

MONTANA TECH FACULTY SENATE

Friday, March 6, 2009

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

Members absent: Gretchen Geller,

Attending without vote: none

Business

The minutes of the Feb. 6, 2009 meeting were approved.

Old Business

- none

New Business

- Certificates at graduation

The faculty senate was asked to consider the question: Should individuals receiving certificates of 30 credits or less be recognized at graduation? After discussion, we decided that 1) The students receiving certificates should be publically awarded in some way, and 2) more information is needed to determine whether such awards should be part of the main graduation ceremony or something separate. Rod James and Miriam Young intend to request additional information. A principal concern was space considerations for indoor graduation, when weather conditions prevent the graduation from being outside.

- Class sizes

The faculty senate discussed class sizes as a topic of general concern. Montana Tech is expecting increasing enrollment during the continuing economic downturn. Who decides how large classes can be, and when additional classes and faculty are needed? Also, if class sizes grow, finding classrooms with adequate space may be a problem. Some members noted that there are already such problems, and the seating in some classrooms chronically in need of repairs or upgrades. Also, will there be some announcement of what classroom facilities will be available, and who can use them, in the new Natural Resources Building? Rod James will bring these concerns to the administration.

- Merit pay

Rod James noted that in order to discuss merit pay, we need to start by obtaining some information to establish what the expectations are for faculty to start with.

The Senate group adjourned at 3:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be on a Friday after Spring Break

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk Waren
Secretary