

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
3:00 PM, April 14th, 2005
MT Con Room, SUB

minutes submitted by secretary A. Stierle

Members present: Chair- Grant Mitman, Vice-Chair – John Brower, Rod James, Susan Leland, Bruce Madigan, Mark Sholes, Chip Todd, Secretary - Andrea Stierle.

Absent –John Metesh

Also in attendance – Vice Chancellor Patton, Jim Handley

Minutes of the March 31st, 2005 meeting were submitted by John Brower, approved by email, and posted to the website.

1. Satisfaction Survey – John Brower asked for feedback on any changes to the Satisfaction Survey before he sends it out to all faculty. He recommended removing three questions:

27. I am satisfied with the way indirect funds are distributed.

<i>Agree Strongly</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree Strongly</i>
15.00	35.00	27.50	17.50	5.00
40				

28. The Graduate Office provides clear guidance in helping students comply with graduate program administrative requirements.

<i>Agree Strongly</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree Strongly</i>
17.07	31.71	41.46	7.32	2.44
41				

29. The Graduate Office’s contacts with prospective graduate students encourages prospective grad students to apply.

<i>Agree Strongly</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>No Opinion</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree Strongly</i>
4.88	24.39	60.98	9.76	0
41				

These three questions had fairly high “no opinion” responses. John asked for additional input, but no other questions were tagged for removal. It was moved that these three questions be removed from the Survey. The motion passed unanimously.

Chip Todd then moved that the following comment be added:

The Faculty Senate does a good job of representing the Montana Tech faculty.”

It was suggested that this is a survey of *administrators*, and the Faculty Senate has no power of any kind, only *advisory* capability. There has been no avenue for feedback of administrators until this Survey was adopted. The Senate consists of unpaid volunteers who serve for two years. Faculty members are elected into the Senate in the Spring. Feedback is inherent in a free election process. The Senate could be evaluated along with other committees that are strictly advisory.

The motion to evaluate the Faculty Senate passed, with 5 voting in favor of including the new survey statement, 3 voting against, and 1 abstaining.

2. Instructor Position – Step System

In our ongoing discussion of the tenurable Instructor position at Montana Tech, the Senate is continuing to discuss appropriate levels for hiring and stepwise promotions. The Handbook states:

Faculty/Staff Handbook 206.3

***Instructor:** The rank of Instructor is generally reserved for those who teach lower-division and certificate-level courses. While levels may be available within the rank, it is not normally expected that an instructor would become a Professor. Teaching excellence and continued effort and accomplishment in the areas of professional development and service are expected for continued employment.*

We are continuing to discuss the role, scope and identity of the position of “instructor”. The proposed step system, which is a modification of the COT levels is as follows:

Level I: No degree through bachelor's degree

Level II: Appropriate bachelor's degree and five (5) years of full-time related teaching or occupational experience,

Level III: Appropriate master's degree and ten (10) years of full-time related teaching or occupational experience, five (5) of which must be in an instructional position at an accredited post-secondary institution.

Level IV: Appropriate master's degree or doctorate and five (5) years at Level III.

The Senate is proposing the following changes to the step system:

It was moved and seconded that the Faculty Handbook should state:

The proposed minimum qualifications for stepwise promotion and hiring of instructors include the following levels.

The motion passed unanimously.

For Level I: - The motion was made and seconded to include “appropriate” before bachelor’s degree.

Level I: No degree through *appropriate* bachelor's degree.

The motion passed unanimously.

For Level II – The motion was made and seconded to change the wording to the following:

Level II: *Either an appropriate master’s degree or an appropriate bachelor's degree with five (5) years of full-time related teaching or occupational experience,*

The motion passed unanimously.

For Level III – The motion was made and seconded to change the wording to the following:

Level III: *Appropriate doctorate degree or a master's degree and five (5) years of full-time related teaching experience at an accredited post-secondary institution.*

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Dennison’s Visit - April 28th

President Dennison will be on campus on Thursday April 28th and will meet with the Senate from 3 – 5 PM. The first hour will be an open meeting; the second hour will be closed.

Grant Mitman would like to call a short meeting of the Senate on Thursday April 21st at 3 PM to discuss the agenda for the meeting. The Senate members were asked to send agenda items to Grant.

4. Northwest Accreditation

Members of the Northwest Accreditation Committee will be on campus Wednesday and Thursday, April 20th and 21st. There will be an open meeting at 1 PM on Wednesday.

5. Interunit Benefits Committee Meeting

Jim Handley, one of Montana Tech's two IUBC members, commented on the Benefits Committee and announced an open meeting next week, April 21st, 2:30 – 3:30 PM. Jim told the Senate that he would like to report **IUBC** business at Faculty Senate meetings starting next year.

Meeting adjourned at 4 PM