

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting - 7/14/98, 10am, Chancellor's Meeting Room, MG Building

Attendees: Chancellor Gilmore, Chairman Don Stierle, Doug Cameron, Larry Smith, Celia Schahzenski, Curtis Link, Courtney Young, Steve Luft, and Mary MacLaughlin, reporting

Discussion with the Chancellor

Chancellor Gilmore feels that faculty governance is an important matter. While it is fairly easy to work on preventing what the faculty does NOT want to happen, he would like to see the Senate also promote positive things, which is more difficult. The Chancellor's Cabinet will include a representative from the Faculty Senate.

He suggested the following as items the Senate may want to focus on during the 1998-99 academic year:

- The upcoming ABET (fall, 1998) and Northwest (spring, 2000) accreditation visits. It will be important to present a positive image of the institution. The Senate should have input regarding the "Outcomes Assessment" Committee which will be formed this summer; the committee will evaluate and refine our current outcomes assessment system - incorporation of a feedback loop is essential.
- Faculty issues with the merger with the University of Montana still need to be addressed. The faculty handbook needs to be revised. Promotion and tenure procedures must be made perfectly clear.
- Ideas regarding avenues for faculty development, as this is a continuing concern.
- Re-evaluation of campus committees. Are they all necessary?
- The Faculty Senate should have its own budget and office space on campus.

The Chancellor attended the July meeting of the Board of Regents, and his impression was quite good. It was mentioned at the meeting that the State of Montana has mandated that campus employees, including faculty, will be ineligible to serve on the Board of Trustees of any of the campus foundations; it is expected that the Board of Regents will approve this in the near future. The Faculty Senate will need to prepare for the next Board of Regents meeting, which will be held on the Tech campus in September.

New Business

Chairman Don Stierle met with Chancellor Gilmore earlier in the week. Communications with the new Chancellor are very open. He intends to interact with both faculty and students by holding various social events beginning early this fall.

The upcoming accreditation visits accentuate the following issues:

- It is extremely important that our outcomes assessment system include a feedback loop to show that we are updating our academic programs to incorporate what we learn in the outcomes assessment. We must keep in mind that our primary focus is to "educate" rather than "train."

Steve Luft will serve as the Faculty Senate representative to the “Outcomes Assessment” committee.

- Mission statements need to be developed for each department, as well as the campus as a whole.

There are plans for a new building on campus which would house a chapel and meeting rooms. It will be privately funded. Is this appropriate or not? Courtney Young will ask Ray Rogers to make a presentation at the next faculty meeting.

Reports from Board of Regents Meetings

Curtis Link and John Evans attended the Board of Regents meeting held in Dillon on May 21-22. There was a discussion of the U of M and MSU strategic plans. The Regents would like to see more accountability in the form of details regarding monetary influences..

Courtney Young attended the Board of Regents meeting held in Helena on July 9-10. The Banner system was discussed - it appears to have been adopted state-wide. The Regents are looking for support for continuing the 6 mil levy for higher education. They would like to raise funds to promote this issue; their goal is for all current and retired faculty to donate \$10 each.

The agenda and schedule for upcoming meetings of the Board of Regents can be found on the internet at the following address: www.montana.edu/wwwbor

An open discussion between the Regents and the faculty representatives is scheduled for late Thursday afternoon at each of the Board of Regents meetings. It appears that for the sake of continuity, it would be a good idea to have one representative from our campus attend every meeting, rather than a different representative each time. The faculty representatives from the different campuses meet for lunch on Thursday to discuss items that they would like to address. Curtis Link has a list of email addresses for the reps from the other campuses, which he will distribute to the members of the Senate.

One item for the September meeting in Butte will be a discussion of presenting “Life in the Trenches as a Faculty Member” to the Regents. Although details have not yet been determined, the idea is for each campus to select several “average” faculty to give a 15-minute narrative and slide show describing a typical week on the job. This will probably begin with Missoula or Bozeman at meetings scheduled later this year.

Update on VCAA/R Search

Courtney Young reported that the search committee made a formal offer to Dr. Mogens Henriksen, the top candidate, but he turned it down the position because of personal reasons. As there was no clear standout for a second choice among the candidates, the committee agreed on a failed search. Beginning July 1, Dan Bradley is serving as interim VCAA/R.

Next Meeting

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held around August 17. Interim VCAA/R Dan Bradley will be invited. Chairman Stierle will prepare a budget proposal which will include travel to Board of Regents meetings and the state Academic Forum, as well as release time for the Senate Chair. Steve Luft suggested that one of the future Senate meetings be held at the COT.