

MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Friday, October 17, 2008

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members present: David Armstrong, Gretchen Geller, Rod James (Chairperson), Rich McNearny, John Nugent, Kirk Waren, Miriam Young

Members absent: Jerry Downey, Betsy Garlish, Traci O'Neill

Attending without vote: Doug Abbott and Chancellor Frank Gilmore

Business

The minutes of October 3rd were approved. Rich McNearny is the Vice Chairperson of the Faculty Senate (note: according to the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate, the Officers are: the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary).

Old Business

1. Report on Space Utilization Committee

- Kirk Waren summarized the issues being considered by the Space Utilization Committee and their status. These included the potential conversion of one of the former Day Care houses to a combination of a Muslim prayer area (most of the building) and a plant tissue laboratory (old kitchen area to be separated from the prayer area); the creation of some storage space at the HPER; and conversion of a virtually unused exercise room at the South Campus to an adjunct office space.
- Concerning storage space, Frank Gilmore added that if the Mineral Research Facility is sold, one of his recommendations is to use some of the money to build a new storage facility out past the welding shop at the southwest edge of the North Campus, which would potentially include both heated and cold storage.

2. Discussion of promotion and tenure requirements with Doug Abbott.

- Doug Abbott, Frank Gilmore, and the Faculty Senate had a lengthy discussion about promotion and tenure requirements. It is a complicated matter in which many factors come into play, such as individual department guidelines or standards, letters of employment conditions, union and non-union perspectives, and so forth.

Generally, Frank feels that individual departments need to develop the requirements for promotion and tenure. These requirements should result from the Departmental Standards effort that is currently underway. Regardless of what departments come up with, certain final decisions rest with President Dennison. For example, President Dennison generally requires that a terminal degree in a field is achieved for promotion to full professor unless a candidate has extensive scholarly works.

Rod is particularly concerned that persons without terminal degrees should be able to achieve tenure when they have proven through evaluation to be effective teachers at Montana Tech. Frank noted that there is no restriction to offering

tenure to persons without a terminal degree in the Faculty and Staff Handbook, so departments have this option.

New Business

Due to the discussion on promotion and tenure, we were unable to address the following new topics:

1. Fill Vacancies on standing committees (from the agenda)
2. Montana Tech's status on the Climate Initiative (a new issue brought by Chancellor Gilmore)
3. Change in age to use Alcohol from 21 to 18: Montana Tech's position (another new issue brought by Chancellor Gilmore)

The Senate group adjourned at 1:00 PM with the departure of the Chairperson and some other members. Discussion continued amongst a few individuals for about another 15 minutes.

NEXT MEETING:

The next activity is the meeting of the Faculty and Faculty Senate with President Dennison at 12:30 pm, Monday, October 20th in the Copper Lounge.

The next regular meeting is Oct. 31, 2008, to be held at a location on the South Campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Waren
Secretary