

# MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Friday, December 5, 2008

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: David Armstrong, Jerry Downey, Gretchen Geller, Rod James (Chairperson), Rich McNearny, John Nugent, Traci O'Neill, Kirk Waren, Miriam Young

Members absent: Betsy Garlish

Attending without vote: Chancellor Frank Gilmore and guest John McBride of New Horizon Technologies, Inc. (NHT)

### Business

This meeting was dedicated to allowing John McBride of NHT explain what his company has done in the realm of energy conservation and carbon footprints for a variety of buildings and building complexes around the country. He also offered some personal perspectives on opportunities for Montana Tech in Energy Engineering.

John began with some history of the National Center for Advanced Technology and NHT. This was followed by a detailed description and demonstration of energy metering methods and reports that can be generated to analyze energy use. These products can lead to energy savings by changes in operations and behaviors, as well as identifying where updates or replacement of heating or cooling systems, insulation, etc. should be considered. Energy savings of about 5% have occurred as a result of operational/behavioral changes alone, without any retrofitting of equipment in some cases.

John Nugent asked about ideas for start-up funds for a metering system. John McBride noted that Texas A&M spent 5% of their budgeted energy money on their effort – a risky action that essentially counted on a savings of at least 5% would be generated by the energy metering effort and associated activities.

John ended with some perspectives on the future of the energy field in the United States. He feels that due to increasing energy costs, the increasing attention to carbon footprints, and the likely policy direction of the incoming federal government administration, it is likely that there will be a lot of attention and money focused on energy resource development and conservation. He thinks it may be a “once in a generation” type of event where a technical and engineering oriented school like Montana Tech has golden opportunity to get started early and re-vamp the Energy Engineering option that did exist at Tech back in the late 1970's and 1980's. The program could include focuses on coal, petroleum, natural gas and other energy source development as well as energy conservation and uses.

The Senate group adjourned at about 1:25 PM although numerous members had to leave earlier.

### NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be sometime early in the next semester.

Respectfully submitted, Kirk Waren, Secretary