

FACULTY SENATE
Minutes of Meeting
February 19, 2004

The meeting was called to by chairperson Brower at 8:00 a.m.

Senators present: Todd, Brower, James, Leland, MacLaughlin, Melvin, Mitman, Solko, A. Stierle.
Absent: Metesh.

Others present: Gerbrandt.

Solko confirmed the posting of the approved minutes into the Faculty Senate public folder on February 11. She also suggested that anyone wishing to amend or correct minutes should provide the suggested wording to include in the minutes.

Brower update the senate on the salary committee actions. The committee recommended that the CUPA model not be used to provide for salary increases, that a simple dollar or percentage apportionment be used instead, and that Chancellor Gilmore request authorization from President Dennison that the last half of the 3% approved raise from 1999 now be awarded to the Tech employees who never received that increase. It was noted that the Chancellor has since contacted President Dennison, but the President is not supportive of such action because we are in a period in which no raises are to be give (Regents' policy). It has been pointed out that certain personnel on both the Missoula and Bozeman campuses have been provided with raises in spite of this policy, and also that UM-M has transferred fund to the Tech campus to help alleviate the problems with budget cutbacks.

MacLaughlin brought preliminary comments and questions from the Committee on Student Evaluation of Course Instruction (COSECI). Prof. Nupher of Idaho State University visited Tech's campus in February to conduct sessions on course instruction. A copy of one potential instrument for evaluation was shared with the senate. The rationale of the COSECI was also provided as support for the type of instrument that Prof. Nupher recommended. (The committee's statement is attached.) Anyone wishing to share comments on the instrument and the questions contained therein may provide feedback to Mary MacLaughlin or any other member of the COSECI. A description of a formative process vs. a summative process of evaluation will be provided to faculty so that some understanding of the differences in the processes may be developed.

Issues associated with evaluations were discussed. Some believe that the students' signatures should be required to ensure accountability. Others are quite concerned about the confidentiality of the evaluating student so that candid remarks can be made. The on-going concern about security of the information gathered is a major issue with regard to not only the security but also the confidentiality of evaluation results and written comments gathered.

Mitman shared information from the Cabinet meeting. His comments are included about salary issues above. He also said that a decision was made to hire a consultant for a fee of \$5,000 to study Tech's traffic patterns and problems.

Most items of old business were deferred in order to have time to discuss the upcoming Commissioner's visit to campus.

Prior to moving to that piece of business, it was noted that election of senators comes up in March. Terms will be expiring for five senators. Solko announced that she will be resigning from the senate at the end of the AY, so a person to fill the remainder of her term will also need to be elected, bring the total to six vacancies.

Discussion began about item 5a, the meeting of the faculty senate with Commissioner Stearns. Chancellor Gilmore has stated that he will make the necessary introductions and leave the meeting room to allow exchange to take place in his absence. The CHE has stated her preference that the senate meetings on all the campuses not include administration representatives. Interested faculty are encouraged to attend. It was noted that the meeting time was set at a time that conflicts with class times of several senators. Those senators unable to attend were told that they could name a proxy to set in for them that day. Several issues were discussed for possible inclusion for the meeting with the Commissioner: (a) salary inequity, (b) working relationships with UM-M, and (c) future role and scope of Tech. The chair was asked to prepare a draft agenda for the one-hour meeting with the CHE.

It was decided that a short meeting to finalize an approach with the Commissioner will be held at 8:30 a.m. on February 26th. The meeting place will be shared with the senators.

Other items of new business:

Item 5b: The chair was asked to prepare a draft statement of the faculty senate's concern regarding the deans' positions, which the faculty had voted to eliminate last AY. The draft will be circulated to the senate before transmittal.

Item 5d: The chair reminded the senate that the second annual faculty satisfaction survey of administration questions to eliminate or revise, and to suggest new ones, if needed. Revisions will be e-mailed to the chair, who will collate them for discussion at the next regular senate meeting, March 4.

Old business:: The only item discussed, due to little remaining time, was the issue of students' excused absences. The issue was raised at the last faculty meeting but left unresolved. The chair was asked to draft an e-mail memo for circulation

to the faculty requesting that they review policies from other campuses, to be placed on public folder access, and be ready to offer comment at the next faculty meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10 :00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise E. Solko
Secretary