

Faculty Senate Meeting October 30, 1998

Attendance: Doug Cameron, John Evans, Mary MacLaughlin, Celia Schahczenski, Don Stierle, and Courtney Young

Recorder: Doug Cameron

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports:

- Chancellor's Cabinet. Doug Cameron reported. The meeting was mainly informational.
- ◆ A procedure was developed to deal with emergency (e.g. weather related) shut down of the school. Physical plant personnel in communication with John Hintz will decide when the school must be shut down. They will communicate to Ray Roger's office, who will then contact the media. A phone tree is setup from the VCAA/R to the Deans to the Department Heads to the respective faculty.
- ◆ The Montana University System is working with a consultant on 18 Federal Initiatives to be considered for next years (FY2000) Federal Budget. Montana Tech is included in 7 of the 18. The largest is for the building of a new Earth Resources Facility, which would house the MBMG, the Mineral Museum, CAMP, MWTP, and some Department Offices and Labs. A research center is also proposed to be included in this grouping. A tentative name for the center is the Institute for Nonrenewable Resources. Multimedia and distant learning equipment for classrooms, including the Chemistry and Biology building, are part of one initiative.
- ◆ On the Montana Tech campus, the Petroleum Building is first on the list for remodeling work followed by Main Hall.
- ◆ A five-year M.S. Degree program is being developed for those graduate programs that have expressed an interest. This program will require a change in the Graduate School Admissions program. Currently, a student must hold a Bachelor's degree to be accepted into the Graduate School. It is thought that these degrees will all be non-thesis Master's of Science.
- ◆ The proposed Ph.D. program in Earth Resource Engineering, a joint degree with UM, was rewritten to address questions and concerns by UM faculty. The Board of Regents (BOR) and the other schools in the system will be notified of the proposal at the November BOR meeting. The formal presentation of the proposal will be at the January BOR meeting.
- ◆ International Programs by distance learning were discussed. A test transmission to South America will occur soon. John Brower and Joe Figueira will be traveling to South America within the next few months to firm plans for this program and

to recruit students (and companies). Frank Gilmore is attempting to establish a consortium to facilitate exchange faculty from the UM campuses and West Virginia campuses with China. Chancellor Gilmore would like to see more language offerings on this campus to help students and faculty with international communications.

- ◆ The ABET accreditation review went well. There were a few unspecified problems that can hopefully be fixed such that every program gets a full 6 yr accreditation.
- ◆ Work is underway to prepare for the Northwest accreditation. We need a good Mission Statement, an action plan that allows us to reach the vision established by the Mission Statement, and a coherent assessment plan. An appropriate feed back mechanism must be in place to implement results from the assessment plan.
- Chancellor's Advisory Committee. Don Stierle reported. This committee appears to be more informational than advisory. The current budget was discussed. Chancellor Gilmore mentioned that low enrollment classes might be canceled to make-up for a budget shortfall. A short discussion ensued concerning the fallacy of this approach as a standard procedure without considering other possible options or the ramifications of canceling courses.
- Traffic Committee. Courtney Young reported. Sis Barnes was elected Chair. There are not enough Visitor Parking spots on campus. They are considering an enclosed motorized cart for the Security Guard. The cart would protect the guard during the cold winter weather and provide faster transport across campus for emergencies. They discussed raising the costs for parking stickers. Currently, "Parking" loses about \$2,000/year. This loss is due to the salaries for those associated with campus parking. The increase in the parking would be that necessary to cover the current losses. Discussions are on going concerning personal parking spots and the costs that would be incurred and revenue that might be raised.
- Instructional Improvement Committee. Mary MacLaughlin reported. The IIC is looking at the problems with maintenance of the classroom whiteboards and projectors. They are trying to develop an appropriate and acceptable procedure. Bill MacGregor sits on one of the committees for the Western Governors' University (WGU). This program is working to establish a joint virtual university. Bill is setting up a half-day seminar, Friday Dec. 4, describing this relatively new program. He is hoping to have a representative from WGU and the Commissioner's Office at the seminar.

Other Business:

- The Senate was asked to comment on the proposed job description for Department Heads. Discussion concerned whether they should be Heads or Chairs. Chairs being more of a Department representative and Heads being more authoritarian. Concern

was expressed with the proposed description in that it gave the Department Heads too much power and that more of the power should rest in the department faculty. There is conflict in some of the Department Head's duties and requirements for decision making. Currently, there are two Department Heads, who are not tenured. Decisions on tenure are supposed to be made only by those faculty that are already tenured. Don Stierle will speak with Dan Bradley concerning power distribution with Department Heads and department faculty. ;

- A Conflict of Interest Policy was distributed by Joe Figueira for comment. This policy is modeled after UM-Missoula's policy. The current Tech policy is one page in length and is considered vague and inadequate. The new policy when accepted will need to be incorporated into the Faculty Handbook.
- Mrs. Margie Thompson, a BOR member, will be attending the next Senate meeting. The Senate discussed agenda items for our meeting with Mrs. Thompson. The topics are listed below.
 - ◆ R-113 what does it mean to Montana Tech?
 - ◆ The 95 Interim Northwest Accrediting Report and ABET have identified deficient funding as problem areas which may affect accreditation. How do the BOR and the State Legislature plan to address these issues?
 - ◆ The current FTE funding model is not working for the four "smaller" schools in the MUS. Competition for students between the schools may have an adverse impact on the students' educations. What is the BOR thinking in this area? Are there plans to work with the Legislature to improve this funding mechanism?
 - ◆ The recent meeting the Commissioner Crofts caused concern with many faculty. The Commissioner's view of the fiscal reality had the appearance of a lack of interest or enthusiasm in attempting to improve the MUS funding through the Legislature. There is an interest in having a stronger proponent represent us.
 - ◆ What is Mrs. Thompson's vision of and for the MUS?
 - ◆ What is the BOR's vision of and for the MUS?

OLD BUSINESS

- R-113 appears to be winning in the recent polls. ASMT has been active in trying to get students to vote and vote for R-113. The Senate is not going to place an advertisement in the Montana Standard. The cost is prohibitive, \$1,000 for a 1-day, ½ page ad.
- The Senates memos addressing the concerns expressed by John Ray were mailed in hard copy to John and Roberta Ray, Doug Abbot, Dan Bradley, and Frank Gilmore. E-mail copies were mailed to members of the Senate.
- Chancellor Gilmore is using most of the Senate's recommendations for establishing the VCAA/R search committee. However, Chancellor Gilmore will appoint the

committee Chair. The Senate recommended that the Chair be elected by the committee. Courtney Young and Doug Cameron expressed an interest in being the Faculty Senate representative on the Search Committee. However, Courtney and Doug are also potential representatives from other groups. It was decided that the order of preference for the Senate “rep” be Young, Cameron, then Don Stierle. The Senate representative will be decided based on the outcome from the other groups decisions.

- The campus budget will remain on the agenda as old (maybe continuing) business. Don Stierle has suggested to both Dan Bradley and Frank Gilmore that the Faculty be actively involved in putting together all future campus budgets.
- Steering Committee membership for the Northwest accreditation is being established. The following is a list of the committees, committee chairs and Faculty Senate membership respectively.
 - Standard One: Institutional Missions and Goals, Diane Wolfgram (C), Curt Link (FS).
 - Standard Two: Educational Program and Its Effectiveness, Doug Abbot (C).
 - Standard Three: Students, Paul Beatty (C).
 - Standard Four: Faculty, Dan Bradley (C), Don Stierle (FS).
 - Standard Five: Library and Resources, Rick Rossi (C).
 - Standard Six: Governance, Doug Coe (C), Doug Cameron (FS, unless he is on the VCAA/R search committee).
 - Standard Seven: Finance, Karen Van da Veer (C).
 - Standard Eight: Physical Resources, Steve Luft (C).
 - Standard Nine: Institutional Integrity, Susan Patton (C).