

FACULTY SENATE
Minutes of Meeting
January 22, 2004

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

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

Others present: Chancellor Gilmore.

Solko confirmed that the minutes of the last meeting had been approved and were posted to the public folder on December 5, 2003.

Brower reported on items he'd gathered from conversations with individuals at the Board of Regents meeting of January 15th.

- There is some concern about adjunct faculty. From campus to campus within the MUS, there is great variation in the terms of their employment and in their levels of pay.
- The Regents will conduct a study of faculty salaries. Pay raises have not kept pace with inflation. Levels of pay in some units inhibit hiring because they are not competitive nationally. And where salaries closer to market value are paid, salary inversions often occur.
- UMM is planning to convert to a +/- grading system in the near future.
- President Dennison is planning to visit the Tech campus this spring semester, date to be announced.

Information about the Budget Committee meeting January 21 was provided by both the Chancellor and Brower. A predetermined percentage of the budget is set aside each year to allow for enrollment drops.

When enrollment hold up by a particular date during the academic year, authorization is given to spend the

set-aside. This year Tech set aside \$300,000 and is currently prioritizing requests for the spending of \$100,000 of that amount. Spring 2004 enrollment appears at this point to be at or above the projected 95%

of Fall 2003 enrollment. The priority list will be posted in public folder soon with an e-mail notice of such action being sent to the entire campus. Comments may be provided to the committee. The committee will meet again on January 27th.

MacLaughlin noted that the Committee on Student Evaluation of Course Instruction has not yet met this semester. The membership of the committee does not have a common open time to meet during the week.

The committee is a very busy one and meets weekly. She also noted that the speaker for the session on faculty evaluations may be scheduled to be on campus in February, perhaps the day set aside for Development and Assessment.

The Registrar's office hopes to get the evaluations from last semester scanned and the results out to the faculty next week.

Brower opened discussion about concerns that have been expressed over the loss of Monday classes this semester. It seems there is more emphasis on counting the number of class days in the semester than

on
assuring that each class can meet for the appropriate number of contact hours based upon the credit-count
for the course. It seemed to be the consensus of those present that starting classes after the three-day weekend at the beginning of each semester (Labor Day and ML King Day) would help to remedy some of the
problem. Chancellor Gilmore noted, that the Regents have spoken of creating a common academic calendar
for all units of the system. In that case, we would be bound to meet as designated by them.

The Faculty Senate has been asked to review and provide feedback on the strategic plan and the revised
mission statement. Feedback should be provided to Brower prior to meeting addressing these that takes place on Wednesday, January 28.

The group discussed items of business that will need attention during the semester. Those are

- finishing the review of the revised portions of the faculty handbook,
- looking at the possibility of changing Tech's grading system after reviewing the details of UMM's +/- system,
- continuing work on faculty classroom teaching evaluations, and
- wording for the catalog regarding student absences for school-sanctioned events.

A request was also made that the chair provide just a bit more lead time on posting agendas and sharing materials with the senators.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise E. Solko
Secretary