell and seconded by Molly.

Next meeting, July 20, 2011, from 9:00 to 1:001 a.m. in SUB 232.