

MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Friday, February 6, 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING



Members present: Jerry Downey, Rod James (Chairperson), Rich McNearny, John Nugent, Kirk Waren, Miriam Young

Members absent: David Armstrong, Betsy Garlish, Gretchen Geller, Traci O'Neill,

Attending without vote: Doug Abbott

Business

The minutes of the Nov. 14, 2008 and Jan. 23, 2009 meetings were approved.

Old Business

- Academic Calendar

Doug Abbott distributed copies of the draft 2009-2010 academic calendar for the Faculty Senate members to review. It was developed with participation of the Dean's Council, the Departments, and student representatives. The 2009-2010 academic year calendar schedules 15 weeks of instruction for each semester, plus finals week. A motion was made to support continuing to use the 15-week plus finals format for this and future calendars. The motion was seconded and approved by a unanimous vote.

The planning process for the 2010-2011 academic calendar should begin around late October 2009.

New Business

- Faculty/Staff Handbook Revisions

Doug Abbott distributed copies of draft revisions to Section III of the Faculty/Staff Handbook. The revisions were also presented to the Dean's Council today. The revisions are to Sections 308 through 313. The Faculty Senate provided some suggested editorial changes, and agreed in principle to the proposed revisions.

- Student Discipline

Rich McNearny brought up the topic of student discipline in classes. He would like to know what authority professors have, and what courses of action are available when there are disciplinary problems. Doug Abbott is going to look into what is written in the student manual and bring it to the next meeting for us to review and discuss.

- Grade Distribution

Jerome Downey brought up Grade Distribution as a topic he would like discussed at an upcoming Faculty Senate meeting. Generally, recent statistics show high percentages of

high grades being issued throughout Montana Tech. According to Jerry, this trend has caused considerable concern among some faculty members about grade inflation.

- Standards for Hiring, Promotion, and Tenure

Rod James provided a proposed Tenure and Promotion Requirements document for the Faculty Senate members to review and use as a starting point for discussion at the next meeting. It is a concise proposal of about a half-page length.

The Senate group adjourned at about 3:10 pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate is at 2:00 on Feb. 20, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Waren
Secretary